

The Goodland Star-News

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Goodland, Kansas 67735

WEEKEND
Friday, February 13
2004

75¢

weather report

19°

noon Thursday



Today

- Sunset, 5:20 p.m. ???day
- Sunrise, 6:40 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:21 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 28 degrees
- Humidity 52 percent
- Sky sunny and cold
- Winds northwest 15 mph
- Barometer 30.41 inches and rising
- Record High today 77° (1954)
- Record Low today -11° (1948)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 32°
Low Wednesday 6°
Precipitation none

The Topside Forecast

Friday: partly cloudy, high near 44, low near 19, winds west 7-28 mph. Saturday: mostly sunny, high around 46, low around 19, winds north northwest 17-28 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: mostly cloudy with 20 percent chance of snow, high around 39, low around 18. President's Day: partly cloudy, high around 43, low near 22. Tuesday: partly cloudy, high near 46, low around 23. Tuesday: partly cloudy, high near 46, low around 23.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.59 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.56
New crop — \$3.48 bushel
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.71 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.66
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2.57 bushel
Soybeans — \$7.68 bushel
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$11.95 cwt.
NuSun — \$12.20 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Pinto beans — Withdrawn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 beat Broncs

Junior Lane Winter hit on a free throw to complete a "traditional" three-point play during the fourth period of Tuesday night's 77-53 Cowboy win over Lakin at Max Jones Fieldhouse. See story and photo on Page 11.

Rally for Beef highlights Ag Expo



Max Jones Fieldhouse was packed Thursday for the Rally for Beef luncheon. The lines of people waiting for the free hamburgers being served by area beef producers and Goodland busi-

nesses stretched around the building. The Ag Expo was sponsored by KLOE/KKCI/KWGB and the Kansas Cattleman's Association.

Photo by Anne Hamilton / The Goodland Star-News

Goodland to have three new centenarians

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Some think Friday the 13th is unlucky, but for Vera Daise, who has turned another year older on Feb. 13 for the last 99 years, on Friday the 13th about 15 times in the past 100 years, it doesn't seem to be unlucky at all.

Not only has Daise survived to turn 100 years old today, on Friday the 13th, she has thrived. She is being added to the ranks of centenarians today, and she will soon be joined by two other Goodland women.

Gladys Nicholson will join the ranks Saturday, Feb. 21, and Bernice Taggart will on Sunday, March 28.

Daise celebrated her birthday six months early, last July, but has had a shower of cards sent to her at Room 132 Wheat Ridge Acres, 707 Wheat Ridge Circle, Goodland, Kan. 67735. She said she received 17 cards one day and 12 another.

"I didn't know I had that many friends," she said.

Nicholson is having an open house from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at the Good Samaritan Center, and Taggart is having an open house on Sunday, March 28, at Wheat Ridge Acres. She doesn't know yet what time it will be.

All three women are Kansas natives and have spent a great deal of their lives in Sherman County. Daise has lived all her life in Sherman County with the exception of three years in Dighton.

Taggart grew up in White City before moving to Topeka, where she went to business college and worked for 18 years before moving to Goodland in 1941 with her husband, Thomas Taggart, whom she met at Washburn University while he was in law school.

Taggart said she thought about



Gladys Nicholson

moving back to Topeka to be near her sisters after her husband died but decided that wasn't what she wanted to do.

"My roots were too deep here," she said.

Nicholson was born in Jennings, then her parents moved to a farm north of Brewster, where she lived until she was 15, when she moved back to Jennings, where she met her husband, Casey Nicholson.

She and Casey moved to Goodland in 1939, where she stayed until 1987, when she moved to Minnesota for one year and California for six before returning to Goodland. Casey died in 1974.

Daise's grandparents homesteaded in the county in 1886, and her mother's family moved in from Wallace County in 1900. They owned a farm they later sold to the Deweys, who bought a lot of land in the area then and had an infamous feud with the Berrys.

Daise spent most of her life on farms, first with her parents, then with her husband, Harold, a farmer.

Nicholson said it was her husband's job on the railroad that



Vera Daise

brought them to Goodland, and Taggart said her husband was a Goodland native, who returned to establish his law practice. He served three terms as county attorney, she said, and died in 1961.

Having lived 100 years, the women have seen a lot in their lives, including many changes. The biggest change has been communications, Daise said, from the Pony Express to walking on Mars and sending back messages.

Taggart agreed that communications has been the biggest change. Cell phones and the Internet have really changed life, she said.

Daise, who has ridden in a covered wagon, noted that transportation has also seen major changes over the years.

As for whether they lived in the "good old days," Taggart said she thinks she has lived in better days, but it depends on what you think are better days. She said she remembers the old type of washing machines that required more work.

