

Volume 76, Number 94

weather

report

37°

noon

Monday

Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Sunrise, 6:50 a.m.

Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Humidity 48 percent

Winds northwest 12 mph

Barometer 30.06 inches

and falling

Record High today 73° (1917)

Record Low today -5° (1985)

Last 24 Hours*

43° 25°

trace trace

10.23

Sky partly cloudy

High Sunday

Low Sunday

Precipitation

This month Year to date

Today

Saturday

Midday Conditions

Soil temperature 33 degrees

12 Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735



MIDWEEK

Tuesday, Dec. 2

2008

Meeting tonight includes dinner

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com Everyone knows there is no free meal, and the chicken noodles being served up at 6:30 p.m. tonight at the Goodland Elks does include hearing about how the people of Greeley County have managed to combine their city and county governments into one commission.

"We will have dinner starting at 6:30 p.m., and then have an open meeting with representatives from Greeley County," said Trevor Linton, chairman of the Shine On Sherman County Government Alliance Committee.

"We will let people know what our committee has been doing and what the options are we have explored," he said. "Then there will be at least five or six people from the Greeley County team.

"We think Charles Mosher from Tribune will be one of those talking. He was the voting of county commissioners.

chairperson of the group that helped put the consolidation effort together."

Linton said the Government Alliance Committee has been gathering information for the city and county commissioners to develop options about consolidating services with an eye to more efficient use of people and equipment.

'From what we have heard from the Greeley County people in their unification process they have been able to work out ways to better utilize their equipment to save money even though there has not been any jobs cut," Attorney Ron Vignery said when he talked to the Sherman County Economic Development Council in October.

Linton said the unification question was the second major issue the committee has been working on as they have held public forums and a mock election on the issue of at-large

He said the results of the mock election have been given to the county commissioners and to the representatives in Topeka. He said nearly 80 percent of those voting were in favor of allowing the Sherman County citizens an opportunity to vote on the commissioners at-large.

A similar effort to allow the citizens to decide the issue was killed in the Legislature when it appeared it had climbed over all the hurdles.

The legislators said they killed it because of the confusion presented by two Sherman County Commissioners and that they did not feel there had been enough public input to show support.

Linton said he did not know what the commissioners would do with the results, but hoped they would follow the wishes of the people and ask for the issue to be brought back before the legislature in January.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas had origi nally voted to support the effort, but later changed his mind and said he would not support the at-large issue.

Thomas said he felt there had not been enough public input and asked the Government Alliance Committee to hold the public forums to see if the public was in support of this issue.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure, who has been in favor of the issue, said he felt it was good to have the public input and that the commissioners should allow the people to have the opportunity to decide the matter in an election.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede has said he does not support the at-large election of commissioners without the commission districts, but said he did feel if the people were in favor of the issue he would support allowing them to vote on the issue.

Collections begin Genesis holiday food drive

Above normal 0.87 inches The Topside Forecast Today: Partly sunny with a 30 percent chance of snow after midnight, a high near 67, winds out of west at 10 to 15 mph changing to the north at 10 to 40 mph and a low around 25. Wednesday:

Mostly cloudy with scattered flurries, a high near 33, winds out of the north at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 17.

Extended Forecast Thursday: Partly sunny with a high near 36 and a low around 20. Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 48 and a low around 25. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.



Noon Wheat — \$4.56 bushe Posted county price — \$4.79 Corn — \$2.92 bushel Posted county price — \$3.29 Milo — \$2.36 bushel Soybeans — \$7.11 bushel Posted county price — \$8.07 Millet — \$7 hundredweight Sunflowers Oil current crop — \$14.80 cwt. Confection — \$35/\$23 cwt. Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop) (Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)





The Genesis Food Bank is gearing up for collection of food to used for the holiday boxes given out before Christmas. Boy and Girl Scouts and 4-H members will pick up food on Saturday starting at 9 a.m.

To donate food, put it in a sack by vour front door or on the front porch, and the teams will pick it up. If you are out or are missed donated items can be brought to the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall Saturday morning.

The food bank needs canned goods and nonperishable items such as cereal, macaroni, gelatin and peanut butter, said Mel Pfau, Genesis organizer. They'd like to have things that can be used for a holiday meal such as cranberry sauce and pumpkin or stuffing mix, but can't take homecanned products or anything with an expired date.

To donate money, mail checks to Genesis, Box 703, Goodland, Kan. 67735. Pfau said a gift of money will allow the group to purchase items to help fill the holiday boxes.

The Sherman Theatre will have its Genesis movie, with admission being an item of food, a toy or \$1 to go to Genesis, at 1:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The movie is "Kung Fu Panda." The theater has done the Genesis movie for several years. The movies are well attended and a good amount of food is collected, said owner Dave Branda. There has been a lot of need for the food bank this year and the shelves were almost empty in November, said Linda Pfau, Genesis organizer. Joy and Richard Hayden are also organizers for the group.





Cowboys open season

Senior Travis Angelos leapt high for a shot Friday in practice. The Cowboys open the basketball season at 7 p.m. on Thursday when they face Ulysses at Max Jones Fieldhouse. See story, photos on Page 12.





By Pat Schiefen

pjschiefen@nwkansas.com Brad Schields from the Black and Gold Booster Club asked the Goodland School Board for permission to refurbish an electronic sign in Max Jones Fieldhouse. Schields said the existing sign currently runs on old software that few know how to run.

The group figured it would cost between \$17,000 to \$30,000 to do an upgrade. Leon Volk with Commercial Sign Company of Colby said it would cost \$13,686 to change the guts of the sign to LED lights but the exterior of the sign would not change. The installation would cost \$1,400.

Schields said Commercial Sign would agree to maintain the sign. The sign would be run by a district laptop with current software.

The booster club was contributing \$5,000, Schields said. He expected to raise the rest of the needed money from the community.

The school board agreed to allow the sign upgrade at their meeting on Monday, Nov. 24. Schields said it would take six weeks to get the sign in.

The board discussed whether the district was going to use a bright gold or Vegas gold in its school's colors. Activities Director Don Smith said at the present time there are teams using both colors. He said the new band uniforms will use a metallic gold.

Smith said currently the coaches had been choosing which gold. Vegas gold is a newer color with the bright gold being more traditional.

Board member Andrew House said he thought Vegas gold looks like light yellow or tan from a distance.

Wally Hansen and Jessica Johnson helped fill food boxes for this year. The community food drive will be this Saturday starting Genesis last year. The food bank is planning on filling 150 boxes at 9 a.m. Donations should be placed in a visible area.

The 150 Christmas boxes will be put together on Saturday, Dec. 20.

Water leak bubbles up on Main Ave.



City of Goodland employee Mike Reyes worked on a running down the street. Reyes thought the leak probably water leak at 1507 Main. Water filled the hole and was started Sunday night.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

See SCHOOL, Page 7