

weather  
report

21°

noon

Monday

Today

• Sunset, 5:32 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:27 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:33 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 31 degrees

• Humidity 81 percent

• Sky mostly cloudy

• Winds northwest 4 mph

• Barometer 30.02 inches

and rising

• Record High today 75° (1936)

• Record Low today -11° (1960)

Last 24 Hours\*

High Sunday 24°

Low Sunday 18°

Precipitation 0.05

This month 0.44

Year to date 0.62

Below normal 0.08 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 32, winds out of the north at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 14. Wednesday: Sunny with a high near 4, winds out of the south at 4 mph and a low around 18.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow, a high near 36 and a low around 22. Friday: Partly cloudy with a high near 44 and a low around 24. Saturday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of snow at night, a high near 45 and a low around 25. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.04 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.12

Corn — \$3.19 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.36

Milo — \$2.94 bushel

Soybeans — \$8.59 bushel

Posted county price — \$8.80

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$14.60 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



Three qualify  
to go to state

Cowboy Jay Cotter went for a take down against jesse Barnes of Hays TMP in the 285 pound third place match on Saturday. Cotter finished third by pinning Barnes in 2:43. See photos, story on Page 12.



# City struggles with dog contract

By Tom Betz

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City commissioners spent about 90 minutes on Tuesday dissecting and debating the dog pound contract with Sherman County and Paw Wash before approving it on a 4-0 vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Rick Billinger was handling the meeting in the absence of Mayor Josh Dechant, and it appeared at first the contract was going no where when Commissioner Annette Fairbanks made a motion to accept the contract and there was dead silence from the other commissioners.

Billinger asked the commissioners what they thought and kept working with questions and suggestions to get the other commissioners to a point where one would at least second the motion to approve the contract.

Billinger kept saying the figures of cost were not that far apart, and at the end of the discussion Commissioner John Garcia seconded Fairbanks' second motion to approve the contract with a couple of minor changes.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he did not like the process and felt it would have been better to have bid the whole thing out, but in the end he voted to approve the contract and with Billinger's vote it passed 4-0.

The next step is to get the county commissioners to approve the contract and the defining agreement between the city and county on the operating details.

City Manager Doug Gerber opened the discussion by saying the contract had been changed at a committee meeting the week before to take out the clause about the city paying the utilities and the clause saying the county would abate the property taxes. He said the final figure was raised from \$24,000 to \$27,000 a year.

Garcia said there was a minor error in the contract where the county's monthly portion should be \$675 for their 30 percent, and asked to have that corrected.

Gerber said that can be fixed. He said this is an 18 month contract.

Daniels asked why the contract was being done for 18 months, and Gerber said it was to give the city and county a good solid year of operating information and have some time to study that before renewing or changing the contract.

Fairbanks said Kathy Schermahorn, who will be operating the pound will keep accurate records of where the dogs come from and what the costs are. Fairbanks said that will

give the city and county a good idea rather than the guesswork they have been doing to arrive at the contract.

Daniels said he was not sure why the city was looking at a different system, and asked if the present dog pound located at Prairieland Animal Clinic was not working.

Fairbanks said there have been some issues with the current facility dealing with keeping it clean and free of disease. She said this was mainly from the people who work that they found it hard to do the proper disinfecting and that the animals could not get outside.

Daniels said he was told no one talked to Dr. Gary Smith who rents the existing pound to the city.

Fairbanks said the committee was told Dr. Smith was contacted by a county commissioner.

"I am wondering why we did not take those concerns to Dr. Smith to get it fixed," Daniels said. "Can we get this fixed. We went from \$6,800 to \$27,000 and I do not understand why."

Fairbanks said it was more than just the animal shelter and that the cost the volunteers have been picking up will not be something that would continue. She said she sat down

with Sandy Rodgers of the Northwest Animal Shelter and tried to estimate what the animal shelter has been providing that the city should have been paying.

Billinger took the estimates from Fairbanks and adding them up said it appears the animal shelter has been paying about \$5,100 a year of costs the city should have been paying, and that was after the city donation for \$2,000.

Garcia said he had a tough time justifying how the city goes from a dog control department to one that is now going to cost \$50,000.

Gerber said right now the dog control and pound are budgeted at \$40,000 and the total will be less than that because the city is not putting money away to build a new pound. He said the city has been putting money away for a few years to build a new dog pound and has about \$9,000 in a fund for a new pound.

Gerber said early in the discussion the committee had ben assured that Dr. Smith had been talked to, but agreed it was probably not good that he did not follow up on that.

