

## weather report

**69°**  
noon  
Monday



### Today

• Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

### Saturday

• Sunrise, 7:01 a.m.  
• Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 51 percent
- Sky mostly clear
- Winds variable 5 mph
- Barometer 30.40 inches and steady
- Record High today 74° (1962)
- Record Low today -4° (1964)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Sunday 32°  
Low Sunday -10° Record  
Precipitation 0.01  
This month 0.10  
Year to date 20.33  
Above normal 0.76 inches

### The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow before 11 a.m. with a high near 25, winds out of the south at 10-15 mph and a low around 6. Wednesday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of snow at night, a high near 26, winds out of the east at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 11.

### Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly sunny with a high near 31 and a low around 12. Friday: Sunny with a high near 28 and a low around 5.

(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\*Readings taken at 7 a.m.

# Goodland to help form league

Superintendents of Colby, Goodland, Holcomb, Scott County and Ulysses met in Scott City on Monday and agreed to form the Great Western Activities Conference.

The five school districts voted to proceed with the organization of the conference to be operational in July of 2010.

Don Wells, superintendent of Scott County

schools, said the vision of the conference is to provide high quality programming for student activities including the academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular areas.

He said the will encompass the high schools and middle schools of the district and will strive to provide participation and scheduling opportunities with regional schools who may

not be part of the conference.

"The Great Western Activities Conference believes the membership will grow prior to and after the starting date with the addition of other regional high quality districts," he said.

He said the Kansas State High School Activities Association and current area

league members have been told about the plans of the five charter schools for the new organization.

"The schools in the conference are proud of their past alliances and look forward to an exciting future," he said.

Goodland has been a longtime member of the Northwest Kansas League.



The Burlington High School drum line (above) entertained at the Topside Tip-Off on Saturday at halftime of the girls' championship game. The audience gave the drummers a standing ovation. On Saturday Santa Claus (right photo)

appeared at halftime of the boys' championship game and handed out candy canes to the kids in the audience and a young girl escorted by Deputy Burton Pianalto as Janet Redlin sang Christmas carols.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



# Cyclones repeat winners of 20th Topside Tip-Off

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwks.com

The Ottawa Cyclones won the boys championship for the second year, and the Ottawa Lady Cyclones won the girls championship at the 20th annual Topside Tip-Off on Saturday at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The Lady Cyclones defeated the Wray Lady Eagles, 49-39 in the girls championship, and the Cyclones defeated the McCook Bison, 57-47 in the boys championship.

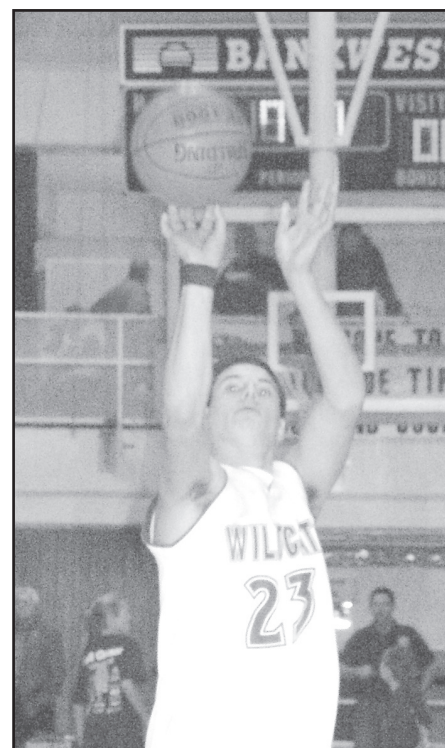
Two Lady Cyclones and two Cyclones were named to the all-tournament teams after helping lead their teams to the championships. Lady Cyclones members were senior Kara McFarland and junior Kearsten Peoples and Cyclones members were sophomore Adam Hasty and senior Jake Moore. McFarland was named to the all-tournament team last year when the Lady Cyclones won the consolation championship.

The Goodland Cowgirls were represented on the girls all-tournament team by sophomore Ashley Archer, and other members on the girls team included juniors Audrey Mote and Kenzi Knobbe both of the Wallace County Lady Wildcats, seniors Stacy Post and Christa Loyd both of the Wray Lady Eagles, senior Laura Lee Baird of the Norton Lady Bluejays, senior Jarae David of the Burlington Lady Cougars and junior Payton Walker of the Weskan Lady Coyotes.

The Cowboys had senior Greg Farris on the boys all-tournament team, and other members included seniors Dillon Golti and Seth Schaeffer of the McCook Bison, junior Tate Andrews and senior Tyler O'Conner



Senior Raney Okeson of Weskan (above left) won the girls S&T Long Distance Shootout on Saturday. Junior Tate Andrews (above right) of Wallace County won the boys shootout championship.



of the Wallace County Wildcats, junior Landon Hamel of the Norton Bluejays, senior Canaan Reeverts of the Burlington Cougars and sophomore Jarret Cure of the Wray Eagles.

Between the championship games, the audience cheered for the finalists in the S&T

Long Distance 3-point shootout.