"I don't think that was better," she said, "but we didn't know any better."



Bernice Taggart

Daise's perspective is similar.

"I never thought about it," she said, "just did what you have to do."

Nicholson said it doesn't seem like she's lived that long, but she will be 100 years old.

"I have a lot of memories," she said, "not always great. We went through the Dirty '30s, of course, but all in all, it's been a pretty good life."

Taggart doesn't feel 100 years old either.

"I don't feel any older than if I was 80," she said.

All three women have stayed busy over the years, but Daise is the

Building dedication Thursday

Lt. Gov. John Moore, head of the Department of Commerce and Housing, will be here Thursday for the ribbon cutting for Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp.'s new Goodland plant.

The ceremony will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at 1006 Center, with the lieutenant governor speaking. Members of Moore's staff who have worked with the project are expected to attend.

Herb Menold, president of the firm, said other presentations will be made by Mayor Rick Billinger and City Manager Ron Pickman.

Pickman said the city will dedicate the building at 9 a.m. on Thursday in memory of Public Works Director Ed Wolak.

City officials and employees and family members will help dedicate a plaque which is to hang in the building, which Wolak devoted his time and efforts in getting remodeled for the plant.

"We want to get our part done and be out of the way before the ribbon cutting," Pickman said.

only one who raised children, her own at least.

Being the oldest of seven children, Nicholson said she had a lot of responsibilities growing up. Her father died when she was young. Nicholson said, and five of her siblings were under 16. She didn't have children of her own, but was busy nonetheless. She was a clerk in clothing stores, including J.C. Penney's, Wolf's and McDonald's, a store she said was managed by Mr. Drennan before he opened the shoe store.

Nicholson said she has many nieces and nephews, and she looks forward to seeing them and her sisters when they come for her birthday open house.

"I'm just trying to hold on," she said, "keep myself up. Once a year's about all they get to come; I'll be very happy."

And not having children of her own has advantages.

"I don't have anyone to worry about," she said, "so I live day-to-day and enjoy life."

Taggart taught school for two years in the country at Dwight. She had 13 students of several grades in one classroom. She worked at Tee-

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President's Day Monday

With Monday being President's Day, county and city offices will be closed, as will banks and the post office.

The city commission will meet at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, rather than its usual Monday meeting.

The schools will be closed for teacher training, but the Goodland Public Library will be open. Both Rural Health Ventures and the specialist clinic at Goodland Regional Medical Center will be open.

Board approves baseball on split 4-3 vote

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Cowboy baseball is no longer just a dream, thanks to a 4-3 vote by the Goodland School Board Monday night. Goodland High School will field a team and compete in the 2005 spring season.

About 70 people showed up at the board's first regular meeting for the month to show their support for a high school baseball program and to witness the vote. Despite the concerns voiced by a group called Education First! and against the advice of the board's attorney, Jeff Mason, the board voted to add baseball to the high school's athletic program next year.

Superintendent Marvin Selby

opened the discussion with a brief history of the effort to add baseball three years ago and how adding it now might jeopardize the district's compliance under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which requires equality between boys and girls sports programs.

Title IX requires that no person in the U.S. shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

The goal of Title IX, as it relates to athletics, is to ensure the overall equity of treatment and opportunity in athletics while giving schools the flexibility to choose sports based on

student interest, geographic influence, budget restraints and gender ratio. The focus is on females having equal opportunity in athletics with men on a whole.

A month ago, the board asked Athletic Director Steve Raymer to research the feasibility of adding baseball and work up a startup budget. He told the board that a program, including scheduling, could be organized.

Raymer explained that his estimate was based on the assumption that the district would pay for everything involved with starting a program, based on a standard 20-game season of 10 doubleheaders. He said the program's first year would cost \$23,543, the second over \$17,000

and the third about \$16,800. He emphasized that travel costs would be high.

Board member Marty Melia asked if the booster club could help pay some of the cost. Liz West, a baseball booster and spokesman for the club, said the group would contribute as much as possible. She said the club would help organize fundraisers to help pay for some of the equipment.

Next Mason briefed the board on the impact adding baseball could have on the district's compliance with Title IX. He said the district is currently in a "defensible position" for being in compliance.

Mason described three tests the U.S. Department of Education uses

to determine compliance. The first is that the percentage of female athletes compared to female students is comparable to the male percentage. Second is if the district has a history of expansion for the underrepresented gender. The third considers whether the district is meeting the athletic interests of all its students.

Districts must meet one of the three tests to be considered in compliance. Mason said Goodland meets the second test based on its expansion of girls teams during the past several years. Adding baseball could put the district in a position where it would not survive a chal-

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