Garcia said he wondered why the city did not talk to Dr. Smith. He said he was con-

See POUND, Page 5

## Bike ride starts here in June

This year Goodland will host the start of the 36th Annual Bike Across Kansas — a 492-mile ride across the state — on Saturday, June 5.

Biking across Kansas is an eight-day ride and originates at the Kansas-Colorado line with a single route of approximately 800 riders for the week long event. The event was last in Goodland about eight years ago.

Shelly Angelos, Goodland school superintendent, said the group has asked the district to allow the bikers to spend Friday night at Max Jones Fieldhouse. She said a couple of local groups are planning to feed the bikers on Friday night and provide a quick breakfast on Saturday morning.

The Goodland Swim Club is planning a dinner on Friday night at the high school cafeteria, and the Glendale Livewires 4-H Club is planning to provide a breakfast on Saturday morning.

The bicyclists plan an early start at the Kansas-Colorado line west of Goodland between 3 and 5 p.m. on Friday for an official start at the Colorado boarder.

The regular start will be at 7 a.m. on Saturday, in Goodland.

The bicyclists will ride east with overnight stops planned for Colby, Hill City, Osborne, Minneapolis, Herington, Osage City and Eudora.

Many of the riders will be from Kansas, but entries are expected to be received from many other states, including some as far away as New York, Maryland, Vermont, New Mexico, and California. Participants will enjoy the state's favorable cycling conditions, but the main goal of Biking Across Kansas is to have fun, get some exercise, and experience the beauty of the Kansas landscape and people.

For more information go to Biking Across Kansas' website: www.bak.org.

## Storms drop four inches over weekend

A series of snow storms dropped about four inches of snow and .29 inches of moisture on Goodland and areas of northwest Kansas Friday through Monday morning.

The storms created slippery road conditions and the Kansas State Troopers helped motorists who slid off I-70 over the weekend, and the Kansas Department of Transportation had trucks out Sunday to plow the highways and sand slick spots.

The white snow created interesting scenes in a front yard (right) and at Renner Field (below), and adults and kids enjoyed sledding on the slopes at Pioneer Park.

The National Weather Service office forecast for the week is for sun today and tomorrow with a 20 percent chance of light snow Thursday and Thursday night.

Photos by Tom and Ava Betz  
The Goodland Star-News



## Sheriff asks for decision on investigator position

By Tom Betz

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For the past three years the Sherman County Sheriff and County Attorney have shared an investigator, but over the past four months the question of where the investigator should be working has been brought to the county commissioners by both offices.

Tuesday Sheriff Kevin Butts met with the county commissioners to see if a decision had been made on the investigator position. Sheriff Butts wanted to know where the commissioners stood on creating a separate investigator position in the county attorney's office.

Burton Pianalto has been the investigator since the position was created in 2007. Sheriff Butts and County Attorney Bonnie Selby asked the commissioners in budget sessions in 2006 to consider creating the investigator

position to be under the sheriff's budget, but work part time in the county attorney's office reviewing case files to make sure they were complete before the charges were fled.

Sheriff Butts, Pianalto and Selby met with the commissioners in January to talk about the position and Butts said he felt Pianalto was working more for the county attorney than for his office.

The three said they agreed the investigator position was important for the attorney, but Butts said he needed the investigator to help with the case load in the sheriff's department.

A suggestion was made to create an investigator position in the county attorney's office and have Pianalto fill that and Sheriff Butts would hire an investigator for his department.

At a meeting earlier in February Pianalto

and Selby talked to the commissioners about finding a way to budget money to create the position in the attorney's office.

Tuesday Pianalto and Selby were not present when Sheriff Butts asked the commissioners where they were on making a decision.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said the commissioners had not gone through the budget to see if any money was available.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas agreed, but said the commissioners would take a look at the budget after the agenda items were done that day.

Butts asked if the auditor had been asked about finding money in the budget.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the auditor told her the only place he could see would be out of the courthouse general. She said the commissioners had cut that budget by \$200,000 and she did not know where the

money was going to come from.

"With the other cuts I do not feel it is a good year to do this," Rumpel said. "Watching budgets I do not see where it is coming from especially with the state possibly making cuts."

Butts said if the investigator position stays the same. Pianalto is going to have to come back to the sheriff's office and work for him more than he is now.

Thomas asked if Butts was saying he would pull the investigator out of the county attorney's office to work Sherman County cases.

Butts said he had several cases he needed an investigator to work, and if the commissioners agreed to add an investigator position in the attorney's office he would hire an investigator for his department.

See SHERIFF, Page 5