

weather  
report

32°

noon  
Monday

Today

• Sunset, 4:37 p.m.  
Saturday  
• Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.  
Sunset, 4:38 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 28 degrees  
• Humidity 88 percent  
• Sky partly cloudy  
• Winds west 3 mph  
• Barometer 30.33 inches  
and falling  
• Record High today 71° (1927)  
• Record Low today -14° (1942)

Last 24 Hours\*

High Sunday 43°  
Low Sunday 10°  
Precipitation none  
This month trace  
Year to date trace

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light snow and patchy light freezing drizzle, a high in the upper 30s, light winds becoming southeast 10 mph in the afternoon and a low around 17. Wednesday: Cloudy with a 60 percent chance of snow, winds out of north at 10 to 25 mph, a high around 19 and a low near zero.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly cloudy with a high around 9 and a low around -8. Friday to Saturday: Mostly clear with a high in the upper 20s and a low around 8.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.42 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.36  
Corn — \$3.61 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.63  
Milo — \$3.57 bushel  
Soybeans — \$9.54 bushel  
Posted county price — \$9.65  
Millet — \$5 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$14.40 cwt.  
Confection — \$28/\$15 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  
play Friday

Cowgirl Jennifer Rome drove the baseline against an Imperial Lady Longhorn in the opening game. Friday the Cowgirls face the Lady Broncs of Lakin at Max Jones Fieldhouse. See photo, story on Page 8.

# City applies for bricks on Main

**By Tom Betz**  
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City commissioners agreed to apply for a transportation enhancement grant from the state to continue the replacement of bricks on Main Ave. by replacing two blocks of the brick street at an estimated total cost of \$1.39 million.

City commissioners talked about not replacing the bricks, but rather using eight inches of concrete, but Darin Neufeld said the transportation grant was to be used for historic preservation and concrete would not qualify for the grant money.

Neufeld, engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, said the application was a continuation of the downtown street improvements that have included replacing the intersections at Sixth through 13th.

He said one option was to replace the intersections from 14th to 17th, but said those are not in as bad a shape as the street between

11th and 12th.

Commissioner Rick Billinger, mayor pro temp, said he thought it was good to replace the brick intersections, but thought it was too expensive to replace the bricks on the street. He said he felt it would be better to do the intersections and then come back and replace the brick street with concrete.

Neufeld said the cost of doing two blocks with the brick replacement and state grant money would be about \$1.39 million with the state paying \$906,000 and the city share at 25 percent \$226,500. The city would have to pay all the cost of replacing the storm sewer, water lines and electrical with an estimated cost of \$259,500 making the city portion total \$486,000.

He said the city had applied for this in the last round, but with the curb and gutter work completed that saved about \$45,000 off the cost.

The deadline to file for the grant is Dec.

30, and Neufeld said once the application is approved they could pull things in and out before the work began.

He said approval is not expected before summer and the money would not be available until later. He said the plan would be that if it appears the state will approve the project, they would bid the project in May and hold the project startup until the money becomes available.

Billinger asked what the cost is for the brick street versus a concrete street.

Neufeld said the brick cost is about \$135 a square yard for the bricks and six inches of concrete base. He said going with eight inches of concrete would be about \$65 a square yard.

Billinger asked how many square yards in a block.

Neufeld said there is 1,867 square yards and 300 feet of storm pipe.

"I have trouble with doing brick," Billinger

said. "What would be wrong with concrete on the street?"

Neufeld said the commission has said to save Main as much as possible with the brick.

"When you put in new brick you have lost the nostalgia factor," Billinger said.

