

weather report

35°

noon
Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 5:00 p.m.

• Sunrise, 6:58 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:00 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 30 degrees
- Humidity 69 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds west at 12 mph
- Barometer 30.21 inches and steady
- Record High today 79° (1951)
- Record Low today -14° (1963)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	37°
Low Thursday	23°
Precipitation	—
This month	.54
Year to date	.54
Above normal	.18 of an inch

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny, high near 42, low around 16.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Scattered flurries, high near 30, low around 6. Sunday: Partly cloudy, high near 30, low around 14. Monday: Mostly clear, high near 34, low around 12. Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high near 31, low around 13. Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high near 34.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$4.27 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.42
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Corn — \$3.83 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.64
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Milo — \$3.60 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$6.23 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.22
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - NuSun crop — \$14.25
 - Pinto beans — \$0 (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



Cowboys win at Hays

Kerek Mason had a hold on one of his opponents in Hays last weekend. Mason was third in his weight class, and Goodland won the tournament, beating 21 teams. See story, photos on Page 12.

Low bids help city, county projects

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The largest pieces of the joint city-county road program moved a step closer to construction with the opening of bids Wednesday on the remaining city projects and old U.S. 24 at the courthouse.

When the bids were opened it appeared that APAC Paving of Hays was the low bidder on the old U.S. 24 project and the north Caldwell Avenue project. Based on the figures there would be a savings of \$20,000 if APAC is awarded both the city and county projects.

On the concrete replacement of 17th Street from Main to the railroad tracks on Cherry the low bidder was Sporer Land Development of Oakley.

The county commissioners will

award the contract for old U.S. 24 at their meeting on Wednesday. The city commission will award the contract for Caldwell and 17th Street at their meeting on Monday, Feb. 6.

The commission room at the courthouse was crowded with city and county elected officials plus the design engineers and interested contractors.

Sherman County Commissioner Chuck Thomas called the county meeting to order at 9 a.m., and he and Commissioner Kevin Rasure opened the bids on the county project to resurface old U.S. 24 the full 33 miles across the county.

The room got quiet as Rasure opened the bid package from Western Engineering and everyone grabbed pencil and paper to write

down the figures.

"Option 1, \$4,197,225," Rasure read. "Option 2, \$4,362,645."

Option 1 is for a mill and asphalt overlay of all of old U. S. 24, and Option 2 is for the same mill and asphalt overlay, but includes some subgrade work on a stretch west of Edson.

Thomas opened the second bid from Venture of Great Bend. Option 1, \$4,027,449; and option 2, \$4,185,150.

The third bid was from APAC Paving of Hays. Option 1, \$3,994,383; and option 2, \$4,174,965.

Darin Neufeld, engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, opened the bids on the city projects.

There were two bids on the Caldwell project from APAC and Venture.

APAC's base bid was \$883,798, and had a note saying that if this was awarded along with the bid on old U.S. 24 there would be a deduction of \$20,000 for mobilization. The alternate on Eighth from Cattle Trail to D'Lao Drive was \$195,447.

Venture's base bid was \$925,638, and there was a note that if the contract was awarded along with the county project there would be a deduction of \$47,000 from the mobilization. The alternate was \$190,909.

There were three bids on the 17th Street project with the two lowest being about \$30,000 apart.

Miller Construction's base bid

was \$1,265,145. The alternate to concrete Eighth Street from Cattle Trail to D'Lao Drive was \$229,496.

Smoky Hill of Salina's base bid \$1,580,634. Alternate \$424,149.

Sporer Land Development of Oakley's base bid \$1,235,740. Alternate \$252,381.

Once the bids were opened Jerrol DeBoer, engineer from Penco Engineering of Plainville, said he would review the county project bids and have them ready to be approved on Wednesday.

He said he was pleased with the bids because they were about \$1 million less than he had estimated.

Neufeld said he thought the bids on 17th Street were about \$200,000

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Sunshine breaks cold snap

Snowy weather continues to grip most of the High Plains, but the temperatures climbed over freezing in town on Tuesday to break a 12-day cold snap.

