

weather report

36°

noon Monday



Today

• Sunset, 5:17 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:44 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:18 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 30 degrees
- Humidity 56 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds west 14 mph
- Barometer 30.21 inches and falling

- Record High today 76° (1962)
- Record Low today -17° (1981)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 38°

Low Sunday 20°

Precipitation none

The Topside Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high near 39, low near 20, winds west 8 - 28 mph. Wednesday: partly cloudy and blustery, high around 27, low around 15, winds north northwest 16-24 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: mostly sunny, high around 32, low around 17. Friday: mostly sunny, high near 42, low near 19. Saturday: partly cloudy, high around 44, low around 15. Sunday: partly cloudy, high near 40.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.50 bushel

New Crop — \$3.41 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.51

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.67 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.60

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$2.53 bushel

Soybeans — \$7.75 bushel

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$11.90 cwt.

NuSun — \$12.10 cwt.

Confection — \$16/\$9 cwt.

Pinto beans — Withdrawn

(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowboys lose to Hays High

Senior Lance Tedford went for a layup and scored two of his nine points during the second half of Saturday night's 70-52 loss to the Hays Indians. See photo and story on Page 11.

City gets grant to help company

The Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing said Thursday it has approved \$200,000 in economic development assistance to help the City of Goodland and Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp., which is opening a plant here.

The city will use the money to provide a loan for equipment and working capital to Aircraft Seal and Gasket, a California based manufacturer of custom parts for the aerospace industry.

President Herb Menold said he was pleased the state had approved the loan. It will help in the expensive startup of the Goodland plant, he said.

He said a ribbon cutting is planned for Thursday, Feb. 19. Besides the state and local officials, he expects his partners, including Doug Moody of Wichita, who was had the idea two years ago to move the plant to Kansas, and several Menold family members to attend.

"Things are going pretty well as we continue to build the infrastructure," Menold said. "I am in Goodland today because we got the first machine running, the mixer, and are close to running the calender.

"It is going very well from my perspective. It takes a lot of time and effort to get these pieces of equipment in operation.

"The state help has been great in getting the incentives in place and helping us get our supply lines set up. As soon as we get up and running, it will be more evident. All the people from the state and area have been great to work with in getting this move underway.

"Chuck Lutters, Kendall Cooper and now Andy Laue have been hired to help get the equipment up and running," Menold said. "It will take a few more weeks to get ready to hire more people and get the plant producing."

Menold said Laue, former finan-

cial chief at Goodland Regional Medical Center, will be the chief financial officer for the corporation, and will oversee all three company locations from his headquarters in Goodland.

He said this is possible today with modern communications networks. He said the telephone system and computers were delivered Thursday, and he expects the three sites to be networked later this week.

The state grant will create a minimum of six jobs within a two-year period, the department said. The Small Cities Community Development Block Grant money will be matched with \$100,000 of private financing from Aircraft Seal and Gasket. The city commission approved the grant request at their meeting on Dec. 1.

Doug Bruggeman, with the Northwest Kansas Regional Planning and Development Commission in Hill City, told the city commission the \$200,000 is much less than the maximum of \$750,000 under the loan program. The city is sponsoring the loan application, but is not responsible for repayment even if the firm doesn't pay the state.

"The loan requires one job to be created for every \$35,000 borrowed," Bruggeman said. "For Aircraft Seal and Gasket, it would be about six jobs for the \$200,000 loan amount.

"The loan will be at 4 percent for five years. The loan specifications are established by the state, and the company is required to provide collateral as well as a \$100,000 match.

"The \$200,000 they are getting for will be matched with \$100,000 from the company and they agreed to create six jobs, with four being middle to low income jobs. They will have two years to spend the money and create the jobs."

See GRANT, Page 3



Fun art at health fair

Melissa Lazo (above) drew a heart on the cheek of Audrey DeGeorge, 5, at the Regional Prevention Center's display about the dangers of tobacco at the Goodland Activities Center's Health Fair on Saturday. Bruce Gleason (right), ambulance director for the Goodland Regional Medical Center, checked the blood pressure of a customer

Photos by Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News



'Rally for Beef' theme of Ag Expo Thursday

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

"Rally for Beef" is the theme of this year's High Plains Ag Expo starting at 8 a.m. Thursday at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The expo is sponsored by KLOE, KKCI and KWGB Radio in Goodland and the National Sunflower Association. Station manager Marty Melia said Govs. Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas and Bill Owens of Colorado have been invited to be part of

the celebration, along with the representatives of state and national livestock organizations.

