

weather report

24°

noon

Thursday

Today

Sunset, 4:52 p.m.

Saturday

Sunrise, 7:03 a.m.

Sunset, 4:53 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 26 degrees
- Humidity 71 percent
- Sky Mostly sunny
- Winds northwest at 25 mph
- Wind chill 9°
- Barometer 30.45 inches and steady
- Record High today 72° (1986)
- Record Low today -17° (1962)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	29°
Low Thursday	11°
Precipitation	—
This month	.03
Year to date	.13
Below normal	.12 of an inch

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, high near 31, low around 14. West wind between 5 to 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Chance of snow 20 percent. Mostly cloudy, high near 32, low around 15. Sunday: Flurries, mostly cloudy, high near 33, low around 9. Monday: Partly cloudy, high near 28, low around 9. Tuesday: Partly cloudy, high near 37, low around 17. Wednesday: Sunny, high near 41.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

County gets ready for more snow

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

If another snow storm strikes, Sherman County will be ready with a new snow blower for the courthouse and fairgrounds.

The commissioners discussed three bids for the machine on Tuesday, and decided to accept the low bid from Goodland Greenline for \$3,478.

William McKnight, building and grounds maintenance superintendent, brought the bids for a snow-blower attachment to the county's small tractor to the commissioners at their meeting on Jan. 9.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked to have them tabled at that time to allow him to look at a model Cochran Farm Supply had bid on.

Tuesday, Tiede said he had checked the three bids and felt the one that Mike Cochran had bid \$2,400 on was too light.

He said the second one that Cochran bid was a better quality, and that it compared with the bids from Goodland Greenline and Yost Farm Supply.

Tiede said he thought any one of the three comparable snow blowers would handle the county needs.

He and commissioner Kevin Ra-

sure expressed doubts about buying a snow blower at a cost of over \$3,000.

When McKnight brought the bids in, he said having a snow blower would make it easier to clear the sidewalks and parking areas in front of the courthouse, behind the courthouse and the sheriff's parking lot.

Sheriff Kevin Butts told the commissioners his office, parking area and sally port door had problems with the recent big snows.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said a snow blower would speed up snow clearing.

The bid from Greenline was

\$3,478, from Cochran \$3,675; and from Yost \$3,865.

In other business, the commis-

sioners: • Heard that the second vacant lot south of the Kanorado Fire Station had been deeded to the county, and the county has the land to build an addition to house an ambulance. The ambulance is temporarily in the Kanorado city shop.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the money for the lot and the addition would have to come out of the rural fire district capital budget.

• Approved a one-year contract with Infnitec of Hays for \$2,995, to

handle the maintenance and upgrades of the county's IBM AS400 central computer.

The proposed contract had been recommended by Crystal Wright, county payroll clerk. She told the commissioners at the Jan. 9 meeting there had been a problem with the backup tape drive, and recommended the county have Infnitec handle the computer maintenance. Wright said a treasurer's employee had tried to put a tape in when there was already another tape in the machine, and it jammed, so now they

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Eight antelope were feeding in a field of corn stubble on the south side of I-70 east of town about noon on Wednesday. The antelope were feeding where the snow had mostly blown off. Cold temperatures and hard crusted snow has made digging to get to food hard for the local wildlife.

Wildlife scramble to find food under snow



A group of three antelope ran along a fence line on the south side of I-70 on Wednesday to join up with a larger group. Antelope and deer in the area gathered together for food and protection because of the cold and difficulties of digging through the crusted snow.

Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

Anyone driving on the roads and highways lately sees large groups of antelope, deer and even pheasants near or on the roads.

Kansas Wildlife Officer Mike Hopper said the cold temperatures and crusted snow cause wildlife to bunch together for food and protection. Animals have a hard time breaking through the crust on the snow to dig down to food.

"The state of Kansas has no feeding program or compensation program for farmers for hay eaten by wildlife," Hopper said.