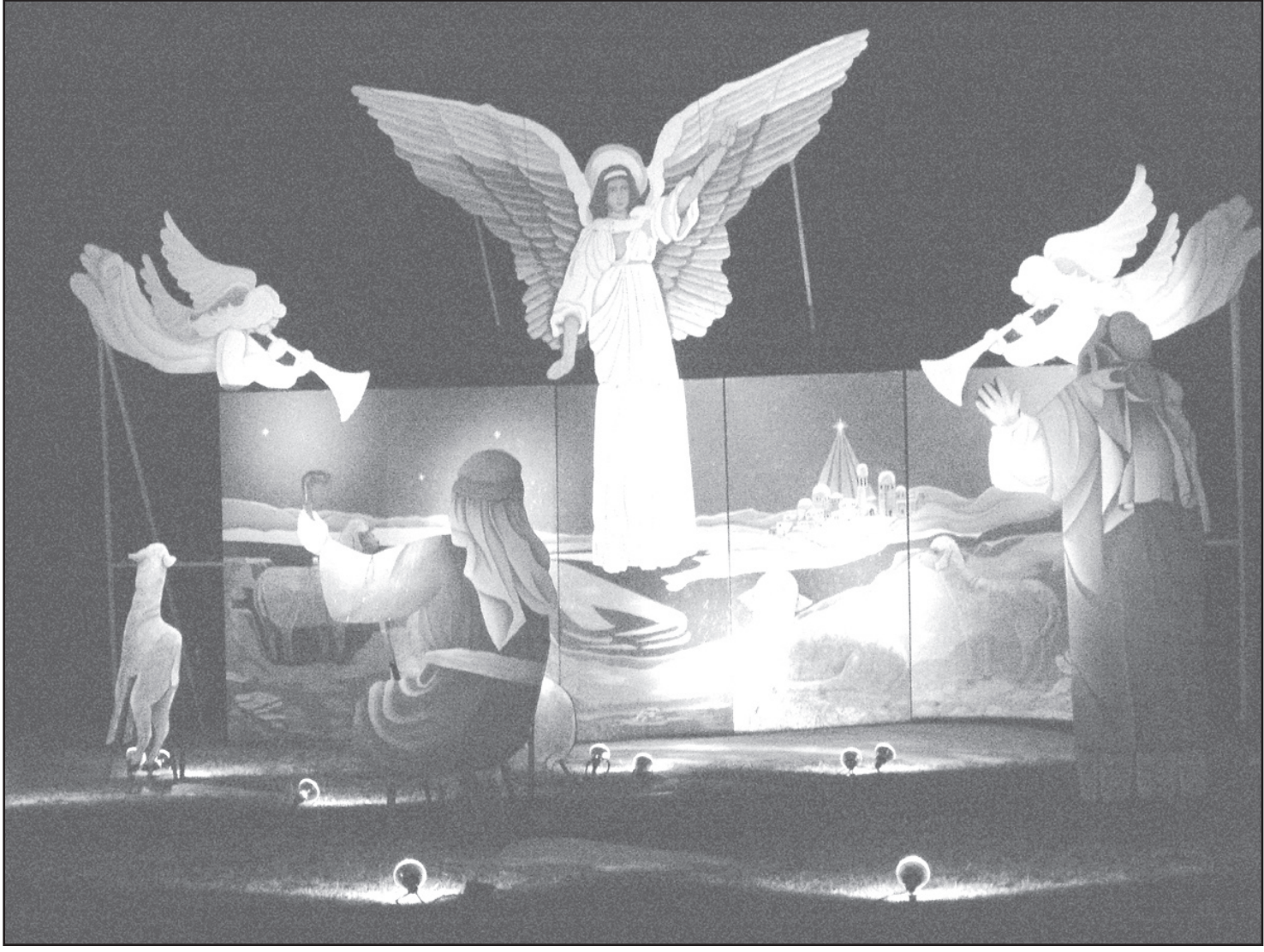
City Manager Doug Gerber said when he and his family were looking at Goodland one of the attractions was the "mile long" brick Main street. He said he agrees the cost is astronomical, but he said other towns who have replaced the bricks with concrete have not been as pleased.

"I think it is going to be hard to have the people buy in on not replacing the bricks," said Commissioner Dave Daniels.

