

weather report

49°

noon

Thursday

Today

Sunset, 7:05 p.m.

Saturday

Sunrise, 6:38 a.m.

Sunset, 7:06 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 36 degrees

• Humidity 26 percent

• Sky clear and sunny

• Winds variable 5 mph

• Barometer 30.09 inches and falling

• Record High today 86° (1907)

• Record Low today -1° (1955)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 48°

Low Wednesday 23°

Precipitation 0.08

This month 1.75

Year to date 2.53

Above normal 0.74 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high of 59 and a low around 32. There is a 60 percent chance of rain before midnight and then snow and blowing snow, winds out of the south at 10 to 15 mph. Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a 70 percent chance of rain and snow, winds out of the north at 30 to 45 mph and a low around 30.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny, a high near 55 and a low around 31.

Monday: Sunny with a high near 66 and a low around 34.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

Noon

Wheat — \$3.74 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.01

Corn — \$3.05 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.36

Milo — \$2.81 bushel

Soybeans — \$8.55 bushel

Posted county price — \$8.84

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$15.20 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

Wrestlers go to Topeka

Lorenzo Delgado won an 8-0 decision over Tyler Reed of Pratt in the District 4 Tournament held Saturday. Delgado finished first and has a bye in the first round at Topeka. See story, photos on Page 12.

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Activity director, wife to retire

By Pat Schiefen
pjschiefen@nwkansas.com

Goodland High School Activities Director Don Smith and his wife, Bonnie, who is the food service director and does payroll for the district, told the Goodland Board of Education Monday they plan to retire at the end of the year.

Don Smith has taught math for 27 years at Goodland High School and has been the activities director for three years at the high school. Smith has coached many teams in his many years. This year he was the head coach for the Cowboys basketball team, and he coached the Cowgirls team for several years. Before he became activities director he coached track and cross country.

Smith

Bonnie Smith has worked for the district for 30 years.

The school board accepted the retirement requests from Don and Bonnie Smith.

Under the superintendent's report, Superintendent Shelly Angelos reported on the changes in the district web site.

"We are excited about where we are with the district's website," she said.

She suggested the board members go to www.usd352.org to look at it. There is a link from the old site to the new one.

On the financial side, Angelos said the state legislature continues working on school state aid for next year. She said the newest approach was to move money around so base state aid remained at a higher level. Cuts are being talked about in special education, free lunches, transportation and almost everything.

The outcome of the town hall meeting held on March 8 by the school board to talk

about district facilities was reviewed by the superintendent.

She asked the board what they wanted to do next.

School Board President Jane Philbrick said there appears to be some confusion about which three buildings the district will have when it goes to a three-building district. She thought a survey could give the board more input from the public. What was needed on a survey was discussed and possibly who would do it and what type of questions it would have was discussed. But after almost an hour the board came to no conclusion. The board decided they wanted the superintendent to get a proposal ready for government money that could be borrowed without interest to be used only for remodeling. Possible uses for the money would be new windows, removal of a modular, new heating and air conditioning, remodeling of class rooms needed for

the junior high, auditorium light and sound system, all for the high school. Angelos said the proposals were not always accepted.

In other business the board:

- Postponed the deadline for the calendar to Thursday, April 1.
- Instructed Superintendent Angelos to inquire about keeping the landowner share of the wheat harvested on the rest of the property the district sold to the City of Goodland.
- Paid \$27,310 in bills.
- Had no student or negotiation matters that needed to be discussed in a closed session.
- Received the resignations of Aileen Raymer as head eighth grade volleyball coach and Brittinnee Morris and Amy Myers as paraprofessionals at West Elementary School.
- Hired Cynthia Bohl as a Suburban bus driver.

No contest plea entered on cock fighting charge

By Tom Betz
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

A Sherman County man plead no contest to a charge of unlawful possession of cock fighting paraphernalia and raising fighting cocks in district court Wednesday and is now awaiting sentencing.

The charge came from a search of the home of Jesus Soto, 39, and his wife Alma about 16 miles southeast of Goodland where a combination of sheriff deputies, wildlife officers and animal health officers gathered on Nov. 23.

A trailer house was surrounded by more than 100 chickens spread out with about 70 of the roosters tied by short ropes to individual barrels in the front yard.

Wednesday Soto plead no contest to one count of unlawful possession of cock fighting paraphernalia and raising fighting cocks in front of District Judge Scott Showalter.

The plea was part of an agreement between Todd Stramel of Colby, as attorney for Soto and Sherman County Attorney Bonnie Selby.

Selby told Judge Showalter the agreement was to have Soto plead to the one count, a class 10 felony, and the other three charges would be dismissed along with the case against Alma Soto. As part of the agreement Soto has to either sell the roosters to a breeding operation or butcher them. Selby said it was agreed Soto could keep three roosters and some hens and chicks for their children's 4-H projects.

Judge Showalter asked Soto if he understood what he was agreeing to in the plea.

Soto said he understood.

One of the more than 70 fighting roosters found at the Jesus Soto home southeast of town when officers searched the home in November that led to the plea of no contest Wednesday in Sherman County District Court.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Attorney Stramel said the defense waived the preliminary hearing and Judge Showalter then asked Soto if he understood all his rights as a defendant. Soto said he understood all and had no objections to proceeding with the plea agreement.

Showalter said he understood Soto wanted to keep three roosters

and hens for 4-H projects. Showalter said as part of that Soto would have to show the birds at a fair.

He asked about the future of the other birds and Stramel said Soto was working on a plan to sell the birds to a breeding operation, but if that did not work out the remaining birds would be butchered. Stramel said it would take a few months to accomplish this.

After Soto entered his plea of no contest, Judge Showalter asked Attorney Selby what evidence she had to present in this case.

Selby said she had physical evidence of the fighting cocks, training devices, steroids and other paraphernalia plus several witnesses who could testify to all the evidence collected.

Judge Showalter said based on the plea of no contest and the discussion of evidence from the county attorney he found Soto guilty of possession of fighting cocks. He said the class 10 felony could result in imprisonment for 12 to 13 months. He said a pre-sentencing investigation would be done by Sharon Gray of Court Services.

Attorney Stramel asked to set sentencing for June, but Judge Showalter said he would rather put it on the calendar for 9 a.m. on May 11. He said if there is a need it could be moved to June, but would ask Soto to move ahead on getting rid of the birds.

As part of the plea the case against Alma Soto was dismissed.

Judge Showalter said Soto needs to document the disposal of the birds

See COURT, Page 5

Springtime on the High Plains

Spring began on Saturday, but Mother Nature appears to have not gotten the message or is operating on a different calendar as Goodland citizens woke up to about an inch of snow on Wednesday morning that covered the playground swings at Gulick park. The National Weather Service is saying another storm could bring rain or snow by late Friday night into Saturday.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Easter egg hunt today at college

The annual Goodland Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 5 p.m., today at the Northwest Tech Memorial Union on the college campus sponsored by Kiwanis and the Northwest Tech Circle K students.

Plans are to use the grass area by the Memorial Union to hide the eggs, and the kids will be broken into four age groups. The age groups are babies to age 3, pre-school to kindergarten, first to second grade and third to fourth grade. Plans are to hide the eggs and let each group go separately to retrieve the eggs.

Kiwanis started a student chapter of Circle K on the Northwest Tech campus, and the student members will be helping with the community Easter Egg Hunt.

Fill out and mail your U.S. Census form today. Count Day is Thursday, April 1.