

weather report

26°

noon

Thursday

Today

Sunset, 4:26 p.m.

Saturday

Sunrise, 7:03 a.m.

Sunset, 4:27 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 30 degrees

• Humidity 74 percent

• Sky mostly clear

• Winds southeast 10 mph

• Barometer 29.81 inches and steady

• Record High today 66° (1917)

• Record Low today -14° (1924)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 40°

Low Wednesday 11°

Precipitation none

This month 0.10

Year to date 20.33

Above normal 0.71 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 38, winds calm changing to the southeast at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 14. Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow, a high near 20, winds blustery out of the north at 20 to 35 mph and a low around -1.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 14 and a low around 2. Monday: Partly sunny with a near 24 and a low around 6. Tuesday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$5.04 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.95

Corn — \$3.43 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.57

Milo — \$2.74 bushel

Soybeans — \$7.41 bushel

Posted county price — \$8

Milliet — \$7 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$13.25 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 to Hays

Ottawa Lady Cyclone Kara McFarland towered over Cowgirl Courtney Sheldon in the opening round of the Topside Tip-Off last Thursday. The Cowgirls lost to Hays on Tuesday. See photo, story on Page 10.

Two local plants close for holidays

By Tom Betz
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Rumors abounding about plant closings in Sherman County have people wondering if the economic slowdown has reached out into the rural area.

Reports circulating are that the Goodland Adronics/Elrob Manufacturing plant is closing and that the E. Caruso ethanol plant has stopped all construction.

Helen Dobbs, economic development office manager, told the Sherman County Economic Development Council on Tuesday that Adronics was closing their Goodland plant for the holidays.

A call to Adronics plant manager Glenn Carter on Wednesday confirmed the plant will

be closing for the holidays.

He said they were shutting down because production numbers are down and that General Motors shuts down because of the holidays. He said the company was not laying people off, and plans to reopen on Monday, Jan. 5.

The plant manufactures radio antennas for various car models, and a majority of the work has been with General Motors over the past years.

General Motors and Ford Motor Company have announced they will close most if not all their plants from today until the first of the year.

A second rumor circulating was that the E. Caruso ethanol plant at the Goodland Energy Center west of town had halted all construc-

tion and was closing down.

Jerry Fairbanks, trust attorney at First National Bank and a representative for Goodland Energy Center, said Monday the construction people have been sent home for the holidays.

He said the Goodland Energy Center offices remain open and that Michelle Douglas is managing the office at 1204 Main.

Over the past week or more, pickups have been seen pulling up to the doors, and furniture, chairs and tables have been seen moving out.

Fairbanks said this was because JMC Engineering, which has the building on the corner is moving their offices to a house they own out by the Sugar Hills Golf Club.

JMC Engineering was called to ask about the move, but no one has returned the call to *The Goodland Star-News*.

Fairbanks said E. Caruso has been working on a program with Frontier Ag to manage the ethanol plant. He said the plan is for Frontier Ag to manage the plant and buy and sell the corn and by-products.

He said this should be completed within 18 months, and that it is a big step for the plant.

Frontier Ag Manager Brad Cowan was called Thursday morning and asked to comment on the management program, but was in a meeting and unavailable.

As to the power plant at the energy center,

See **BUSINESSES**, Page 7

Members of the North Elementary sixth grade band included Kristina Stasser (above) playing a French Horn and Laramie Farris, Danielle Doyle and Makala Fogg (left photo) playing clarinets.

Photos by Liz West/The Goodland Star-News

Fifth grade band members Amber Chaffman and Katie Seeger played flutes for the winter concert at North Elementary.

Elementary bands present concert

The fifth and sixth grade bands of North Elementary presented their winter concert at the school on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Band director Deanne Langness told the audience of parents, grandparents and friends that she started the fifth graders just blowing through a mouthpiece for the instrument they wanted to play.

She said this was to get them used to blowing before they added the instrument.

The fifth graders presented the first four songs of the program including "Jingle Bells," "Rhythm Etude," "Aurs Lee" and "Frere Jacques."

Langness said it was amazing to see the improvement with the sixth graders after one year of playing their instruments.

The sixth grade band performed "Christmas on Parade," "Christmas Contrasts," "A Holy Jolly Christmas" and "Have Yourself a Merry Christmas."

The combined bands played the final two songs "Up on a Housetop" and "Jolly Old St. Nick."