Neufeld said the city could replace two blocks of street for the cost of one block of bricks. He said the state grant is really paying

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## Community nativity scene returns



The community nativity scene returned this year to the area around the Goodland Regional Medical Center. The pieces have been refurbished with the help of Jeanette Faust and Connie Hatcher, two of the ladies who painted to scenes more than 20 years ago. The carpentry class of the Northwest Kansas Technical College helped erect the scenes, and will help take them

down and put the pieces in two trailers for storage. There were some problems with the lighting, but Kevin Rasure, who has been working with the committee said he thinks they got them fixed. The full scene is impressive and a real holiday show piece for the community. Lots of money and effort have gone into the restoration of this series of scenes.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

## Commissioners develop long term goals

**By Tom Betz**  
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At the last meeting of the year commissioners reviewed preliminary long term and near term goals for the city developed through separate and group meetings with a consultant from Salina, and will be developing plans and action steps to accomplish the goal over the next year to 15 months.

John Divine of The Leadership Firm of Salina was at the meeting to present his preliminary summary and talk about the next step to develop individual plans and action steps.

Divine had met with the five com-

missioners, Josh Dechant, Dave Daniels, Rick Billinger, Annette Fairbanks and John Garcia plus City Manager Doug Gerber and City Clerk Mary Volk individually plus spent about 9 to 10 hours with the group over two nights to get the input for the city goals.

"We began by talking about the positives in the community," Divine said, "which give Goodland a strong foundation to build on. We looked at the opportunities available for the city that will help create the community you as a leadership group believe it can become."

"We talked about the concerns you have that might impact the city

reaching its full potential."

He said from the individual and group meetings he felt they identified several specific items that could help the city reach the vision for the future.

The four areas include Marketing Goodland, Youth Engagement, Economic Development and Staff involvement and support.

He said the vision was to look at the long term over the next eight years.

Divine said when he came to visit Goodland he checked out various places in the city to get a sense of the people and the town.

He said he found the people

friendly and welcoming and when he attended a church service he felt the people treated him like he mattered.

He said he can see that Main Ave. is important and that Goodland is a welcoming city.

"I can see it being important and part of what we are talking about," he said. "You want it to be a vibrant community and have an energy about it."

Among the things the goals lay out are getting the population to 6,500, and reorganizing the economic development effort and push-

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## Airport crack fill, taxiway contracts approved

**By Tom Betz**  
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City commissioners approved a supplemental agreement to finish some crack filling at Renner Field, and approved an engineering contract for the next phase to replace asphalt with concrete on the taxiway.

The supplemental agreement is with The Inland Corporation to finish some crack filling on the crosswinds runway, and would cost the city 5 percent of the \$2,993 or \$150.

The engineering contract for the taxiway project would be 5 percent of a maximum of \$82,000 or \$4,100 to replace asphalt with concrete on Taxiway A.

The commissioners unanimously approved both items.

City Manager Doug Gerber said he would recommend the commissioners approve both

agreements, and asked Darin Neufeld to explain the two items.

Neufeld said on the supplemental agreement they found more cracks than what had been planned to fill, and under the Federal Aviation Administration rules the city has to renegotiate the unit price with Inland.

He said for the additional work they had reduced the white paint, and what is left is the \$2,993 with the city paying 5 percent and the FAA paying 95 percent.

He said the painting was to be on the crosswinds runway, and should be able to paint it as part of the next project.

A question was asked if the winter was a good time to fill cracks.

Neufeld said it is not a bad time because the cracks are at their widest, and they do not fill them fully.

"The asphalt is nearing the end of life and does not come back like new asphalt," he said. "We do not have the problems with the cracks pushing up when the asphalt expands in warmer months."

"We are having to crack seal about every three to four years."

Commissioner John Garcia said he thought Neufeld was talking about going to concrete.

Neufeld said that is the long term goal to replace all the asphalt with concrete.

Commissioner Rick Billinger asked how deep the cracks are cut to be filled.

Neufeld said if it is a large crack they clean it out, and if it is a small crack they cut it out to half an inch. He said the only cutting is if it is a narrow crack.

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