

weather  
report

64°

noon

Thursday

Today

Sunset, 6:58 p.m.

Saturday

Sunrise, 6:50 a.m.

Sunset, 6:59 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 42 degrees

• Humidity 26 percent

• Sky clear and sunny

• Winds south 18 mph

• Barometer 29.90 inches and falling

• Record High today 90° (1907)

• Record Low today -3° (1896)

Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday 64°

Low Wednesday 21°

Precipitation none

This month 1.58

Year to date 2.36

Above normal 0.85 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Cloudy with an 80 percent chance of snow and patchy blowing snow, a high near 35, winds out of north at 10 to 30 mph and a low around 18. Saturday: Partly sunny with a high near 35, winds out of the north at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 22.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 66 and a low around 30.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 62 and a low around 30.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.91 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.06

Corn — \$3.16 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.32

Milo — \$2.92 bushel

Soybeans — \$8.54 bushel

Posted county price — \$8.56

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$15.30 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

Spring sports begin

Members of the track teams of Goodland High School and Grant Junior High used the beautiful weather to practice on Wednesday afternoon. See photos on Page 10.

# Waterline detours on Cattletrail

**By Tom Betz**  
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Complications with an underground phone line is changing plans for the waterline on Cattletrail city commissioners were told on Monday, but in the long run that may not change the total cost of that part of the water improvement project.

Darin Neufeld, engineer for the project from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, told the commissioners the work ran into a gas line problem between Eighth and Ninth on Cattletrail, and when they planned to move the line found that AT&T has a big underground line that runs that whole block.

He said there are two options with one waiting for AT&T to move the line or change and keep the line in the street. He said they had not planned that and it could be an extra cost of \$6,000 to take the asphalt out and patch it.

Mayor Josh Dechant asked if AT&T was asked to come out and locate their lines before the design was finished.

Neufeld said his office called AT&T when working on the design, and they did not show up. He said the phone company does not have their own people who do the locating, and they were the only ones who the engineering firm does not have a local contact with.

Dechant asked if there is any recourse with the phone company.

City Manager Doug Gerber said

Crews are working to install the waterlines to connect the city wells to the central pumping and treatment facility to be built on Kansas Ave. One crew has been working to install a collection line along 19th

Street and Tuesday were working along Cattletrail Ave. south of the railroad crossing. The waterline portion of the project is expected to be completed by June. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

the city can make AT&T move the line, but that could delay the project for six months.

Commissioner John Garcia said that means the real option is to take the asphalt out.

“Can we have Doug talk to someone at AT&T to get this moving and explain our need to get this done,” he said.

“He (phone guy) will talk to you,” Neufeld said, “but will tell you it

will take six months to get a contractor out here to get it done.”

Gerber said he had gone through this with AT&T on some electrical work, and despite letter and efforts it took four months.

“I wanted you to know what is happening,” Neufeld said. “The contractor is doing a lot of the work along Kansas Ave., and has been boring a lot of it.”

Garcia asked if the commissioners

## City approves grocery store lease

**By Tom Betz**  
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Bringing a grocery store to downtown took another step forward Monday with the approval by the city commission of a lease of the Ed Wolak building to Village Markets and agreement on a package of incentives for the project.

The Village Markets plan is to open a grocery store in late August or early September. However, if that time frame doesn't work the store would open the following April.

Village Markets currently owns eight grocery stores with locations in St. Francis, eastern Colorado and southwestern Nebraska.

The store would possibly employ 10 people full time and 20 on a part time basis, said Sam Mancini, owner of Village Markets. He said he likes to hire local people and train them. The store manager would probably be transferred to Goodland, he said.

The lease is for 10 years at \$1,000 a year, and has the option for two five-year extensions. In the lease Village Markets has the right to purchase the building for \$50,000, and the city would have a first right to repurchase if the building should cease to be a grocery store.

Mayor Josh Dechant asked Mancini if he was OK with the lease.

Mancini said he was OK with the lease, and looking forward to

moving ahead with the grocery store project.

“I hope you got the roof fixed,” he said.

Rich Simon, public works director, said the leak had been fixed.

Commissioner John Garcia said he felt comfortable with the lease details and made the motion to approve the lease.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks seconded the motion saying it was a good step forward.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he felt comfortable and had talked to City Manager Doug Gerber about any questions he had.

The commissioners voted 4-0 to approve the lease with Commissioner Rick Billinger absent.

Turning to the list of incentives Gerber said he wanted to do this in contract form, and asked the commissioners to approve the incentives as listed and allow him, Mancini and the attorneys hammer out the details.

The incentives include waiver of all city permit fees, inspection fees and utility connection fees; a credit for six months for utilities for the first year, assistance locating work force training funds; a utility rebate for six months for any new, full-time employees that move to Goodland to work at the store in the first year and work for the store for a year; signage help out near the highway to help advertise the new store; assistance

## Armory to be named for fallen guardsman

**By Tom Betz**  
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Thursday the Kansas National Guard held a ceremony to turn the Goodland armory over to the city, and the city announced the building would be named in honor of Sgt. Derrick Lutters who was killed in Iraq and was a member of the Goodland guard unit.

