


**weather report**

**43°**  
10:30 a.m.  
Thursday



**Today**  
• Sunset, 5:01 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
• Sunrise, 6:58 a.m.  
• Sunset, 5:02 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**  
• Soil temperature 33 degrees  
• Humidity 39 percent  
• Sky sunny  
• Winds northwest 12 mph  
• Barometer 30.13 inches and rising  
• Record High today 73° (1970)  
• Record Low today -16° (1948)

**Last 24 Hours\***  
High Wednesday 54°  
Low Wednesday 16°  
Precipitation none  
This month .09  
Year to date .09  
Below Normal .21 inches

**The Topside Forecast**  
Today: Mostly cloudy becoming sunny, a high near 39, winds out of the north at 25 to 50 mph and a low around 13. Saturday: Sunny with a high near 43, winds breezy out of the west at 10 to 30 mph and a low around 16.

**Extended Forecast**  
Sunday: Sunny with a high near 51 and a low around 26. Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 58 and a low around 27. Tuesday: Sunny with a high near 52 and a low around 25.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

## City looking at power contract

By Kevin Bottrell

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The City of Goodland is considering going to a long-term power contract with Sunflower Electric, rather than its current five-year contract.

City Manager Doug Gerber told the city commissioners on Jan. 16 that he and the staff have been in negotiations with Sunflower, and had a draft contract for them to look over. Gerber said city started considering a long-term contract last year. The current agreement with Sunflower expires in May.

Beth Looney, Sunflower's senior manager for power contracts and marketing, said a long-term contract could be anywhere from 10 to 20 years, a decision that would be up to the city.

Looney said the contract will start with the base rate, which is the company's costs, then it will have an adder. The contract will start with the three-mill adder, which will then go up to a four-mill and later a five-mill adder for the remainder of the contract.

"Municipalities are all charged the same rate for wholesale power," Looney said.

Looney said she and Gerber did work out some concessions since it will be a long-term contract, such as an "out clause," which provides the city with a way to terminate the contract if it needs to.

Looney said the city's power would never be interrupted for economic reasons, despite the talk of rolling brownouts. It would only be interrupted if there was a disruption in the line or the generators somewhere.

The new contract would no longer require that the city have its own power supply. Under the current contract, Sunflower requires the city to have enough generation capacity to cover the city's peak demand plus 12 percent. However, under the new contract, Sunflower would pay 50 cents and a kilowatt for any generation, regardless of whether the city needs to use it.

Transmission fees are worked into the contract. There is a seven-mile transmission line from the

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## Racing down the lane



Maverick Spresser (left) tried to catch up to Riley Vallejo at the Rain Gutter Regatta on Sunday at the Goodland United Methodist Church fellowship hall. The scouts had to blow through a straw to propel their boats – which they made themselves – down the rain gutters. Vallejo ended up winning his heat.  
Photo By Sheila Smith/The Goodland Star-News

## Medical center recognized for safety by Kansas Hospital Association fund

By Kevin Bottrell

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After years of working to improve its safety and worker's compensation practices, Goodland Regional Medical Center has been recognized with a certificate of appreciation from the Kansas Hospital Association.

Chief Executive Officer Jay Jolly showed the certificate to the hospital board at its meeting Monday. The certificate is from the hospital association's Worker's Compensation Fund, recognizing 20 years of membership.

Jolly said the hospital had a big problem before it joined the fund, which provides moderately priced compensation insurance to association members.

"Now we're the poster child for others for how we turned it around," Jolly said. "So when KHA says they appreciate us, they really appreciate us."

Jolly said the hospital has gone more than 580 days without a lost workday from anything safety related, and is approaching its record.

The board also approved the 2012 Risk Man-

agement Plan at the meeting. The plan is based on guidelines and criteria that meet state standards. Risk Manager Mary Ann Elliott said three years ago Jolly re-wrote the peer-review section of the plan to better follow the hospital bylaws, but since then there have been no major changes.

In other business, the board:  
• Heard a report from Jolly, who said the dialysis unit is coming along. The floor and ceiling have been installed and utilities are being installed now. The reverse osmosis system had been delayed several weeks, however.

The dialysis machines themselves will be in soon, he said, and staff will begin training on them as soon as they arrive. The hospital hopes to have the first patient in March.

Jolly also said the hospital is looking at a family practice candidate and two general surgery candidates. The family practice doctor is looking at three different places, of which Goodland is one.

• Received a financial report from Chief Financial Officer Jim Precht.  
Precht said they have been looking at accounts

receivable. The staff at the Family Health Center has been clearing out old accounts.

The hospital spent \$1.94 million on capital equipment purchases in 2011, Precht said, which was very close to what the staff had set at the beginning of the year. Department heads have been doing a good job at projecting expenses, he said.

One item that might look strange on the financial report, he said, was a new anesthesia machine. The hospital traded a five-year-old machine for a new one. The old machine was more sophisticated, Precht said, but it had features that were not being used. The new one suits the hospital's needs.

Precht said some of his goals are to monitor late charges and make sure diagnosis data is done in a timely manner. He said he hopes to eliminate a lot of duplication of effort.

• Heard a medical staff report from Jolly. He said the staff had their annual meeting, at which Dr. Travis Daise was re-elected as chief

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**local markets**

10:30 a.m.  
Wheat — \$6.57 bushel  
Posted county price — \$6.27  
Corn — \$6.20 bushel  
Posted county price — \$6.05  
Milo — \$5.92 bushel  
Soybeans — \$10.84 bushel  
Posted county price — \$11.24  
Millets — \$11.50 hundred-weight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$26 cwt.  
Confection — no bid  
Pinto beans — \$28  
(Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean.)

**inside today**

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



**Teams lose to Norton**

The Goodland Cowgirls fell 43-23 to the Norton Lady Blue Jays on Tuesday at the Max Jones Fieldhouse. The boys team lost 73-70.

Both teams are in action tonight at Holcomb. Games begin at 5:30 and 7 p.m.



## Excited to donate



Steve Evert gave blood on Tuesday afternoon at the Goodland United Methodist Church. The blood was collected by the Central Plains Region of the American Red Cross. The goal was to collect 78 units and 70 units were collected. A person can donate blood every 56 days. The Red Cross collects blood in Goodland six times a year.  
Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

## Sherman conservation district plans meeting in two weeks

The annual meeting of the Sherman County Conservation District will begin at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars post.

The yearly Bankers and Wind-break awards will be presented by People's State Bank. The Friend of Agriculture, State Limerick and poster contest awards will also be announced. Former winners will be recognized, and there will be a program by district member Bill Selby.

The district will also hold elections and conduct other business, including a treasurer's report.

District Manager Sandy Rodgers said everyone is welcome to come to the annual meeting and no RSVP is required. A meal will be provided by the district, Bankwest of Kansas, First National Bank, Western State Bank, Peoples State Bank and Farm Credit Services of Western Kansas.