

weather report

21°

noon
Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 4:23 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:53 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:23 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 37 degrees
- Humidity 81 percent
- Sky cloudy and snowy
- Winds east southeast 7 mph
- Barometer 30.46 inches and falling
- Record High today 75° (1939)
- Record Low today -8° (1972)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	37°
Low Wednesday	14°
Precipitation	.05
This month	0.5
Year to date	20.28
Above normal	0.84 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 40, winds out of the southwest at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 24. Saturday: Partly sunny with a high near 50, winds out of the north at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 25.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny with a high near 55 and a low around 26. Monday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain and snow with a high near 43 and a low around 22. Tuesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 45 and a low around 20. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$4.34 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.44
- Corn — \$2.88 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.15
- Milo — \$2.22 bushel
- Soybeans — \$6.70 bushel
- Posted county price — \$7.58
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$14 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.)

inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Basketball games begin

Sophomore Ashley Archer looked for someone to pass the ball to while freshman Audrey Titus jockeyed for position during the Cowgirls Soap Scrimmage Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. See photos, story on Page 11.

Crowd hears about unification

By Tom Betz

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A crowd over more than 50 ate chicken noodles at the Elks Lodge on Tuesday and listened to people from Tribune talk about their process of crafting a unified county combining both city and county governments.

Five people from Greeley County spent nearly two hours giving a background presentation and answering questions about what their study group went through as they developed and got voter approval for the new Unified Greeley County, which becomes the official name in January.

Trevor Linton, chairman of the Shine On Sherman County Government Alliance Committee, opened the public session saying he had talked to the Greeley County people about the unification effort about a year ago and found them to be passionate and enthusiastic about the good things happening in their county.

Greeley County Commissioner Mike Thon, attorney Charlie Moser, Alan Peter vice-president of Colorado East Bank in Tribune, city engineer Brock Sloan and Tribune Mayor Bill Hamann each took turns giving part of the background presentation about what they had gone through in the three year process.

Thon and Moser had been in Topeka earlier on Tuesday to testify in front of a study com-



Greeley County Commissioner Mike Thon (left) and county attorney Charles Moser talked about their trip to Topeka on Tuesday, where they testified about county unification, when they and three other Greeley Countians spoke at a special Shine On Sherman County open forum at the Goodland Elks Lodge.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

mittee for the Kansas council on intergovernmental relations about what they had learned in the unification process.

"What we heard makes us believe the state will be pushing the unification or regionalization process," Moser said, "especially with

the state facing a \$2.2 billion shortfall."

He said he had moved back to Tribune a couple of years ago and had not been part of the first action team that was created out of the Community Conversation process in Greeley County.

He said he looked at the idea and decided it was worth pursuing and then was asked to chair the study group.

"The members of the study group did not have any personal agendas," he said. "We wanted to do the best for our community."

He said the most important thing was people felt the county was facing a crisis, and that the loss of population was the major issue.

The figures showed the county had lost 43 percent of the population from 1975 to 2005 going from 2,210 down to 1,349 he said. The schools had dropped enrollment over that period by 46 percent.

He said this was the impetus for the unification discussion and going to the city and county to ask permission to go to Topeka to get the bill passed allowing for the study group and vote.

"We testified about this in Topeka today," Moser said, "and we are kidding ourselves about this not being developed as a mandate coming from the state."

Thon said that is what they had heard in

See GREELEY, Page 8

Ennis-Handy House wins top 8 Wonder

By Tom Betz

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From the many came the final 8 Wonders of Sherman County that are presented in a special color brochure in today's edition of *The Goodland Star-News*.

Votes for the 8 Wonders were taken on line by *The Hays Daily News* and brought to the Star-News office.

The voting was completed in October, but an unanticipated problem in publishing the brochure through *The Hays Daily News* delayed the announcement and delivery of the brochures.

The 1907 Ennis-Handy House was the top winner with a total of 392 votes getting 336 on line and 56 were received at the Star-News.

A distant second was the High Plains Museum with 359 getting 329 on line and 30 paper votes.

The voting was close with third going to the Kuhrt Ranch at 356 with 310 on line and the 48 paper votes made the totals close.

The Carnegie Arts Center was fourth with 348 from 305 on line and 43 paper votes.

The Van Gogh painting finished fifth with 320 getting 301 on line and 19 paper.

A close sixth was the historic brick

8 Wonders of Sherman County

1. Ennis-Handy House
2. High Plains Museum
3. Kuhrt Ranch
4. Carnegie Arts Center
5. Van Gogh painting
6. Historic Brick Streets
7. Dr. A.C. Gulick's house
8. Kidder massacre site

streets with 316 getting 274 on line and 42 paper.