The high of 35 degrees reached at 2 p.m. on Tuesday broke the 12-day cold snap in Goodland, Christine Krause, meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Goodland said on Wednesday.

On Tuesday the temperature hit 32 degrees about 11 a.m. and reached the high of 35 degrees at 2 p.m. The high lasted about an hour before the temperature dropped down to freezing by 4 p.m.

Krause said the cold snap began on Thursday, Jan. 11, and lasted through Monday, Jan. 22.

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First baby surprises Goodland hospital

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland Regional Medical Center had pretty much decided last week that its first baby for the year might be born in February.

Surprise, surprise!

Last Friday at 2:56 p.m. the medical center welcomed the first baby, a son born to Susana Soto and Gerardo Herrera, 412 W. Fifth.

German Herrera weighed 8 pounds, 15.8 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. German will be welcomed by four other brothers and sisters.

Dr. David Younger did the delivery, said Dale Schields, Director of Human Resources at the hospital, assisted by the nurses at the hospital.

The family received gifts from several Goodland merchants, all sponsors of the First Baby contest promoted by *The Goodland Star-News* and the hospital.



The first baby of the year born at Goodland Regional Medical Center, German Herrera, was held by his mother Susana Soto on Tuesday. Mother and son were at the hospital for German's first check up. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Those started with a \$25 gift certificate from Jacque's Hallmark and a \$50 saving bond from First National Bank. German's family can keep up on the news with their subscription to the newspaper.

The hospital gave the baby a kit including formula, water, diapers, socks, a baby blanket and stocking hat. The Prairie Piecemakers Quilting Guild made and gave the baby a tiny quilt.

The new baby and his family get a free medium pizza and two liters of pop for Pizza Hut and a \$20 gift certificate to Taco John's.

To capture images of the baby for the future Laura Norris Photography gave a free sitting fee for pictures.

German's mother was very happy to receive the gifts.

The baby and his mother were dismissed from the hospital on Sunday and were back for the baby's first doctor's visit and photographs on Tuesday.

Prairie dog battle moves to courtroom

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Mother Nature has dropped a layer of snow across Northwest Kansas hiding the holes of underground animals including the prairie dog.

The battle over the prairie dogs in Logan County and efforts to poison them out of existence may be temporarily delayed, but the county lawsuit moves the battle to the courtroom. A hearing in Oakley, scheduled for 8 a.m. (Mountain Time) on Friday, Feb. 2, seeks an injunction to remove any obstacles to the poisoning program.

The injunction names Larry and Elizabeth Haverfield, who live south of Russell Springs, Robert Barnhardt of Bucklin, who has property south of Russell Springs; Maxine Blank, Willard, Utah, who has land in Logan County; Donald and Lillian Becker of Winona and Dixie Surratt, Panhandle, Texas, who has a ranch in Logan County.

Haverfield and Barnhardt raised the ire of some neighbors in Logan County who enlisted the aid of the Farm Bureau, when the men submitted prairie dog control plans that included the experimental introduction of black-footed ferrets in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Logan County Commissioners turned down the control plans submitted by Haverfield and Barnhardt, and hired a Wyoming firm to begin poisoning the prairie dogs on Barnhardt's land.

Haverfield spread his cattle around his land to prevent the county from continuing the poisoning program in November.

The petition filed in Logan County District Court on Jan. 10, says the board of county commissioners "has received numerous complaints about prairie dog infestation in Logan County since early 2004. As recently as Dec. 18, 47 concerned and frustrated Logan County landowners met with the

Snowstorms hit embattled cattleman

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

A cattle rancher in Logan County has gained notoriety for his effort to reintroduce the endangered black-footed ferret on his land, but the snowstorms have given him more problems.

"This is a deep freeze," Larry Haverfield, who ranches south of Russell Springs said last Friday. "It has been 32 days, and it does not look like it is going to melt very quickly. We had to move 90 percent of our cows to a background feedlot south of McAllister.

"Our snows have been pretty wet. We had an inch of rain before it began to snow." Haverfield has been in a battle with the Logan County Commissioners over his prairie dogs, and the battle will move to the courtroom for a hearing in Oakley on Friday, Feb. 2.