People ask him if they can feed the pheasants. That would be great, he said, but don't put the food on the road where the birds can be hit by vehicles. People can put food off to the side of the road or near a shelter-belt. Cracked corn digests better than whole corn.

If the weather doesn't warm up starvation will

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local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$4.26 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.51
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
- Corn — \$3.90 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.73
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
- Milo — \$3.55 bushel
- Soybeans — \$6.30 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.33
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- NuSun crop — \$14.65
- Pinto beans — \$19 (new crop)

(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowgirls win, 60-40

Senior Kaylee Billinger went for a layup against the Scott City Lady Beavers on Monday. The Cowgirls won 60-40. The Cowgirls are playing in the Orange and Black Classic in Colby today. See story, photo on Page 12.

City candidate deadline Tuesday

School deadline Tuesday; one man picked up petition

The deadline for filing for a seat on the Goodland School Board ends a noon on Tuesday at the office of the Sherman County clerk.

Mary Ann Sneath, deputy county clerk, said on Thursday morning, no one had filed yet but John Hendrich had picked up the paperwork.

Four seats are up for election, now filled by board President Jane Philbrick, Fritz Doke, Andrew House and Marty Melia.

Candidates can pay a filing fee of \$5 or get a petition signed by 50 qualified voters in the district, said Janet Rumpel, Sherman County clerk and election officer. A candidate can withdraw until the filing deadline.

If more than eight candidates file for the seats, said Rumpel, a primary would be held Tuesday, Feb. 27.

The top eight with the highest number of votes at the primary will be on the ballot for the regular school election on Tuesday, April 3.

Philbrick said she intends to run for re-election. House, Doke and Melia said they had not decided yet.

The deadline for city commission candidates to file for April elections is noon on Tuesday, and as of Thursday morning only two people had taken steps to file for three open seats.

The terms of Annette Fairbanks, owner of Teeters Abstract and Title Co.; Dave Daniels, a rental property owner; and Mayor Rick Billinger, manager of Nationwide Homes, are up.

City Clerk Mary Volk said her office has the paperwork for anyone interested in filing for a commission seat.

She said once the forms are filled out, the candidate has to pay a \$5 filing fee.

Volk said Wednesday that Billinger has filed his forms and that Fairbanks had picked hers up.

Fairbanks said earlier she was planning to run. She won two years ago by one vote over Gary Farris, owner of Farris Manufacturing.

Volk said the top two candidates



Daniels

Billinger

Fairbanks

on the ballot will win four-year terms and third place always gets a two-year term. With the two-year term, she said, three seats on the five members commission are up for election every two years.

Commissioners Josh Dechant and John Garcia, who won four-year terms in the last election, are the holdover commissioners.

Billinger, 55, has served on the commission for 16 years. He has been involved in several businesses in Goodland since 1975.

Commissioner Daniels said last Friday he had not made up his mind about running for another term. Daniels, 48, has served four years as a commissioner.

For information on candidate requirements call the city at 890-4500, and ask for Mary Volk.

Unsafe houses on city agenda

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

City efforts to clean up houses considered dangerous takes another step with three hearings scheduled for 5 p.m. on Monday at the city commission meeting.

The houses are at 526 W. 16th, 204 W. 16th and 510 W. 15th. Criswell asked for permission in December to board up the houses at 526 W. 16th and 510 W. 15th.

Steve Criswell, city building inspector, said at the hearing the commission will hear evidence from the city and the owner and then decide what to do.

In December when Criswell requested the hearings he said the three properties were in bad shape. The commission set the hearings and gave Criswell permission to board two of the houses up.

Commissioner Josh Dechant asked Criswell how he picked these three.

"I thought they were the worst," Criswell said. "There was one other that got taken care of through other resources."

"Do they tear them down or does the city?" asked Mayor Rick Billinger.

Criswell said at the hearing, the commission would set a time for repairs to be completed, or for the owner to demolish the buildings.

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