

weather report



51°
noon
Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 4:23 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:54 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:23 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 38 degrees
- Humidity 44 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds north 15 mph
- Barometer 29.78 inches and steady
- Record High today 74° (1923)
- Record Low today -9° (1978)

Last 24 Hours*

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| High Wednesday | 51° |
| Low Wednesday | 25° |
| Precipitation | none |
| This month | trace |
| Year to date | 14.06 |
| Below normal | 5.38 inches |

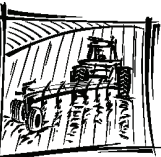
The Topside Forecast

Today: Cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow with less than one inch of snow possible, a high near 31, a low around 18 and winds southeast 10-15 mph. Saturday: Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow and freezing drizzle, a high near 20, a low around 10 and winds out of the east at 15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow, a high near 17 and a low around 8. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz. *Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

- Wheat — \$8.46 bushel
- Posted county price — \$8.39
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$3.65 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.73
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$3.44 bushel
- Soybeans — \$9.44 bushel
- Posted county price — \$10.02
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Confection — \$30/\$19 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scoular Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today



More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Gym gets new sign

Randy Toppliff of American Door Co. helped Black and Gold Booster Club members install new lettering on the outside of the junior high gym at Max Jones Fieldhouse. See photos on Page 7.

Enterprise Road agreement OK'd

By Tom Betz

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City commissioners Monday approved an agreement to extend Enterprise Road in front of the Conoco Travel Shoppe, with owner Service Oil paying \$54,000 as its share of the project.

City commissioners and Service Oil representative Warren Sweat have been working on a plan to dedicate the property to the city and have Miller Construction put concrete pavement on what had been a private drive.

The commission talked to Sweat and to contractor Mike Miller during the meeting on Monday to work out the final details and unanimously approved a motion to accept an amended agreement with Service.

The section of road has been private property since the shop was developed more

than 20 years ago, but when the firm put up barricades in August to prevent trucks from driving through, the city approached Sweat about giving the property to the city to make it a public street.

While researching the project, officials discovered that Service did not own all the property, but that the firm that owns the Comfort Inn to the south owned most of the intersection.

City Manager Wayne Hill said City Attorney Jeff Mason had drafted a dedication resolution and both Service Oil and S&B Motels received copies. Hill said Sweat had sent an e-mail saying he had a few questions.

Mayor Rick Billinger said it would be good to get the project moving and called Sweat to see if he could answer the questions. He put Sweat on speakerphone so everyone could

hear him, and went through the questions.

Sweat asked that there be separate agreements with Service and S&B. Mason said that was not a problem, and that he would have them ready the next day.

Sweat asked about grandfathering in the overhang of the travel shop's existing awning and the location of an existing sign. Mason said that was something he had forgotten to put in the draft, and would change it.

Sweat then asked if the legal descriptions were correct and if the city had done a survey. Darin Neufeld, engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, who is handling the project for the city, said he had verified the descriptions and had found that a survey had been filed at the courthouse some years ago. Neufeld said he had the survey spikes to verify the legal descriptions.

The final question was the cost to Service. Sweat had said his understanding was it was to be 50 percent of the estimated \$92,000 plus half of the design and inspection costs, and that would be around \$52,000.

Billinger said the city was going to talk to Miller and would call Sweat back after talking to him. Miller had given Service an estimate of \$63,000 to do the concrete back in May, but that had to be modified when it was determined the project was about 50 feet short and did not include the intersection.

Miller came to the meeting and told the commission he was concerned about the estimate because the price of steel and concrete is expected to increase in January. He said he probably could lock in a lower price on steel

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County reviews Road plan

By Tom Betz

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Sherman County commissioners Friday approved offers to three landowners on County Road 16 to buy right-of-way for a road project to be done in the spring on the one-mile stretch between Old U.S. 24 and County Road 65.

Jerol DeBoer, engineer from Penco Engineering of Plainville, who is planning the project, showed commissioners right-of-way agreements that would allow the county to move the southern part of the road about 10 feet to the east.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked if DeBoer had a set of plans and if there had been any changes made in the proposed design.

DeBoer said he could get the county a set of plans, but he did not bring them with him. He said no changes have been made from previous discussions with the commissioners.

He said the road could be done for less than the \$800,000 he estimates, but that if the county is going to put that much into a road, it would be nice to do it right.

Rasure asked if the county would need any right of way on the north end.

"We need 20 feet through the three on the south," DeBoer replied, "but we do not need any on the north end."

"Some of the landowners are here," Rasure said, "and have asked how this is going to work out."

"The plan is to move the centerline of the road 10 feet to the east for up about two-thirds of a mile," DeBoer said, "then back to meet with the existing intersection."