The Gulick House was seventh with 253 on line and 57 paper.

The eighth finisher was the Kidder Massacre site with 307 getting 269 on line and 38 paper.

Of the top 16 nominations the Northwest Kansas Technical College came in ninth (236).

Antique Warehouse finished in 10th

See WONDERS, Page 8



The 101-year old Ennis-Handy House won the top spot in the 8 Wonders of Sherman County contest sponsored by the Sherman County Economic Development Council, Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau and *The Goodland Star-News*.

Genesis collection planned for 9 a.m. Saturday morning

Don't forget to put the food you wish to donate to Genesis in a sack by your front door or on the front porch on Saturday.

Boy and Girl Scouts will pick up the food starting at 9 a.m. and take it to the United Methodist Fellowship Hall to be sorted.

If you do not wish to leave the food outside it can be delivered to the Fellowship Hall from 9 to 11 a.m.

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 home-canned 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.

Food, toys or a donation will also be collected at the

holiday matinee of "Kung Fu Panda" at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Genesis was founded in 1984 to help people who were in temporary assistance, said Genesis organizers. People have to have lived in Goodland for a certain period of time and can not come back immediately for more help.

Genesis works with the local churches, Harvest America, the Elks Lodge, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions, 4-H clubs, Boy Scouts and church youth groups.

A list is compiled and reviewed by the Board of Directors of Genesis. Cards are then sent to them letting the people know when and where to pick up their Christmas boxes.

Kiwanis and the Goodland Motorcycle Club have been gathering Toys for Tots to be added to the boxes.

The 150 Christmas boxes will be put together on Thursday, Dec. 18, said Linda Pfau, Genesis organizer.

For information call (785) 890-2299,

City encourages holiday lighting with 10 percent electrical discount

By Tom Betz

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City utility customers are being encouraged to show their holiday spirit by putting up lights and decorations, and the city commissioners have approved giving all electric customers a 10 percent discount.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he felt giving the people a 10 percent discount on their electrical bills would be a good incentive for people to show their holiday spirit, and a way for the city to

wish the customers Merry Christmas.

"I think it is a good idea for the people who we work for," he said, "and a way to give a little back to them."

City Clerk Mary Volk said the discount would show up on the monthly bill that customers receive at the end of January.

"The city billing is a month behind so the people will see the discount on the bill they receive at the end of January," she said. "That bill will be the electric meter reading for the month of

December."

Mayor Rick Billinger agreed with the holiday discount, and wanted to be sure it was going to be for everyone whether they put up lights or not.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks felt it was a good idea and would help the festive appearance of the city for the holiday season.

Commissioner John Garcia said he felt it was a good thing for the city to do, and that the 10 percent discount would total about \$50,000.

Interviews begin for new city manager

By Tom Betz

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City commissioners spent more than an hour Monday night behind closed doors reviewing the applications for city manager, and have scheduled at least two interviews with one Wednesday morning and one planned for Friday, Dec. 12.

Nathan Eberline, intergovernmental relations associate for the League of Kansas Municipalities, met with the city commissioners to review the applications.

The commissioners and Eberline were in three closed sessions with two for 30 minutes each and the third for 10 minutes.

The city has contracted with the League of Kansas Municipalities to help with the application process for the city manager.

When the commissioners returned

to open session they did not discuss any actions. City Clerk Mary Volk said the interview appointments were not confirmed until Tuesday, and city commissioners were contacted to set up the special meetings for the closed door interviews.

Monday was the last meeting for City Manager Wayne Hill who's last day will be Friday, Dec. 12.

"This is my last meeting," Hill said. "In the three years and four months I have been here this was a difficult decision on my part. I have enjoyed the people and the people I have worked for."

"The commissioners have allowed me to do some things and I think I cannot say enough good about the people who work for me and for you. The city employees have a great work ethics, and they will get out and do anything to keep the city going."

"I appreciate the people I have met

in this community and I will miss this community."

"Trust me I don't know what I will be doing, but I won't be in city government again. After more than 25 years I think I've had enough."

Mayor Rick Billinger told Hill he wanted to thank him for the three years and four months of his work.

"We have been glad to have you," Billinger said, "and you stuck it out longer than I ever thought you would."

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she had been pleased to work with Hill, and hoped he would find success in whatever he does in the future.

Commissioner John Garcia said he echoed the comments of both Billinger and Fairbanks, and wished Wayne the best.

"My thanks to Wayne," Commissioner Dave Daniels said. "We have accomplished some good things while you have been here."

