

## weather report

**56°**

noon Thursday



### Today

• Sunset, 5:28 p.m.

### Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:31 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:29 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 36 degrees
- Humidity 32 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds northwest 20 mph
- Barometer 29.54 inches and rising

- Record High today 73° (1972)
- Record Low today -1° (1953)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday 73°  
Low Wednesday 36°  
Precipitation none

### The Topside Forecast

Today: Winter Weather Advisory, partly cloudy, high lower 40s, low around 18, winds northwest 15-40 mph. Saturday: partly cloudy, high mid 40, low 20s, winds west 10 mph changing to south 15 mph.

### Extended Forecast

Sunday: mostly cloudy, high upper 40s, low mid 20s. Monday: partly cloudy, high upper 40s, low mid 20s. Tuesday: mostly cloudy with 20 percent chance of rain, high upper 40s, low mid 20s.  
(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 — \$3.44 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.44  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Corn — \$2.71 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.63  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Milo — \$2.57 bushel  
Soybeans — \$8.18 bushel  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Millet — \$6 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$12.05 cwt.  
Nusun — \$12.30 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Pinto beans — Withdrawn  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



## Eagles slip by Cowboys

Lance Tedford shot over two Eagle defenders Tuesday night at the Colby Community Building. Tedford was the Cowboys' second leading scorer with 18, but the Cowboys lost 62-56. See story and photo on Page 9.

# Aircraft parts firm opens doors

By Greg Stover

*The Goodland Star-News*

More than 200 people attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Goodland Division of Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp. on Thursday morning in the city's remodeled Ed Wolak Building.

Dignitaries included Lt. Gov. John Moore, Goodland Mayor Rick Billinger, City Manager Ron Pickman, all five city commissioners and all three Sherman County commissioners. Others included Ken Clouse, president of Northwest Kansas Tech College, and Danny Rasure of Goodland, who is running for state senator from District 40.

Kim Hynes of KBSH-TV Hays filmed the event and interviewed some of the people involved. KUPK-TV Garden City also had a reporter and camera there.

Serving as master of ceremonies, Roy Dixon, director of special projects for Aircraft Seal and Gasket, welcomed the guests. He told them a lot of hard work had gone into making the Goodland Division a reality, and the firm appreciates the teamwork involved.

Dixon turned the podium over to Linda Charron of the Goodland Ambassadors for the cutting of the ribbon, done jointly by President Herb Menold and plant manager Chuck Lutters. Charron said it was nice to see something positive come out of the building, an old grocery which had been vacant for years.

Dixon introduced Billinger who, after Charron led the guests in a toast to Aircraft Seal and Gasket, spoke about the joint effort it took to bring the firm to Goodland and the impact it will have on the town's future.

Billinger invited Pickman to the podium, and he said the ceremony marked the official opening of the Goodland Division. Pickman gave a short history of the building and how the project to bring the firm to Goodland began with a meeting on July 2.

Pickman said project would not have worked without the cooperation of state, county and city government, along with private businessmen and banks. He said work began on the building Sept. 26 and over the next two months, about 74 tons of debris was hauled away.

Pickman described how Wolak, the city director of public works until he died in November, used his leadership and drive to turn the building's renovation into a source of pride not only for the city workers but also the contractors as well. Wolak died on Nov. 29 before work was completed. The building was dedicated to him in a separate ceremony earlier Thursday morning.

Menold next thanked everyone for attending. He specifically thanked Moore not only for going to the ceremony, but for his support throughout the project.

Dixon then introduced Moore, who thanked Menold for selecting Goodland and Wichita when he decided to move out of California. Moore said the real partnership formed after the location was selected. He said he is confident the partnership between Aircraft Seal and Gasket and Kansas will result in long-term benefits for both.

Moore said bringing the firm to Goodland serves as an example of

rural Kansas being an alternative to outsourcing jobs to foreign countries.

After the ceremony, Moore said that Aircraft Seal and Gasket now can serve as an attraction to western Kansas for other businesses looking to relocate. He said the attraction will grow stronger as the firm begins to hire workers and starts production within the next four to five weeks.

Fanny Menold, (right) mother of Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp. President Herb Menold, talked to Lt. Gov. John Moore on Thursday morning about how pleased she was to see the company open a plant in Kansas. She lived in Sabetha before moving to California. Linda Charron, (below, left), head of the Goodland Ambassadors, led a toast with Menold to the success and future of Aircraft Seal and Gasket's new Goodland division.

Photos by Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News



# Friends of Conservation: Newspaper, radio

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

The Sherman County Conservation District will give this year's Friends of Conservation awards to the county's two major local media outlets to acknowledge their coverage and support over the years.

The awards will be given at the district's 60th annual banquet at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall.

Awards will be presented will include Conservationist of the Year, the Bankers Award and the Windbreak Award. Inside today's *The Goodland Star-News* is a special section with stories about the award winners and about the activities of the district.

*The Goodland Star-News* and KLOE/KKCI/KWGB Radio share a special award as Friends of Conservation.