"Kyle Railroad has agreed to put in a new concrete railroad crossing, and the county would add about 100 feet of concrete on each approach. There would be six inches of asphalt on the rest of the road."

Colleen Smith, who lives on the south end of the road, asked what happens to the existing culverts and the ditch.

DeBoer said the west side will stay basically the same as it is, but the east is where the power poles would be moved and a new ditch created.

Smith asked about doing a temporary detour to the west along her property to allow trucks to get in and back to old U.S. 24.

DeBoer said if that would work. It would be great if the landowners would let people drive over their land as a detour, he said.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said it was something to look into.

"That would take care of all of us on the south end," Smith said.

DeBoer said the county does not want Road 16 and Road 65 (Eighth Street) being done at the same time. He asked the landowners if they would want the road done in March or in August. They agreed it would be better to do it in the early spring, between March and May.

DeBoer said he would put an early start date in the plans, but it would depend on the successful bidder to



Kindergartners pointed to themselves as they sang "We just love our cookies," during the Christmas concert on Tuesday evening at the high school auditorium. Kindergartners singing include (front row, left to right) Rachel Witman, Henry Cole, Vanessa Renteria and Janea Balderama; (back row) Kaleb Yarbrough, Brooke Drennan, William Mueller and Kaylee Willems. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Animated kindergartners present concert for parents

The Goodland kindergarten class put on an animated concert for parents and friends on Tuesday night at the Goodland High School auditorium.

The little ones sang about Santa's impending visit on Christmas, brushing their teeth, manners and avoiding strangers. Santa treated each student to candy.

The students were Amanda Amos, Danielle Becvar, Derek Brown, Clayton Cramer, Micah Daise, Hannah Dechant, Michelle Herrera, Sergio Lazo, Bethany McGuire, Taye Payne,

Sandra Rodriguez, Jaden Schwarz, Skyler Urban, Rachel Witman, Kaitlyn Coumerilh, Logan Douglas, DeeAndra Duke, Destin Eli, Marcos Hernandez, Emeline Hutton, Mariza Macias, Vincente Magana, Isaiah Rubio, Blake Sander-son, Shayanna Smith, Camryn Stone, Joseph Tesmer, Elora Walls, Jake Allen, Leah Carter, Trent Coon, Manten Crow, Brooke Drennan, James Gensheer, Danielle Isham, William Mueller, Saige Newman, Susana Rodriguez, Levi Stasser, Haley Vasquez, Kaylee Willems, Andrew Wood,

Jacob Amack, Taytem Arnold, Janea Balderama, William Cole, Erica Cullens, Dylan Eisenbart, Tiffany Flores, Lola Hipp, Dawson Holub, Rebecca Lockhart, Daniel Ordenez-Castillo, Vanessa Renteria, Heath Sanderson, Danielle Sandoval and Kaleb Yarbrough.

Songs were accompanied by Nancy Shores on piano or recorded background. Char Avila was the group's instructor. The kindergarten teachers are Karen Stone, Kim Artzer, Julie Dautel and Denise White.

Radio operators contact the world

By Tom Betz

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Volunteer amateur radio operators, known as "hams," spent Friday evening and Saturday making radio contacts around the world as part of a special event at the Goodland National Weather Service office.

Hams from Goodland and Colby manned several types of radios and, said David Floyd, warning coordination meteorologist, made a total of 688 contacts through the 24 hours.

Friday evening, Floyd said, three Scoutmasters and six Boy Scouts came out to visit and watch the radio operators as they tried to contact other stations across the country and around the world. He said one of the radio stations reached near the end of the event Saturday was a station in Russia, which is a rare contact.

Police Chief Ray Smece, one of the Goodland hams, said he thought the Russian contact was near the Bearing Strait because late in the afternoon the signals from Alaska and that area were coming in stronger.

Floyd said he and his daughter Amy, who got her license in February, were working on another radio when someone hollered they had a station in Russia.

He said Scott Mentzer, meteorologist in charge at the weather office, has organized the event in Goodland, which was one of 104 weather stations across the country participating this year. The event was developed in 1999



Ham radio operator Jim Gillespie, who is a Goodland police officer, talked to other hams around the world using a computer and radio connected to an Echolink system at the National Weather Service office during the Skywarn event on Saturday. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

by the Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League to celebrate the contributions that volunteer radio operators make during severe weather and disasters. Floyd said the number of contacts

was down a bit this year; last year, they had 912, making Goodland the third busiest station in the country. "The radio propagation was different this year," he said. "It was not really bad, just different than

what we had last year, and that may account for the lower number of contacts."

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