

weather report



28°
10:30 a.m.
Monday

Today

Saturday

- Sunset, 4:50 p.m.
- Sunrise, 7:04 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:51 p.m.
- **Midday Conditions**
- Soil temperature 34 degrees
- Humidity 55 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds north 10 mph
- Barometer 29.77 inches and falling
- Record High today 71° (1923)
- Record Low today -20° (1930)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Sunday 65°
- Low Sunday 25°
- Precipitation none
- This month none
- Year to date 0.02
- Below normal 0.15 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near 31, winds out of the northwest at 5 to 10 mph switching to the south and a low around 16. Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 52, winds breezy out of the west at 10 to 30 mph and a low around 28.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny with a high near 47 and a low around 32. Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 58 and a low around 34. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 62 and a low around 36. Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 55.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.

local markets



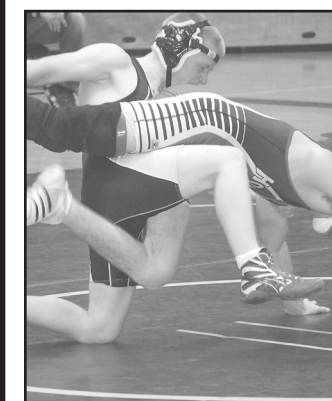
10:30 a.m.

- Wheat — \$6.20 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.36
 - Corn — \$5.79 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.20
 - Milo — \$5.51 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$10.15 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$11.23
 - Millet — \$11.50 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$26.90 cwt.
 - Confection — no bid
 - Pinto beans — \$28
- (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



Wrestlers beat Hoxie

The Goodland High School wrestling team beat Hoxie 40-32 at home on Thursday. The junior varsity team also had a good showing at WaKeeney last weekend.

District awarded \$371,000 grant

State money will pay for after-school program

By Pat Schiefen

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Superintendent Bill Biermann shared his excitement over the good news at the regular Goodland School District Board of Education meeting Monday night that the

district was given a \$371,000 state grant for five years to start an after-school program for kindergarten through fifth grade.

The district has named the program Students Math Art Reading to Succeed After School Program.

The grant application was written in November.

The afternoon program would run from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Monday through Thursday. The location at Central Elementary or West Elementary or both depending on the number of kids. Superintendent Biermann said the grant was written for 80 students. The program will not be restricted to students needing academic help. The district will transport the students if they need to be taken to another school.

For students to enroll the parents will need to fill out a form. It will cost \$25 per semester for one student, \$40 for two and \$50 for three. A fee was required by the grant. After five years, Biermann said, he hoped the program would continue.

The school was partnered with the Goodland Activities Center and Carnegie Arts.

The district was notified Jan. 4 they were being awarded the grant, Biermann said, and he hopes to have

it started by Wednesday.

There will be two levels to the program. Level 1 will have academic time every day. This will be set up for each students' needs whether it is for help in their studies or just time to finish homework. There will be a physical wellness portion in which the Goodland Activities Center will have a part.

Level 2 will have everyday arts, technology and character education

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Big crowd Saturday for banquet

A crowd of hundreds came to the Goodland Elks Lodge Saturday evening for the annual High Plains Roosters, the local Pheasants Forever chapter. The evening included a live auction with auctioneer Tom Harrison (above) silent auction (right) as well as games and drawings. Items in the auction included shotguns, paintings and statues. The High Plains Rossters support youth programs such as the Outdoor Skills Day and the Youth Hunt throughout the year. Money raised also goes to local habitat projects.



Police looking for assistance with multiple vandalism cases

The Goodland Police Department is requesting information from the public on several vandalism incidents that may be related.

On Dec. 16, the department took reports on two vehicles that had broken windows. The windows appeared to have been shot out with a bb gun.

On Dec. 29, a school bus was found with multiple broken windows with no apparent cause. The department

suspects this was another case of vandalism.

The police are encouraging anyone with information on these or other acts of vandalism to contact the department or Crimestoppers, the non-profit organization that allows people to anonymously receive compensation for reporting criminal activity.

The police can be reached at 890-4570. The number for Crimestoppers is 899-5665.

Commissioners discuss economy

By Kevin Bottrell

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The Sherman County Commissioners moved a step closer to refinancing some of their outstanding bonds at their meeting last Tuesday.

Commissioners Larry Enfield and Cynthia Strnad held a conference call with Dustin Avey of Piper Jaffray along with two representatives from Standard and Poor. Commissioner Max Linnin was absent. They will create a ratings presentation, which they will present to several senior-level analysts, who will in turn put together a rating level and a report that will be available to the public online. The better the rating, the better the interest rate the county can get on the refinance.

The bonds being refinanced were from 2006. In 2005, the voters approved a 1 percent sales tax to pay for numerous road improvements, including repaving Old U.S. 24, several city streets and new county roads. The work was done in 2006 and 2007. About \$12 million in bonds were issued.

The refinance will save almost \$1 million and will shorten the

amortization. The bonds are set to mature in Jan., 2025, and under the refinance they will mature in July of 2023. Avey said the county could pay off the bonds in 2020 if the tax revenue stays consistent.

The Standard and Poor representatives were sent all of the county's budget information and were on the call to ask the commissioners some questions about the economic and financial picture.

Their first question was about the health of the local economy. Enfield said rural economy has been improving, with good ag prices and higher sales tax revenue. Strnad said the county has had low unemployment for some time, and although few new businesses have moved in recently, several are expanding. She also said Northwest Kansas Technical College has been recently expanding its programs and enrollment.

They asked about the decline in assessed valuation in 2009. Enfield said some changes in state laws, as well as changes in oil and gas valuation can affect property values.

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County positions on the ballot this year

By Kevin Bottrell

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With all the hubbub about the presidential election, it's easy to forget there are quite a few county and state officials also on the ballot.

In Sherman County, most of the elected officers are up this year, including county attorney, clerk, register of deeds, treasurer and sheriff.

County Commissioners from Districts 2 and 3 are also up for election. District 2 includes Voltaire, Shermanville and Llanos townships along with Wards 1 and 4 in Goodland. District 3 includes Stateline, Lincoln, Logan, Smoky and McPherson townships, Kanorado and Goodland Ward 2.

The primary election will be Tuesday, Aug. 7, and the general will be Tuesday, Nov. 6. The filing deadline is noon Friday, June 1.

Scott Showalter of Goodland and Todd Stramel of Colby are up for retention as District Court judges from the 15 Judicial District—which includes Sherman County. John Cahoj of Hoxie, Steve Unruh of Sharon Springs and Richard Ress of Colby are also up for retention as district magistrate judges.

At the state level, Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer is up for re-election to a third term. Ostmeyer filed in September. Challenging him for the Republican nomination is John Miller, a Norton County commissioner. Ostmeyer's 40th Senate District

currently includes 18 counties in northwest Kansas.

This year's races are complicated by the legislative redistricting process, which will change the district boundaries to account for the population changes found by the 2010 Census. Depending on where the redistricting process ends up The 40th could gain more territory.

Rep. Rick Billinger of Goodland has filed to keep his seat. Billinger was appointed in December, 2010, by the Republican Committee to fill the seat after the death of Rep. Jim Morrison.

The 121st House District currently includes Sherman, Thomas,

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