

### weather report

59°  
noon  
Thursday



#### Today

- Sunset, 7:49 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 4:38 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:50 p.m.
- Midday Conditions**
- Soil temperature 57 degrees
- Humidity 64 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds southeast 7 mph
- Barometer 29.71 inches and rising
- Record High today 97° (1960)
- Record Low today 27° (2000)

#### Last 24 Hours\*

- High Wednesday 69°
- Low Wednesday 42°
- Precipitation none
- This month 0.24
- Year to date 2.28
- Below normal 1.95 inches

#### The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 69, winds out the west at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 45. Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 60, winds out of the north at 10-30 mph and a low around 38.

#### Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 71 and a low around 44.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

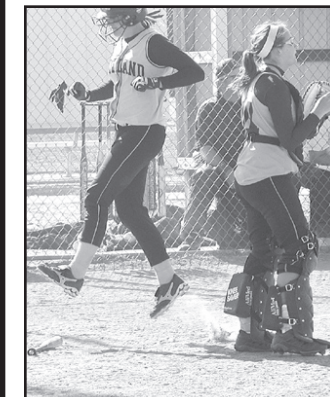
### local markets

#### Noon

- Wheat — \$8.18 bushel
- Posted county price — \$7.84
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$5.90 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.65
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$5.48 bushel
- Soybeans — \$13.01 bushel
- Posted county price — \$11.97
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Confection — \$30/\$20 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scouler Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

### inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



### Cowgirls defeat Colby

Senior Sammie Raymer (above) skipped across the plate with the winning run in the bottom of the seventh Monday as Colby catcher Tara Powell realized the throw would come too late. See story, photos on Page 12.

## Legislature guts at-large bill

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

It seems Sherman County won't be voting on electing commissioners at large this fall, or anytime soon.

A bill which had contained the at-large change did pass the Legislature on Saturday, as reported in *The Goodland Star-News* on Tuesday, but it has been stripped of all Sherman County content. The issue is dead for this year, said Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer.

The Legislature pulled a two-step on Saturday, when both houses passed a conference committee report unanimously approving House Bill 2307, but the final version had no reference to at-large voting for Sherman County commissioners.

In what is termed a "gut and go," the conference members from the House and Senate used the assigned bill number (HB2307) and, by suspending the rules, removed all the language of the original bill that dealt with the at-large voting of Sherman County commissioners. They substituted entirely different language dealing with mail ballot elections; mailing ballots to inactive voters in local elections conducted by mail ballot; changing certain primary elections; and removing restrictions on the size of political yard signs.

The newspaper apparently was not the only one fooled by the legislative switch.

"I did not understand," Rep. Jim Morrison (R-Colby) said Wednesday morning. "Ev-

erything looked good to me in the conference committee, and I felt it was best to leave it alone. I still don't think I would have changed anything, as I thought we had it covered in the House.

"I am going to find out what happened, as I thought it was the original bill that we had passed."

Morrison called back about an hour later and said the bill number (HB2307) had been used to fix some technical problems in a bill that had been sent to the governor.

"It was a bill the governor had and her office found an error," he said, "so the conference committee took the bill number and used it to make the correction to send that bill back to the governor."

"I am not sure that everyone knows what happened. I am sorry that this happened. I heard what I wanted to hear when it was brought up on Saturday.

"I did not look at the House journal, and when I checked online, the bill was showing the version that came out of the Senate with the Sherman County language. The web bill status is supposed to be updated . . . , but when I checked today, it had not been updated.

"I know the bill with the new language has been sent to the governor."