Senior Raney Okeson of Weskan and Knobbe of Wallace County were the finalists in the girls shootout. Both hit 123-point baskets in the first round. They went to a second round won by Okeson with 11 to Knobbe's 10.

Andrews of Wallace County and Farris of Goodland were the two boys finalists and both hit 11 3-point baskets in the first round. They went to a second round won by Andrews with 11 to 10 for Farris.

The Wray Lady Eagles won the girls free throw shooting award hitting 39 of 59 for a 66 percent average. The Cyclones won the boys free throw shooting award hitting 30 of 49 for a 61 percent average.

The audience was entertained by the Burlington High School Drum Line at half time of the girls championship game and by Janet Redlin, who sang Christmas carols as Santa Claus made a special appearance at half time of the boys championship game.

Ottawa Cyclones defeated Norton 73-35 in their opening game on Thursday and beat Wallace County 63-50 on Friday to make it to the championship.

Wallace County finished third, defeating the Cowboys 73-45, and Wray won the consolation championship over Burlington, 48-43. Norton finished seventh defeating Weskan 61-44.

Ottawa Lady Cyclones defeated the Cowgirls 72-34 in the first round on Thursday and beat Weskan 67-63 to reach the championship game.

Norton defeated Weskan for third place 49-41, and Wallace County won the consolation championship over Burlington 61-59. McCook finished seventh, defeating Goodland 67-34.

See more stories and photos on Pages 9 and 10.

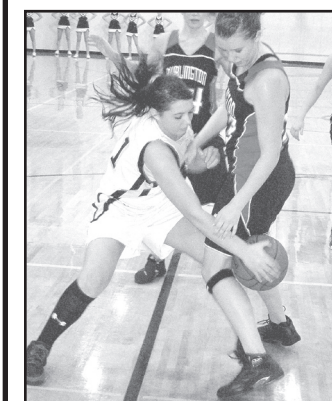
## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$4.70 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.55  
Corn — \$3.31 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.43  
Milo — \$2.65 bushel  
Soybeans — \$7.12 bushel  
Posted county price — \$7.97  
Millets — \$7 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$13.90 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



## Cowgirls lose games

Cowgirl sophomore Jennifer Rome (left) tried to control the ball as it went behind the knee of Burlington Lady Cougar senior Jarae David during the game Friday evening. The Cowgirls lost. See photo, story on Page 9.

## Home for Holidays, Taste of Goodland planned for Saturday

Saturday afternoon from 1 to 3 p.m. the place to be is the Goodland Activity Center where the Home for the Holidays and Taste of Goodland are to be held.

The Goodland Star-News has been collecting recipes for the Home for the Holidays, and 18 selected dishes from the two special sections will be available for tasting.

At the same time the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce will be holding the annual Taste of Goodland showing off samples of area food, home-based businesses and other products.

Entertainment will be provided by the Goodland High School X-pressos and The Barbershop Quartet.

Gift ideas for last minute shopping will be displayed from several of the area's specialty shops.

## County trades for new motor grader

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwks.com

The Sherman County Road and Bridge Department is trading in a 1997 Caterpillar model H motor grader for a new 2008 model M through Martin Tractor of Colby with agreement of the county commissioners on Tuesday.

Curt Way, public works manager, and Dustin Daniels of Martin Tractor met with the commissioners to explain the trade deal and get approval for the new motor grader.

Way said the county has two 1997 H motor graders and the trade-in is the oldest of the two with 11,600 hours of operation on the machine.

Way said the difference in cost from the demonstrator model M the county purchased last December was \$13,411. He said the difference between the full cost and the difference after trade-in would be \$147,000.

Daniels said the machine being sold to Sherman County is not a demonstrator like the county purchased last year.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said incoming commissioner Cynthia Strnad wanted to be called about the grader purchase. He called her cell phone when the discussion started, but did not get an answer and left her a voice message. She did not call back during the meeting.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked if there was a government discount.

Daniels said it is already figured in and the quote shows a net price after the discount and trade-in. He said the grader lists for about \$388,000 before the discount and trade-in.

"I don't like putting all those numbers in because some times it confuses people," he said.

Thomas asked he wondered because he did not see anything to indicate it had been taken off the top.

Daniels said it was taken of the top, and that the warranty is the same as in past years with 5 years or 5,000 hours.

Way said it was a 2007 M, and now has over 700 hours on it.

Thomas asked if there had been any

problems with the 2007 grader.

Way said not anything major.

Daniels said that grader has not been down, but the company has done some upgrades from Cat.

Rasure asked what the 97 H would bring at an auction.

Daniels said the value is between \$70,000 to \$75,000.

"We think this machine will get a little more because of how well it has been taken care of," he said. "Sherman County is good about taking care of equipment. The market is dropping every day and on others where the maintenance is not the same the value is in the \$60,000s."

Way asked Daniels if he had an estimated cost per hour for the graders.

Daniels said the cost is about \$7 per hour, since the county bought the 1997 for \$167,000.

"That is pretty cheap for this ma-