The closing of the Goodland armory is part of the announcement of closing of 18 armories across the state by the Adjutant General Tod Bunting to save money. The closing of the Goodland armory ends 25 years of guard history in the community.

City Manager Doug Gerber said the city has a new building on the north part of town, and that a citizen committee had met twice to look at the best use for the building.

He said the citizen committee had looked at a number of ideas including a community center, museum, using it for police and fire, public meeting rooms or public storage.

He said the committee did not feel these were the best use for the

building. The committee heard from Dr. Ed Mills of Northwest Tech about using the building to expand and bring aviation related courses to the college in partnership with K-State at Salina.

Gerber said Dr. Mills told the committee these were ideas, and were not set in stone at this time, but having the building would be a step forward.

After hearing the college presentation Gerber said the committee felt that was the highest and best use for the building.

He said the committee suggested a long term lease or deeding the building to the college with an understanding that if it could not be used or ceased to be used by the college it would be returned to the city.

Bill Finley, vice president of student affairs, said people from K-State would be out Thursday to look at the building and begin the discussion of possible aviation programs.

Mayor Josh Dechant said he felt it was a good idea, and the

## Kanorado area citizens complain about roads

**By Tom Betz**  
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A crowd of about 20 Kanorado area citizens gathered in the commissioner room at the courthouse Tuesday morning to raise questions about road conditions especially in the northwest part of the county.

Spokesman for the group, John Cromwell, who lives on County Road 3 north of old U.S. 24, said he had drafted a letter to express his opinion and handed each commissioner a copy.

He said he had submitted a bill about an incident that happened on March 8 when he used his tractor to pull out a semi truck owned by Kevin Smith that had gotten stuck in the road 50 yards from his driveway.

He said the road maintenance problems in the northwest part of the county are ongoing, and was asking the commissioners what would be done to improve the situation.

In his letter Cromwell explained that he stopped by to help Smith with the stuck truck, and that Smith's wife had called Curt Way (county public works manager) to see if the county could help pull the truck out. He said Mrs. Smith was told the county could not help. Cromwell said he went and got his tractor to pull the truck out, and he called the county Road and Bridge office to say pulling the

truck out was going to really cut up the road. He was told Way was unavailable.

“The reason I have submitted a bill is I don't believe Mr. Smith is at fault here,” he wrote. “It is not unreasonable to expect to get home when you live 100 yards from an oiled road. I believe the county has created the problem and is directly responsible.

“Road 65 was reworked several years ago to handle traffic when the bridge on old U.S. 24 was replaced, yet no gravel has been put on it.

“In fact I have lived here for 12 years and no gravel has been hauled to any of the roads in this area, except two small spots several miles apart. One of those locations was worked on only after I quarreled with Mr. Way, and this work can only be considered a temporary patch. County maintenance here is very sparse, and often the roads are worse after being bladed than before. I have complained both to the county office and to Max Linin, after which some of the work was redone.

“County maintenance practices and policies have given us roads that have deteriorated to the point that just dumping gravel on them won't accomplish anything. Many need major reconstruction. I can only describe county maintenance in this area as neglect.”

Cromwell went on to say he felt the main-

tainer operators lack proper instruction and supervision.

“Sherman County's work does not measure up,” he said. “I think we can make a strong case the county has been negligent in keeping up our roads.”

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said the day when the truck got stuck was a day when the county got a lot of rain. He said he lives in the southeast part of the county and the roads were bad enough he did not get mail for two days.

Thomas asked Way and Butch Vandiver, road and bridge supervisor, how much work has been done in the Kanorado area and how many loads of gravel have been hauled.

Way said the county crew started hauling gravel from the Purvis pit south of Kanorado at the end of August, and ended on Feb. 2. He said they had hauled gravel on 87 miles in the southwest part of the county. He said he was able to reach an agreement with Mrs. Matthews about getting into a pit near Kanorado in November, and is trying to get it open in the next few weeks.

Cromwell asked about hauling gravel north of old U.S. 24.

Way said they have not hauled many because they did not have the pit available.

A man in the audience said he lives 13

miles north of Kanorado on Road 2, and was wondering why that road has not been graded once over the winter.

Another man said he felt the county needs to get the roads up to shape before the gravel is put on, and it is not good to put gravel on the roads as they are.

Garry Moore of Kanorado showed the commissioners pictures of place where there are problems. He was saying there are many places in the northwest part of the county where the water runs down the road rather than down the ditches and through existing culverts.

“We are building little dams to get to the borrow pit,” he said. “The berm running down the side of the road and we need to rethink what we are doing. We need to fix the road so it is utilizing the culverts. I know these men do good work when they can.

“I think we need to change what we are doing.”

Another man said he calls the berm along the road curb and gutter, and said part of the problem is that where the road stops the vegetation starts.

Vandiver said the county wants to work on that, and said part of the problem is getting

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