Godland Star-News



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Goodland, Kansas 67735

Cowboys win regional title



Today Sunset, 5:32 p.m. Wednesday

- Sunrise, 6:25 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:34 p.m.
 - **Midday Conditions**
- Soil temperature 36 degrees
- Humidity 46 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds east 12 mph.
- Barometer 30.08 inches and falling
- Record High today 73° (1981) • Record Low today -16° (1960)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	56°
Low Sunday	27°
Precipitation	Non

The Topside Forecast

Today: partly cloudy, high near 43, low near 21, winds east southeast 3-8 mph. Wednesday: partly cloudy, high near 48, low around 23, winds south 9-14 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: partly cloudy, high near 57, low around 27. Friday: partly cloudy, high around 59, low near 30. Saturday: cloudy with a chance of rain changing to snow at night, high around 47, low around 23. Sunday: partly cloudy, high around 45.

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



Noon Wheat — \$3.67 bushel New Crop — \$3.57 bushel Posted county price — \$3.49 Loan deficiency pmt. - 0¢ Corn — \$2.75 bushel Posted county price — \$2.67 Loan deficiency pmt. - 0¢ Milo — \$2.61 bushel Soybeans — \$8.55 bushel Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢ Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight Sunflowers Oil current crop — \$12.35 cwt NuSun — \$12.60 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 Pinto beans — Withdrawn (Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean.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.)



Junior Dexter Deeds (underneath) threw Jesse Stephens of Council Grove High School to the mat during their semifinal match at 125 pounds in the substate wrestling tournament in Abilene on Saturday. Deeds won the match by major decision 16-6, then

defeated Wamego's Madison King for the gold medal. The Cowboys won the regional tournament and a trip to state for seven wrestlers. Story and more pictures on Page 10.

Photo by Dennis Saint/The Goodland Star-News

Building named for city employee

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News The new Aircraft Seal and Gasket plant at 1006 Center was named the Ed Wolak Building during a dedication Thursday morning.

Over 100 people, including many of the city employees who worked with the former city public works director, attended.

Wolak had worked for the city for 28 years and had been public works director four. Before that, he was the light plant superintendent.





Chamber has new president

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News Cesar Miller, owner of Goodland Medical Arts Pharmacy, has resigned from the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce board over a conflict with the Chamber's landlord.

Miller, who was board president, submitted his resignation Feb. 11, effective the next day. In his letter, he said the board's conflict with the landlord was affecting his ability to fulfill the duties of president.

Property Management, owned by Justin Bentzinger, owns the building at 1002 Main Ave. where the Chamber has offices. The conflict centers on \$1,800 in late rent fees and the lack of a long-term lease. The disputed lease provides for a \$50 fee every day the rent is late.

Reached Monday, Bentzinger, a former Chamber board member and interim manager, said he had no comment. Miller said he believes, on a positive note, his departure will decease the tension between the Chamber and the landlord. He said he hopes everything will work out.

At its meeting on Feb. 10, the board voted to remain on a monthto-month rental until a new director is in place. Then the board will decide whether to sign a long-term lease or relocate the Chamber's offices

Donna Swager replaces Miller as the board's president, and although the position was suddenly thrust upon her, she said she is enthusiastic about the future of the Chamber.

Swager said Terry Richardson of Homestead Realty replaced her as the board's vice president and that Ken Clouse, president of Northwest Kansas Technical College, was appointed to fill the board vacancy left by Miller.

In the search for a Chamber manager, Swager said the board was ready to make an offer Monday. The Chamber has been without one since the end of October "I'm excited about getting someone working in the office," said Swager. "The board is moving in the right direction, and I feel this year will be a good one. Swager said this month's Business After Hours will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Friday at Wheat Ridge Acres Retirement Community, 707 Wheat Ridge Circle, where she is the director.



Season ends on low note

Junior Derrick Raymer scored two of his 13 points in the second half of the Cowboy's 63-61 loss to Hugoton on Saturday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. See story and photo on Page 9.

He died of a heart attack on Nov. 29 while working cattle on his father-in-law's ranch near Oakley.

the ceremony honored Wolak for his efforts in transforming the former grocery into a manufacturing plant for the California firm.

Pickman said he had enjoyed working with Wolak, his great attitude toward his job and his dedication to a job done well.

"He was a valuable member of the staff and an exemplary employee," the manager said, "the kind every boss begs to have. You wish you could have a 100 like him and feel lucky you got one.

'He liked to see a job done well. He never complained about any- mayor said. thing and just went and did the work had about six weeks to get the buildsort of looked a bit worried, but said

City Manager Ron Pickman said he would get the city crew started. "He would come by every day to

give me an update and say he knew they could get it done. There were some days he was concerned about delays, but they all got worked out with his help.

"He did not quite live long enough to see the completion, but I am sure he has been keeping track from his new office."

Mayor Rick Billinger spoke about the important part Wolak had played in coordinating the various city departments and his dedication.