The members of the bands include:

Fifth grade band

Flutes — Amber Chaffman, Katie Seeger, Mary Schnabel, T-Aera Abbott, Kyndell King, Dayne Webring and Molly Bollig.

Clarinets — Dani Mangus, Lexi Sampson, Jordan Siruta, Savannah Bassett, Quinlen Withington, Laci Siruta, Sage Vandiver, Jaycinda Mireles, Sophie Williams and Patricia Ledesma.

Alto Saxes — Austin Shelley,

Trista Ravenstein, Alinexis Castillo-Lozano, Skyler Thompson and Riley Lopez.

Tenor Saxes — Taitem Jones, Tiffany Benavides and Takoda Turner.

Trumpets — Chandler Pettibone, Christian Michaud, Braxton Redlin, Aaron Arteaga, Zachery Walls, Yidam Mendoza, Daniel Cepeda and Heath Johnson.

French Horn — Rachel Mickelson.

Trombones — Cole Knitig, Quynnalynn Meyer and Jacob Stasser.

Baritones — Sarah Johnson, Ethan Clemons, Mallory O'Brien and Marissa Bustillos.

See **BANDS**, Page 7

Road closure decisions reviewed

By Sharon Corcoran
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Representatives from the Kansas Department of Transportation met with the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau board last Tuesday about how decisions to close the highways are reached and answered questions about grass, fences and water standing on state right-of-ways.

Board members were asking for more specific instructions to be given to travelers to be sure they would know if motel rooms are available in Goodland, so they don't stop elsewhere when the motels are only half full.

Kristen Brands, public affairs manager from Norton, and Eric Oelschlager, area engineer from Atwood, answered questions for the board and looked at options to improve communication when roads need to be closed.

The decision to close highways is based on two factors, Brands said: unsafe weather conditions and accommodations being full.

Board member Lincoln Wilson, owner of the Howard Johnson Hotel, asked how it was determined the

roads needed to be closed because the motels were full.

Crissy Conger, Sherman County Communications director, gets a motel count, Brands said, adding Conger's help has been invaluable to the department of transportation.

Wilson said he disagreed with that method, adding he felt sometimes only one or two phone calls were made, and if those motels were nearly full, it was assumed all of them were.

The last two storms, he said, Best Western, Comfort Inn and Howard Johnson's were only about half full.

"We want full," he said. "We're losing dollars."

Wilson said he called the state highway patrol, and they told him the department of transportation made the decision to close the roads, so he called the department and they told him highway patrol does.

The department of transportation makes the decision about when to close the roads, Brands said, but highway patrol actually closes the gates. District Maintenance Engineer Jerry Moritz makes the

decision, Brands said, adding the department has made leaps and bounds in its communication and the addition of the signs along the interstate for travelers will help further that communication.

"Crissy making calls to the hotels is a service to us," Brands said. "We don't have time to do it. We want you to be full and have a thriving economy, but our job is to close the roads and consider the safety of travelers."

Oelschlager suggested the motels could each call Conger during storms and keep her up to date on how close they are to being full.

Jeanne Irvin, owner of Holiday Inn Express, asked about the messages on the department's signs.

"People told us they saw a sign at Colby that said there were no rooms available at Goodland," she said. "The few who came in were surprised we had rooms. People thought there was nothing open here — we hardly had anyone."

Would it be possible to say on the signs, "Road closed beyond Colby" or "beyond Goodland"?

See **ROADS**, Page 7

Tasty dishes to sample at Home for Holidays

The place to be Saturday afternoon from 1 to 3 p.m. is the Goodland Activity Center at the corner of Eighth and Main Ave., where 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.

The recipes are for appetizers, salads, main dishes, side dishes, desserts and drinks.

There will be three recipes from each division, and included in the selections people can sample Saturday are a main dish Quick Shrimp Newberg and an appetizer Hot Crab Dip from Marvin Seaman; an Ice Cream Salad from Kay Wessel of Oakley; a side dish of Sugar Free Banana

Muffins from Alberta Hayden; in desserts it is Perfect Fudge Brownies from Heyde Tiede; and from drinks a Christmas Punch by Deb Overmiller.

Other recipes will be from Marcia Emig, Tina Meyer, Marge Pizel from Great Bend, Nola Mangus of Burlington, Velda Bramer and Andrea Pritchard.

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.

About 10 area businesses are expected to have displays during the afternoon with gift ideas for last minute Christmas shopping.

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