

# The Goodland Star-News

**WEEKEND**  
Friday, Dec. 28  
2007

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Goodland, Kansas 67735

## weather report



**23°**

noon  
Thursday

### Today

• Sunset, 4:31 p.m.

### Saturday

• Sunrise, 7:06 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:32 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 30 degrees
- Humidity 88 percent
- Sky overcast with light snow
- Winds east southeast 14 mph
- Barometer 29.83 inches and falling
- Record High today 67° (2002)
- Record Low today -10° (1924)

### Last 24 Hours\*

- High Wednesday 32°
- Low Wednesday 9°
- Precipitation none
- This month .89
- Year to date 14.95
- Below normal 4.76 inches

### The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 26, a low around 5 and winds out of the west at 10 mph. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 32, a low around 14 and winds out of the southwest at 10 mph.

### Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 40 and a low around 15. Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 31 and a low around 13. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz. \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## County delays fire chief decision

By Tom Betz

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Sherman County commissioners agree last Tuesday a full-time chief probably would improve the efficiency and operation of the three county fire departments, but have not set a salary range or duties.

The commissioners spent more than an hour last Tuesday talking about the job but decided another meeting would be needed. The commissioners agreed it was good to wait until January, looking for an evening when the fire board and volunteer firemen could attend.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said he felt the discussion last week had brought up a lot of good questions, and that it was now up to the commissioners. He said he was ready to make a decision, but felt there needs to be more review of the process.

"I don't think we have addressed all the things yet," Commissioner Kevin Rasure said. "We need to sit down with (Goodland Rural Fire Chief) Alan David, (David's assistant) Chris Bauman and Tom Rohr (chairman of the rural fire board)."

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## Family fun in the snow



Gwen Mai of Colorado Springs climbed into an inflated raft Tuesday with Jekabs Bikis (front) and his wife April Bikis (back) and son Isaac, 13 months, from Dallas, and Jaxi Mitchek (in Jakabs' arms) and Demi Mitchek (middle), both of Goodland. The women said they were in town visiting their father, Jack Mitchek, and took Isaac to Pioneer Park to sled so he could see some snow, which they haven't had in Dallas. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

## local markets

### Noon

- Wheat — \$8.76 bushel
- Posted county price — \$8.88
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
- Corn — \$4.10 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.09
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
- Milo — \$3.89 bushel
- Soybeans — \$10.88 bushel
- Posted county price — \$11.28
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
- 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



## Sports take holiday break

Sammie Raymer (left) took a jump shot against the Lady Falcons of Skyline High of Longmont, Colo., in the overtime of the Topside Tip-off game the Cowgirls won 65-56. Sports action returns on Thursday. See photos, story on Page 10a.

## City, county plan joint meeting in January

By Tom Betz

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City commissioners held talks about holding a joint meeting with Sherman County commissioners, and the county commissioners agreed last Tuesday that a joint session should be set for early January.

After city commissioners brought the idea up, City Manager Wayne Hill went to the county meeting on Tuesday to make the request.

Hill said the commissioners had noticed an item on the county agenda for a full-time fire chief and felt was one of the issues that could be discussed in a joint meeting.

"What the commissioners asked is that we work together and have a joint meeting," Hill said. "They were asking if we could have another joint meeting to talk about various issues, because we are all Sherman County."

"We know you are a separate entity and you have to call your own shots. We have done things together and want to continue that. We would like to set up a joint meeting."

County Commissioner Mitch Tiede said the city and county have a mutual-aid agreement for fire protection and he would like to work on joint fire training.

"We need to get good cooperating going so we can help each other," he said.

Hill said the fire departments are one topic for joint discussion, but there are others.

County Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he would like to see a joint meeting to build on what has been started.

"We did the sales tax for roads and that worked out well," Hill said. "What else can we do together to better our people in Sherman County? We would like to invite you to hold a meeting together."

Tiede said a joint meeting could be held in the evening.

Hill said that would work for them, as the city meets in the evenings.

"I would like that and the evening would work well," Rasure said.

Hill suggested that City Clerk Mary Volk

and County Clerk Janet Rumpel work out a date.

City Commissioner Dave Daniels, who was at the county meeting on another matter, said the city commission did not want to talk just about the fire departments.

"We need to keep our conversation going to talk about more things," he said. "We had two commissioners vote against giving the rate increase to the county for the trash collection being done by In the Can. They said they wished we had more discussion about things including that."

Hill said the meeting would be more like a work session than a regular meeting.

Daniels noted that the two commissions have not had a joint meeting for a long time. Thomas said the last joint meeting was on the firemen issues last spring.

"We could not wait that long to have a chief," Daniels said. "We understand where you are right now, and we think there are other things that could be discussed."

"That is water under the bridge," Tiede said.

Rasure suggested having an agenda with specific issues so the field is not too broad. Daniels said there may have to be more than one meeting, and said that the Shine On Sherman County strategic planning committee was trying to get all their questionnaires back to have a list of the top 10 issues that members of both commissions felt were important.

Hill said that is where the two need to start.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked if Hill had a date in mind. Hill said the city has a meeting on Monday, Jan. 7, and suggested scheduling a joint meeting for the evening of Thursday, Jan. 10.

Thomas said Hill should set up a time with Volk and Rumpel, and they can let the commissioners know. Rasure suggested having someone from the Shine On Sherman County moderate the meeting.

"To keep us on track," Tiede added.

## Beginning band students show musical skills

Beginning band students in the fifth and sixth grade from North Elementary School showed off their new musical skills at a concert at the school Tuesday night directed by band teacher Deann Spanier.

The program started off with fifth graders showing parents how they could play together, play harmony and play rhythm. Then the sixth grade played and the group of around 80 students got to play a number together.

The bands played folk songs and Christmas songs. The fifth grade band comprises Selena Acosta, Kyler Amthor, Gerald Anderson, Aaron Avelar, Lindsay Bauman, Keegan Bowling, Destiney Brannum, Britney Brown, Jeremy Brown, Xavier Colby, Carlee Cooper, Danielle Doyle, Brooke Fairchild, Laramie Farris, Makala Fogg, Alec Hamilton, Tanner Helton, Matthew House, Jessica Johnson, Sean Johnson, Thatcher Jones, Tyler Jones, Makayla Kennedy, Gerrell Miller, Matthew Murray, Tyler Neufeld, Kegan Nothdurft, Felix Perez, Davada Pummer, Telanie Reicks, Juan Sandoval, Elisa Santana, Tanner Schmidt, Nicole Sederstrom, Kameron Snyder, Kristina Stasser, Sophia Thompson, Raquel Tomsic, Shaina Varney and Hunter Williams.

The sixth grade includes Ace Areaga, Ian Bonsall, Ashleigh Borders, Hope Cochran, Jesse Cooper, Aidan Crosby, Fionna Cruz, Sierra Estes, Timothy Fugleberg, John Hendrich, Miranda Hernandez, Elizabeth House, Katera Johnson, Mera Kling, Jordan Knitig, Leslie Olivarez, Amber Perdew, Halie Prince, Gabriella Rangel, Bracelyn Redlin, Abraham Sarmiento, Megan Siruta, Amber Smith, Tyler Steggall, Berkley White, Brianna White and Holton Witman. The principal at North is Jim Mull.



The fifth grade band that played at a concert Tuesday night at North Elementary School included (from left) Keegan Bowling and Larime Farris on clarinet, Jake Anderson and Kyler Amthor on trombone, Matt House and Thatcher Jones on sousaphone. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News