"We will miss you, Ed," the

Stan Wolak, Ed's father and a "I told him on Sept. 26 that we former longtime city employee, Ed Wolak, dedicated city employee, spoke about how much his son ening ready for the new company. "Ed joyed working for the city, and his devotion to doing things right. He City of Goodland, Kan., Aug. 1,

Stan Wolak and Mayor Rick Billinger (upper left) spoke about the accomplishments of Ed Woalk at a dedication ceremony Thursday. City Manager Ron Pickman (above) unveiled a plaque dedicated to Wolak, who as public works director was in charge of remodeling the building for Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp.

Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

1998 to Nov. 29, 2003." welled up with emotion as he thanked

> Following the ceremony, the audience was invited to a reception in the commission room of the City Administration Building.

Less than an hour after the dedication, the building was the scene of another ceremony as Aircraft Seal and Gasket held a ribbon cutting to open its Goodland Division. Lt. Gov. John Moore represented rector of Public Works and Utilities the state Department of Commerce and Housing.

_egislators address health care

By Sharon Corcoran

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News County Convention and Visitors Bureau board and all three of its advisors have been reappointed to another one-year term by the Sherman county commissioners.

Angelos of McDonald's, Marilyn Collett of Butterfly Aviation, Evelyn DeVol of Buffalo Inn, Ryan Hageman of Wendy's, Arlo Hansen of Sinclair, Brenda McCants of Goodland Regional Medical Center, Elaine Morrow of Super 8 Motel, Don Newell of S&T Communications, Dale Neill of KOA Kampground and Judy Siruta of Comfort Inn.

The three advisors are David Branda of the Sherman Theatre, Julie Crotinger of the Kansas Travel Information Center on I-70 near Kanorado and Linda Holton of the High Plains Museum.

At the bureau's meeting Tuesday morning, the board reelected Neill as the chairman and Collett as the

secretary/treasurer.

After a short closed session, the All 10 members of the Sherman board offered Donna Price the director's job on a permanent basis which she accepted. She had been the acting director since last February

The board's executive committee The board members are Scott comprises Neill, Collett, Hageman and Price.

> Price briefed the board about an initiative sponsored by the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing to promote agritourism in Kansas. She said the initiative is designed to increase the money agritourism brings into the state.

> The program will under the joint leadership of the department's divisions of Agricultural Development, Travel and Tourism Development, and Community Development.

Agritourism, she said, is when people visit working farms, ranches and/or wineries where they can shop, dine, stay overnight, participate in work and enjoy local entertainment.

of an Agritourism Advisory Council which will include representatives of agriculture, commerce, tourism and federal, state. and local governments. The council will compile an inventory of existing agritourism operations and establish a communications network.

the city for remembering his son.

Billinger read a special procla-

mation passed by the City Commis-

sion naming the building after

Wolak, and asked Pickman to un-

veil a plaque which is mounted on

April 1 1976 to Nov. 29, 2003; Di-

The plaque says: "In memory of

a beam inside the front door.

The group then will create a comprehensive manual on how to establish an agritourism operation in Kansas. The council also is to organize a workshop and a conference to help with the exchange of ideas.

The second phase involves product development, which includes helping current and potential agritourism operators apply for grants and loans. The third phase calls for the development and implementation of a marketing program. In other business, the board:

• Approved the budget for 2004, which includes a salary increase for Price, the amount of which was not available.

• Heard from Price about the pur-The initiative has three phases, chase of a banner that would reach

visitors during special events. Price briefed the board on the options under consideration, such as whether to have one or two banners, onesided or two, material and lettering, and what system to use for set up. The board voted to table this until next meeting to give more time to about changing the way the governconsider other options and seek bids

• Heard from Price about the Travel Industry Association of Kansas' 2004 legislative agenda. One of its key items is to monitor legislation related to the Transient Guest Tax that could affect Kansas Chambers of Commerce, and Convention and Visitors Bureaus, and other tourism entities. She said the association is reorganizing.

• Voted to be a sponsor at the 2004 Kansas Travel Show and Brunch in Salina April 22 in order to "keep its foot in the door" in the motor coach tourism venue.

The bureau's next meeting will be at 9 a.m., Tuesday, March 16, in its conference room at 1206 Main Ave.

The Goodland Star-News Goodland's legislators, State Sen. Stan Clark and State Rep. Jim Morrison, talked about health care, education, economic development and the state's new "destination" sales tax at a town hall meeting Saturday afternoon at Hank's Cafe.

With about 40 Goodland residents in the audience, Clark talked ment pays for health care. Clark said Medicaid, the federal-state program which provides care for Social Services clients, is necessary, but the cost to the taxpayers needs to be reduced.

'Medical assistance is a necessary safety net we have to provide Kansans," he said. "How do we get a handle on it?"

Health Savings Accounts are part of a reform measure that passed Congress in November, he said. Contributions that are tax exempt to both employers and workers can be made to the accounts, Clark said, and the money can pay for routine medical expenses throughout the

See CLARK, Page 3

Visitors board makes director permanent she said. The first is the formation across Main Avenue to welcome