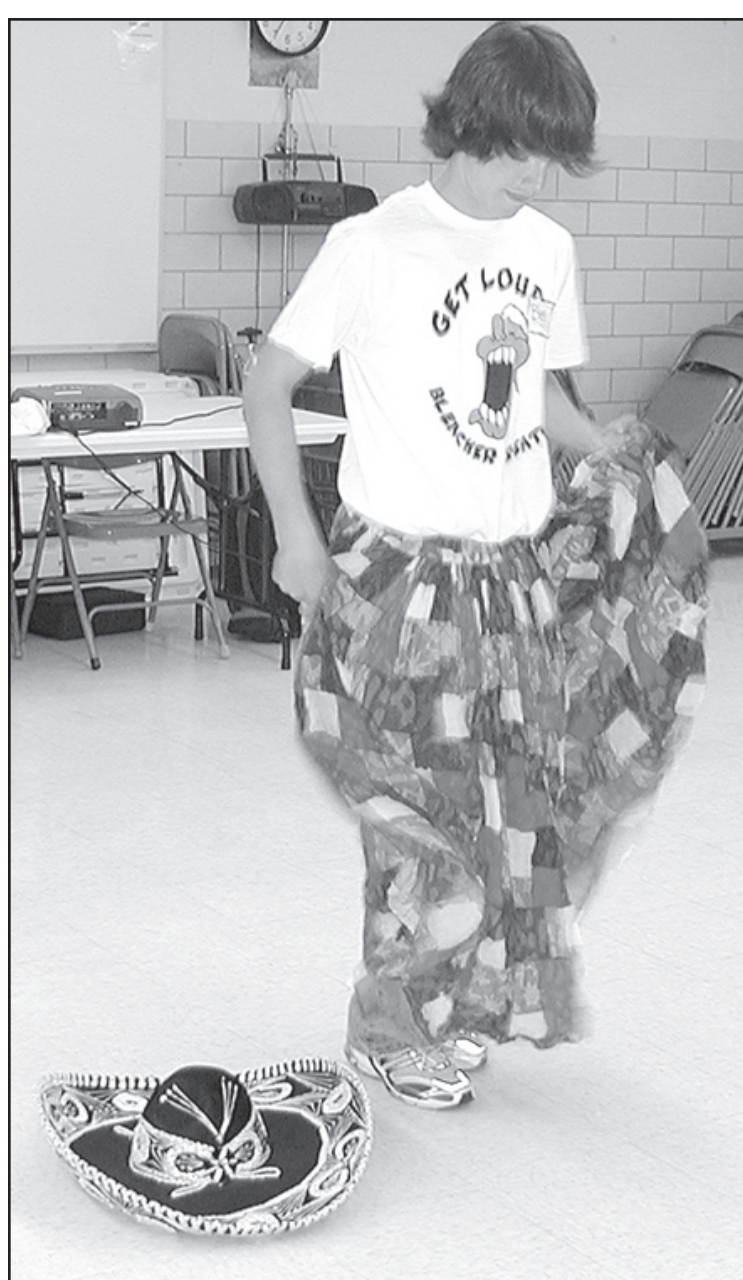
Morrison said when he talked to Rep. Mike Burgess (R-Topeka), who chaired the conference committee, Burgess said he told House

See BILL, Page 11



Goodland High School junior Shonna Webster (above left) helped Megan Siruta (far back on right), Sonya Garza (middle) and Carria Stevens with their Eye of God weaving at the Cinco De Mayo celebration put on by Mary Porterfield's Spanish classes on Wednesday afternoon for sixth graders at North Elementary Grade School. Ben Waugh (right) demonstrated the girl's steps in the Mexican Hat Dance. Students got to try the dance after he demonstrated.

Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News



## Spanish class celebrates Mexico's food, culture

By Pat Schiefen

pjschiefen@nwkansas.com

North Elementary School sixth graders got to experience a touch of Mexico as Mary Porterfield's Spanish classes put on a Cinco de Mayo celebration for them Wednesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Students got a lunch of burritos there and then split into groups. Rotating through stations, they got to make maracas, or noise makers; their own small pinata; a yarn weaving on a cross of sticks called an Eye of God

or Ojos de Dios; learned the Mexican Hat Dance; tried their hand at top and bolero games and a game similar to bingo; and learned to sing a Mexican song.

The students got a geography lesson and learned about the holiday's history by moving soldiers on a large map attached to the floor.

