

weather report

79°
noon
Thursday

Today

Sunset, 7:12 p.m.

Saturday

Sunrise, 6:27 a.m.

Sunset, 7:13 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 49 degrees

• Humidity 10 percent

• Sky partly sunny

• Winds southwest 20-30 mph

• Barometer 29.41 inches and falling

• Record High today 86° (1996)

• Record Low today 0° (1936)

Last 24 Hours*

High Thursday 67°

Low Thursday 39°

Precipitation 0

This month 0

Year to date 2.53

Above normal 0.46 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy in morning, becoming partly sunny. Cooler with 20 percent chance of light rain showers. High around 50 North winds 15-25 mph. Tonight: partly cloudy. Low in upper 20s. Winds gusting to 30 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Mostly sunny. Warmer with high in the mid 60s. Lows in the lower 30s. Sunday: Mostly sunny. High in the mid 60s. Low around 40. Monday: Mostly sunny. High in the lower 70s. Low in the upper 30s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.61 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.82

Corn — \$2.90 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.22

Milo — \$2.66 bushel

Soybeans — \$8.39 bushel

Posted county price — \$8.77

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$15 cwt.

Confection — \$28/\$15 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)

(Markets by Scouler 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

Two join rodeo team

Scott Hoffman signed his letter of intent for the Northwest Tech rodeo team. He is one of two to sign with John Meitl being the second to join the team. See story, photos on Page 10.

Police arrest man in robbery

By Tom Betz
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Goodland police arrested a man Wednesday afternoon as the suspect in the apparent robbery of Bubba's Meat Block on Friday morning.

Police Chief Ray Smee said Thursday police had gotten an arrest warrant Wednesday based for Brett Buckley, 24, of 302 Clark Ave., on evidence collected over the past several days in the Bubba's Meat Block robbery.

Buckley, an employee of Bubba's Meat Block, was arrested at the car wash at Clark

Ave. and 17th Street where he was washing Bubba's suburban. Smee said when he was arrested on the city theft warrant police found in possession of a controlled substance.

Smee said an additional charge will be filed in city court on a second charge of theft from Bubba's Meat Block that happened on Wednesday, and charges may be filed in district court for possession.

The apparent daylight robbery was at 10 a.m. on Friday morning at Bubba's Meat Block, 1901 Cherry Ave., and took ap-

proximately \$320 from the cash register at the business.

Chief Smee said he and officer Doug Whitson looked for evidence of a robber and found at least two different video cameras that covered the area around Bubba's Meat Block apparently showing no one arrived or left the store several minutes before the robbery was discovered by Brian "Bubba" Somers, business owner. He had Buckley call 911 to report the theft while he ran outside to see if he could see the alleged robber.

Smee said Bubba was in the back and his employee was supposed to be in the bathroom when he heard the front door open, heard the cash register open and again heard the front door. Bubba told police his employee was coming out of the bathroom and said the employee told him he saw the robber running north.

The description given to the dispatcher by the employee was of a white man in his 20s with short brown hair, wearing blue jeans and a black hoodie.

Final work on County Road 14

Guardrails are being installed on the south portion of County Road 13 south of Old U.S. 24 at Caruso. This is the final step in completing the road project, and Sherman County Commis-

sioners heard Wednesday the section of road could be open by Friday or by Tuesday.

Photo by Josh Harenberg/The Goodland Star-News

Hospital considers dialysis service

By Tom Betz
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When Davita announced the closing of their dialysis unit in Burlington a number of people who need the service began looking for possible alternatives, and the Goodland Regional Medical Center has begun looking at the feasibility of filling that need.

Jay Jolly, hospital administrator, told the hospital board members on Monday the hospital has begun a dialysis service review to see what might be done, and what it might take for the hospital to open a dialysis program.

He said the review will look at how the program operates, the training and staffing to be able to offer the service and how the pre-dialysis services are handled.

He said the hospital has several people on staff who have been trained, but the hospital will have to build the entire clinical care process and will require a medical director who is a nephrologist.

On the payment side Jolly said he is not sure what the hospital would be paid, and not sure how that would look in the figures. He said there is a lot of interest in the project and the plan would be for a four-position system. He said the hospital might start with a smaller number, and that some potential patients might be eligible for home dialysis.

