

## weather report



**41°**

10:30 a.m.  
Thursday

### Today

• Sunset, 5:48 p.m.

### Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:05 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:49 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 36 degrees
- Humidity 31 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds north 15-25 mph
- Barometer 30.45 inches and rising
- Record High today 83° (1989)
- Record Low today -4° (1932)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday	52°
Low Wednesday	18°
Precipitation	none
This month	trace
Year to date	0.51
Below normal	0.55 inches

### The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 58, winds out of the southwest at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 25. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 56, winds breezy out of the south at 15 to 30 mph and a low around 31.

### Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny with a high near 62 and a low around 36. Monday: Sunny with a high near 70 and a low around 38. Tuesday: Sunny with a high near 69 and a low around 41.

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

## local markets

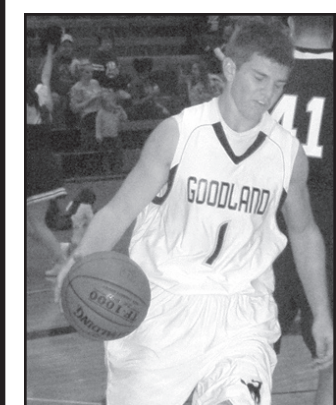


### 10:30 a.m.

- Wheat — \$6.45 bushel  
Posted county price — \$6.52
  - Corn — \$6.09 bushel  
Posted county price — \$6.46
  - Milo — \$5.85 bushel
  - Soybeans — \$11.93 bushel  
Posted county price — \$12.51
  - Millet — \$11.50 hundredweight
  - Sunflowers
  - Oil current crop — \$25.55 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



## Cowboys find positives

Goodland High School coach Donald Rayermer said he finds a lot of positives in this year's basketball season.

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# Suspects charged in bomb threat

Two juveniles have been charged with making a felony criminal threat in the Thursday, Feb. 23, bomb scare at Goodland High School.

Writing was found in a bathroom at the high school indicating that everyone needed to evacuate the

building "by Friday" because of a bomb.

The Goodland police searched the building with help from bomb sniffing dogs from the Kansas Highway Patrol, but no dangerous devices were found. Additional

searches were conducted over the next several days and the school administration put in extra security measures.

Police interviewed multiple people who may have been responsible for the threat. On Monday, Assistant

Police Chief Joni Showalter interviewed several people who had been identified as possible suspects. One of them admitted to writing the threat and the other admitted that they, along with another individual, left the message.

Because the suspects are juveniles, so the police are not releasing any identifying information.

The case has been forwarded to the County Attorney's Office.

# Legislators talk liquor, tax laws



State Rep. Rick Billinger and State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer spoke to a group of constituents on Saturday at the On the Bricks cafe. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

By Kevin Bottrell

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At a town hall meeting with Sherman County's state legislators on Saturday, several Goodland residents expressed their support of a bill to allow liquor sales at grocery stores.

Several citizens argued that the bill is an economic booster. People in eastern Kansas are going to Missouri to buy liquor at grocery stores, and to some extent in western Kansas they may be taking their business to Colorado or Nebraska. One Walmart manager said some of his customers have asked for it.

Rep. Rick Billinger, who is on the House Commerce sub-committee who is examining the bill, said he conducted a survey in the district to find out if the public wanted liquor sold at grocery stores. The results, he said, were that most people were not in favor.

Billinger said the bill that came in was to allow grocery stores to sell full strength beer, wine and hard liquor. His committee is looking at breaking those up into separate bills. The age of sellers is also an issue, he said.

Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer said he still opposes the bill, as he has in the past, but felt the Legislature should have the debate, so he voted to get it out of committee and onto the Senate floor.

"Our big box stores, like Walmart, I think they do an excellent job at what they do," he said. "I don't think they need to be liquor stores."

The two legislators discussed many other issues at the town hall, including the redistrict process, which is redrawing the legislative district lines to account for population change over the last 10 years.

Ostmeyer showed a map he is advocating.