Cinco de Mayo, Porterfield told the students, celebrates the victory of 4,000 Mexican soldiers under President Benito Juarez against 8,000 French and Mexican traitor troops on May 5, 1862. Mexico had

declared its independence from Spain 11 years earlier on Sept. 15, 1810.

In early 1862, French, Spanish and British troops, landed to collect Mexican debts. The Spanish and British quickly made deals, while the French were determined to stay and set up a government. The U.S. was embroiled in the Civil War, and the defeat kept France's Napoleon III from supplying confederate troops for another year.

At the end of the Civil War, American troops rushed to the Mexican border and

supplied Mexicans with weapons and ammunition needed to expel the French. American soldiers were discharged with their uniforms and rifles if they promised to join the Mexican Army to fight the French, Porterfield said.

The high school students were in charge of the activity groups. Before the sixth graders, from the classes of teachers Lindsey Emig, Pam Hardy and Linda McKee, headed back to North, they got to break a brightly colored pinata with goodies inside.

## Put trash on curbs for citywide cleanup

Teams of volunteers will scour the streets Saturday morning to pick up piles of trash from the curb as part of the fourth annual citywide cleanup sponsored by the Goodland Chamber of Commerce's Beautification Committee.

Volunteers will gather between 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. at the vacant lot across Caldwell Avenue from Rasure Lumber, said Andi Nelson, Chamber executive director. She said teams will spread out around the city, collecting trash until 1 p.m.

Nelson said city crew members and Rich Simon, public works director, have helped with the planning and will have men and equipment to help on Saturday.

She said the volunteers will pick up almost anything except tires or hazardous waste, which the county transfer station won't take.

Mayor Rick Billinger read

a proclamation declaring May as City Clean-up Month at a commission meeting Monday, saying he appreciated the efforts of the volunteers.

Nelson said the county and Chamber will provide vouchers for people who cannot participate in the drive Saturday but want to haul their own trash to the station. She said people can call her at the Chamber at (785) 899-7130 or 821-4694 to volunteer or request a voucher.

She said the vouchers would be available through May 18. With a voucher, the citizen would not be charged to dump at the transfer station. She said this was for individuals and would not apply to contractors.

Nelson, asked how many volunteers she had for Saturday, replied that she hoped 150 people would show up.

Mary Ellen Coumerilh, a

See CLEANUP, Page 11

## City OKs registration program for work-site utility vehicles

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

Small, imported trucks will be allowed to drive on Goodland streets under a city ordinance passed Monday that requires the owner to have a driver's license, insurance and title, and register with the police department.

The ordinance passed 4-1 with Commissioner Josh Dechant voting against. Dechant said he thought there were too many hoops for drivers to jump through.

City Attorney Jeff Mason said he wrote the ordinance after reading those adopted by other cities and a model ordinance from the League of Kansas Municipalities.

These imported work-site utility vehicles are a small two-seat mini-pickup with right-hand drive and standard transmissions. The vehicles are not considered to be legal on highways because they do not meet federal Department of Transportation size and safety specifications Chief Smees said.

"We have added provisions about insurance, inspection and registra-

## Theater to be location for memorial bench

The Goodland Lions Club got permission from the City Commission on Monday to place a bench in front of the Sherman Theatre in memory of one of its members who died last year.

Mike Cochran of Cochran Farm Supply and a Lions member said the club has been raising money for a bench to honor the late C.T. Lindley.

Cochran said Lindley, a long-time member, worked at the theater and as a janitor at North

Elementary School. Cochran said the bench would not have a back so it could be used from either direction. It is being made by the Welding Tech department at Northwest Kansas Technical College.

Mayor Rick Billinger said he thought it was a great idea.

Theater owner Dave Branda said he was pleased by the plan, noting that movie goers had helped pay for the bench.

tion," Mason said, who was asked to draft the ordinance after Police Chief Ray Smees brought the idea to the commission.

At a meeting April 7, Smees said if the city was going to allow these "nonhighway" vehicles on streets,

he wanted to be sure it was done right. He asked that the ordinance include insurance and inspection as part of the requirements.

Mason said when a small, off-

See VEHICLES, Page 11