Fred Wedel, district conservationist and head of the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service office here, said the awards are designed to thank two organizations that support the conservation efforts year in and year out.

"It is an honor to be given such an



Marty Melia on the air for the Evening Show at KLOE/KKCI/KWGB

award," said Tom Betz, editor of *The Star-News*. "We believe in the conservation district programs, and enjoy doing our annual special section which gives us an opportunity to tell the stories of the award winners."

"I am pleased to have our stations selected for this award," said Marty Melia, owner of KLOE/KKCI/KWGB. "We do a lot to help the conservation office and the Farm Service Agency."

"We do weekly ag reports, and they were at the Ag Expo. We do

daily crop and market reports."

Melia said he has been on the air for 34 years, and his dad, Kay, started with the stations over 40 years ago.

"Dad has won about every broadcaster award there is," Marty said. "and was inducted into the Kansas Broadcaster Hall of Fame a couple of years ago."

KLOE went on the air in 1947 at 730 AM, and Melia said they added FM station KKCI in 1966. KWGB, a second FM station, was added in 1999. Melia said the call letters stand for Kansas Wheat Grow Best.

Computers are the biggest change Melia has seen in his years in radio.

The on-air technology has replaced the tapes and tape carts we used to use," he said. "Now we get programs and advertising through the Internet."

His wife Kathy is co-owner, and they have a staff of two full-time and six part-time people to help run all three stations. Curtis Duncan is the news man, and one of the full-time on-air people. High school students help on the weekends.

"That is how I started out," Melia said. "I enjoy the high school kids,

and we have had some great ones."

This was the 13th year for the station's Ag Expo and Melia said attendance was up, as was the number of vendors. He said the Rally for Beef was part of the reason for the increase in attendance. In April, the station will host its 17th Home and Garden Show.

The Melia's have four children, Sarah, who lives in Canon City, Colo.; Marcie, who works with Topside Tots; Andrew, who is living in Hays; and Daniel, a senior at Goodland High School.

He said Andrew has said he is coming back this summer to work at the station, adding, "I am glad I have one who is interested in the radio business."

Melia started "The Evening Show," which runs from 4 to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, in October 2001. The program has been televised through Eagle Cable for about a year.

Steve Haynes, publisher and president of parent Nor'West Newspapers, said the *Star-News* staff appreciates the award.

"Our emphasis is on Goodland and Sherman County," Haynes said. "We always support the cause of

conservation, and we are proud to be selected for this award."

*The Goodland Star-News* is the name the newspaper adopted last February when it went from a five-day a week operation to twice a week.

The history of *The Goodland Star-News*, is linked to papers dating back almost 130 years.

Newspapers in the area before *The Goodland Daily News*, started up in Oct. 1932, traced back to the county's beginning. High Plains Museum records show the earliest being the *Sherman County News* in 1876.

On Jan. 25, 1997, Steve and Cynthia Haynes of Nor'West Newspapers purchased *The Goodland Daily News* from the national chain U.S. Media. They previously had been owned by the Seaton newspaper group and, before that, by the McCants family of Goodland.

In September 2000, *The Sherman County Star*, owned by Roxie and Eric Yonkey was merged with *The Daily News*.

A year ago another chapter began, and *The Goodland Star-News* continues the tradition of bringing information and advertising to the citizens of Sherman County.

## Clark, Morrison to hold town meeting Saturday

State Sen. Stan Clark and state Rep. Jim Morrison will visit Goodland for a legislative "town hall meeting" between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. Saturday at Hank's restaurant, 120 E. 17th St.

Clark, of Oakley, represents Senate District 40, and Morrison, of Colby, House District 121. The visit is part of an eight-stop day the

two will take to get the people's ideas on issues in the 2004 Kansas Legislature.

The legislative pair will be at Hunter Hall in Brewster between 2 and 3 p.m. (Mountain Time) and, after Goodland, at King's Cafe in Kanorado between 5 and 6 p.m. Kanorado will be the last stop.

## Repair costs may exceed \$100,000

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

Costs of repairing one of the big diesel engines at the Goodland power plant may run into hundreds of thousands of dollars, city commissioners learned evening at their regular meeting.

City Manager Ron Pickman said Engine 8, the primary engine in the power plant, has not been operating for months. The engine, installed in 1974, has been having major problems following an overhaul in January.

He told the commissioners that factory representatives from Fairbanks-Morse were working with power plant employees to discover the cause of contamination in the fuel pumps.

"It will cost a substantial amount to get it repaired," Pickman said. "So far, the experts have found several things they believe are contributing to the fuel problem, and we are scrambling to find the parts."

"While doing their inspection the

last time the engine was running, they noticed oil bubbling up from the base. This means the concrete of the base has been saturated with oil and will have to be replaced.

"We had to replace a corner on one engine and that cost \$60,000. We expect this to be more extensive and cost over \$100,000."

"With Engine 8 down, we are unable to do the repairs and overhaul on Engine 11. We were supposed to