"This is the sixth major storm I have seen in 50 years," Haverfield said, "and about the toughest one I have seen."

He said Wednesday he is going to decide by the end of the week if he should move the last 10 percent of his cattle to the feedlot.

"I am thinking I need to move them," he said. "The place we are taking them does not have a lot of shelter, but the cattle do get plenty of nourishment and



Haverfield

water."

He said he is not sure how many head he has lost, but thinks it is between 200 to 300.

"I am not getting very far away from here," he said. "I have a trail about three miles in and three miles back so I can feed some hay."

He said after the first storm hit there was no way to get to all his cattle, and that is why they got them out before the second storm hit.

"What is hard on our calves is the rains," he said. "I think all the hay in Northwest Kansas is going to get used."

"We had five herds and three were with windbreaks. The other two were on the creek, but that was not good."

Haverfield said the last big storm he remembered was in 1992.

"I think we just had lots of snow and not much of a blizzard," he said. "About every 10 years we get one. We kind of get to forgetting about what they do. We get the initial shock of it, and sometimes you run into calving problems and the cows don't breed back well. We had to get our cows out of here."

"It got worse."

Haverfield said he is not seeing much prairie dog movement, but he has seen a few eagles and a few hawks.

"I haven't seen any of them get a jack rabbit," he

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board regarding the prairie dog infestation in Logan County."

The petition said the county commissioners sent notices to the landowners named in the lawsuit telling them to control or make arrangements to control their prairie dogs.

The petition says the "defendants have refused to take adequate action to control the prairie dog infestation on their lands with resulting infestation on adjoining lands."

With pressure from the 47 "concerned and frustrated" landowners the Logan County Commissioners agreed in December to hire the Hays law firm of Dreiling, Bieker and Hoffman to file the petition and request the injunction.

The notice of the request for a temporary injunction was filed on Jan. 17, and was to be hand delivered to each of the defendants. Haverfield said he received his notice on Tuesday, and that Surratt got hers at the ranch on Wednesday.

Before he received the lawsuit and injunction papers, Haverfield received a notice in the mail that the Kansas Farm Bureau was filing a motion to allow them to participate in the injunction hearing on the side of the Logan County Commissioners.

"I guess we are going to court," Haverfield said Wednesday. "I don't know what is going to happen, but guess we'll see."

Haverfield said he talked to some of the others listed as defendants, and was told they have been poisoning the dogs on their land, but they have not eradicated them.

"I think the prairie dog is a necessary part of nature," Haverfield said. "I don't love them because they are cute. I wanted to bring in the black-footed ferret to help reintroduce them, and thought they would help the balance of nature because they eat prairie dogs."

Haverfield said he does not expect the ferrets to eliminate the prairie dogs because they are their main food source.

In an effort to reduce the expansion of his prairie dogs Haverfield

has spent over \$5,000 to build special barrier areas and fences.

"We asked the county back in August to put us on the top of the list to poison the prairie dog holes in the 220 yard barrier area," Haverfield said. "They put us on the top of the list and poisoned those in October."

Haverfield said he spent a total of \$9,800 on poisoning prairie dogs last year and had told the county to put him on top of the list again for March.

"I told the county I would poison the barriers in the fall and spring. I spent \$1,500 on poison in March, and over \$8,000 in October," Haverfield said.

He is not surprised by the Farm Bureau's efforts, and said until eight years ago he was a Farm Bureau member.

"I was a member because they had cheap insurance," he said, "but you have to be a member to get the insurance. I found another insurance company eight years ago. I think they have to show their members they are doing something for their money."

Ron Klatske, executive director of the Audubon of Kansas feels the Logan County Commissioners are being unreasonable.

He said the commissioners have not listened to Haverfield, and that this injunction is another step to stop the black-footed ferret experiment.

"I think the Farm Bureau is using the endangered species tag as an excuse to fight the ferrets and spread fear in Logan County," Klatske said. "My concern is what Logan County is doing. They have no sense for good will nor for the financial status of their ranchers who have gone through a horrific time with the recent storms. Now the county is trying to force them to invest tens of thousands of dollars that is not necessary."

"Haverfield has an exceptional management program for handling

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