The idea of this year's theme is to help promote the beef industry in northwest Kansas, eastern Colorado and southwest Kansas, Melia said. Part of that promotion is to stress that American beef is safe and good to eat. To help in that goal, a free hamburger lunch sponsored by cattlemen from Northwest Kansas and eastern Colorado will be served

starting at noon on the exhibit floor in Max Jones.

"Our goal is to feed from 800 to 1,000 people at the Rally for Beef," Melia said.

A similar event in Kingman, Melia said, sponsored by the Kingman County Farm Bureau on Jan. 16 served over 700 people from all over the state who came to show their support for the beef industry.

People taking advantage of the free lunch are invited to stay and lis-

ten to the expo's guest speakers, including Kevin Duvetter and Terry Kastens, agricultural economists from Kansas State University; Greg Dowd, a livestock disease specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and Brownie Wilson of the Kansas Geological Survey in Lawrence, who will talk about water well surveys in western Kansas.

There will be a special presentation by "the Cowguy," Ron Schilling of Edson. Eagle Cable TV and

Internet is sponsoring live entertainment.

Nearly 40 agribusinesses will have displays set up to show off some of the latest developments in services and technology. Some of them are Sigco Sun Products, Crop Quest, Mueller Grain, Ag Source, Kansas Livestock Association, Mycogen Seeds, Kansas Cattleman's Association, Kansas Agribility, Agri Safe and the Sherman County Farm Bureau.

Seven Sherman County offices on ballot this year

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Most of the elected offices in Sherman County are up for election this year and the people will have to decide who will hold them for the next four years.

In Sherman County, offices up for election include:

- Sheriff, held by Doug Whitson.
- Register of deeds, Carol Armstrong.

- County clerk, Janet Rumpel.
- County attorney, Bonnie Selby.
- County treasurer, Shelby Miller.
- Two of three county commissioner seats, held by Mitch Tiede and Kevin Rasure.

Voters have to choose whether to keep the incumbent around for another term, if he or she runs again, or give someone else the opportunity to serve.

Whitson, Selby and Rumpel said they will seek reelection. Armstrong, Miller, Rasure and Tiede all said they would make an announcement later.

All 40 state Senate and all 125 state representative seats will be on the ballot. Republican Jim Morrison of Colby represents District 121 in the House. Morrison registered last August for reelection.

A race is shaping up for the 40th District Senate seat, held by Republican Stan Clark of Oakley. Clark



Danny Rasure (right) chatted with Harlan House (center) and another guest at an open house Jan. 29 at Rasure's campaign headquarters at 1101 Main Ave.

Photo by Anne Hamilton/The Goodland Star-News

said he would not announce his intentions until after the legislative session.

A young Goodland resident, Danny Rasure, has registered as a Republican candidate for state senate. His campaign has begun and most of his staff is already on the job. Rasure held an open house Jan. 29 at his headquarters at 1011 Main Ave.

Before anyone can take part in the process, those who are not already registered to vote must be registered to vote by completing a Kansas Voter Registration Application and returning it to the county clerk's office.

The office is in Room 102 on the first floor of the Sherman County Courthouse, 813 Broadway. The application can be hand-delivered

or mailed; the address for each county in Kansas is on the application.

Kansas has a new application this year. One of the changes on the new form is the addition of two questions: "Are you a citizen of the United States of America?" and, "Will you be 18 years of age on or before Election Day?" In you answer no to either question, the form

says you cannot complete the application.

Another change is the applicant has the option of providing a driver's license number instead of the last four digits of their Social Security number. Except for these two changes, the information the form requires remains the same.

Applications must be received or postmarked by the 15th day before an election in order to be eligible to vote in that election. The primary election this year is Aug. 3 and the general election Nov. 2. Filing deadlines for candidates are June 10 for the primary election and Aug. 2 for the general election.

Candidates can file for the general election if they are running as an independent and are registered as an unaffiliated voter.

Filing is done by petition, for county offices four percent of the county's registered voters must sign it. Once the required fees are paid the candidates' name will be placed on the general ballot.

This year one U.S. senator and all four U.S. representatives from Kansas are up for re-election. Sam Brownback was first elected to the U.S. Senate in November 1995 to complete Bob Dole's term. Brownback was re-elected in 1998, his term ends in January and he is seeking re-election.