"We need to understand this

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Commissioners hire new weed director

By Tom Betz
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Sherman County commissioners unanimously approved hiring a new person to be the noxious weed director and prairie dog control person at their meeting on Wednesday.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said she had decided out of the applications received and made a motion to hire Doug Hall to fill the position. Commissioner Max Linin said he agreed with the selection and seconded the motion. Commissioner Chuck Thomas said he felt it was a good choice and the motion passed 3-0.

The commissioners agreed to start Hall at \$13.50 per hour for the probation period of six months.

Thomas said he had talked to the state about licensing the person for the county, and was told it would not be a big problem. He said the man from the state said the person should pick up the study materials from the Sunflower Extension Service and the state comes out every two months to give the tests.

He told Thomas there is a school the person can attend next year, as it was held last week.

Thomas said Bob Bolin, who is from Wallace County said he would like to work with the county on the big prairie dog projects.

When asked when Hall should start, Strnad said as soon as possible.

Thomas said he felt the secretary could help find stuff and help him

get things up, and he would call him and let him know he was selected.

Strnad said it would be good for him to get his plan together and work with the commissioners, road and bridge and the mowing contractor.

Thomas said the last prairie dog job was done on Tuesday, and the last noxious weed project was done on the Wallace and Sherman County line. He said the county will not have any poison inventory left for prairie dogs.

The commissioners held a closed door session for 10 minutes on personnel matters, and when they came back to the open session Thomas made a motion to instruct County Attorney Bonnie Selby to respond to a letter from Daryl West. The motion passed 3-0.

West was the county noxious weed director and prairie dog control person until Friday, March 19, when he was called into a closed session and apparently asked to submit a letter of resignation based on five issues the commissioners felt West had not been performing up to their standards.

The county received a letter from West early this week rescinding his letter of resignation. With the commissioners hiring another person for the position it appears the commissioners are not interested in taking back West's resignation.

West had worked for the county for 13 years.

Hospital to install public wireless system

By Tom Betz
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Visitors and patients at the Goodland Regional Medical Center will be able to use their wireless devices on a public wireless system the hospital board approved Monday evening.

Hospital Administrator Jay Jolly said he had heard requests from people about having a wireless network while in the building. He said Kevin Sanderson had got a quote from S&T Communications. Jolly said he had put it off, but had more requests, and has questions about

some of the vendors who come in and is worried about them trying to connect to the hospital's private network.

Sanderson said the bid from S&T is for the hospital, outpatient clinic

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Sherman County Census returns running below state average

By Tom Betz
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Count Day for the U.S. Census was Thursday, and based on the returns received through Wednesday Sherman County has returned 56 percent of the forms — ahead of the national average of 52 percent, but behind the Kansas average of 59 percent.

The goal for Goodland and Sherman County is to raise the return percentage this census to the 85 to 90 percent range. Sherman County was about average across the state in the 2000 census returning 65 percent of the census forms.

Thomas County has the highest return percentage in the area with 61 percent. Other counties in northwest Kansas include Cheyenne with 59 percent return and Wallace 54 percent.

The deadline for mailing in the U.S. Census form is May 1, and after that people who have

not responded can expect to have a census worker knock on their door in an attempt to get everyone counted.

Every 10 years — as required by the U.S. Constitution (Article 1, Section 2) — every American household receives a form to be filled out and returned to help count everyone in the city, county, state and nation.

The constitutional reason for counting everyone every 10 years is to determine the boundaries and number of Congressional representatives for each state. Kansas has four Congressmen, and it is important to get a good count to be sure the state keeps that number of representatives.

A "Be Counted" and questionnaire assistance site has been opened at the Goodland Public Library, 812 Broadway Ave.

Karen Gillihan, librarian, said the Census worker will be at the library from noon to 5 p.m. on

Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Most of the Census forms in Sherman County were delivered to the homes by census workers. Those who have received and mailed the forms back are helping to make the count as accurate as possible, Groves said.

Robert M. Groves, director of the U.S. Census Bureau, said if a resident feels like they are not being counted, they can visit a Be Counted site to get a form.

"In any case," Groves said, "we will visit these households in person starting May 1, to make absolutely sure they're counted."

The census representative for western Kansas, Lech A. Wisniewski, said census workers will knock on the doors of houses where forms have not been returned several times in an attempt to collect the information. He said the effort will begin in May and continue until July.