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# City votes in favor of fire contract

By Kevin Bottrell

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The City of Goodland and the Sherman County Rural Fire District may be close to an agreement on sharing fire protection, but on a smaller scale than some of the proposals.

The city commission approved a contract Tuesday where the fire district would pay \$1,000 a month for Brian James' services as fire chief. The contract would be for one year with automatic renewal, unless someone wants to change it.

The city and county will retain ownership of their own equipment as well as responsibility for housing and maintaining it. Each remains responsible for its own personnel.

What the city and district would be sharing, said City manager Doug Gerber, is management expertise.

Commissioner Gary Farris asked James if he can handle these duties, along with being code enforcement officer and building inspector. James, who has been serving as rural fire chief, said he has been able to handle them so far and doesn't anticipate any difficulty.

James added that the two departments are working very well together and now have firefighters who belong to both.

The commission voted 4-1 in favor of the contract, pending the approval of the rural fire board. Farris voted no, saying he felt James' was worth more than \$1,000 a month.

The city and fire board have been discussing the issue for years. Proposals have included combining the city and rural fire departments into one or having the county pay the city

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# City approves brick replacement contract

By Kevin Bottrell

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The City of Goodland is moving ahead with a project to replace the bricks on Main Street between 11th and 13th Streets beginning next month.

The project is to remove the old bricks, the concrete underneath and some of the dirt. The contractor will put in a new base, new concrete, new bricks and new storm sewers. The sidewalks

and gutters will not be impacted, except where some of the brick is set into the sidewalk, which will be replaced.

The city went out for bids the project before, but did not meet the Department of Transportation's timeline. The city rebid the project, and the city commission on Tuesday voted to go with the same contractor, Smoky Hill LLC, for \$571,927.

The state is contributing 75 percent of most

of the project items. The state's contribution does not cover transporting salvageable material or storm sewers, which account for about \$50,000. The total cost to the city will be about \$180,800.

The current plan is to have an April start date. The contractor will begin ordering materials as soon as it gets the signed contract and approval from the Department of Transportation.

# College association to hold soup supper

The Technical Veterans Association will hold a soup supper from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall.

TVA students will be serving chili, beef vegetable soup, and chicken noodle soup. Donations will be accepted. In addition to the soup supper, there will be a silent auction during the meal.

The event is a fund raiser for the student organization to help plan future events. If anyone has any items that they would like to donate for the silent auction, contact Roy Palmer at (785) 626-6482 or roy.palmer@nwktc.edu.

The Technical Veterans Association is an organization designed to allow veterans to gather and unite to help better themselves, the college and the community.

# Student artwork on display



Karen Loudon, fourth grade teacher at Central Elementary School looks at art work done by students from Goodland High School that will be on exhibit until Sunday, March 25, at the Carnegie Arts Center. The picture was made of words shaped into an image of

an anime character. Also on exhibit are art work done by students from Grant Junior High and images from last summer Elementary Arts Program given by the center.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

# Award-winning fiction author to speak in Colby lecture series

Richard Horan, award-winning fiction writer and educator, will be the featured speaker of the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 10, in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College.

Horan has lived and taught all over the world. His most recent

job was as a writing instructor at the State University of New York at Oswego. Prior to that, he taught English in the Wisconsin public school system and overseas with the Department of Defense.

Horan was stationed in Belgium and South Korea. He has also worked as a Sports Information Di-

rector and as an adjunct English as a second language teacher, writing and journalism instructor at numerous colleges in New England. He also lived and taught for two years in a private school in Parma, Italy.

After graduating from Boston University in 1981 he traveled throughout the United States before

settling in Milwaukee, Wis. While living in Milwaukee, he wrote extensively and worked as a nurse's aide in a mental hospital. It was that experience that gave him the material to write his first published novel "Life in the Rainbow." During college he worked as a night-time orderly in a Boston hospital and

during the same period of time he fought professionally throughout the United States and Canada as a middleweight boxer.

He is married with two daughters ages 22 and 18. He and his wife worked as family-care providers

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