

weather report

53°

noon Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 5:36 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:21 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:37 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 36 degrees
- Humidity 31 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds south 17 mph.
- Barometer 29.93 inches and falling
- Record High today 72° (1932)
- Record Low today -9° (1962)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 48°

Low Wednesday 15°

Precipitation None

The Topside Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high around 66, low near 32, winds west 10-28 mph. Saturday: mostly cloudy and breezy with 30 percent chance of showers, high around 54, low around 32.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain and snow, High around 44, low around 23. Monday: partly cloudy, high near 46, low near 22. Tuesday: partly cloudy, high around 46, low around 23. Wednesday: mostly cloudy, high around 46.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.58 bushel

New crop — \$3.56 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.63

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.78 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.74

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$2.64 bushel

Soybeans — \$8.70 bushel

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$6 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$12.65 cwt.

NuSun — \$12.90 cwt.

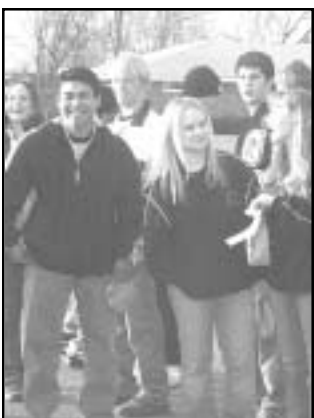
Confection — \$16/\$9 cwt.

Pinto beans — Withdrawn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



Wrestlers off to state

Wrestlers, coaches and cheerleaders got a memorable send-off about 7 a.m. Thursday from their families, supporters and the Goodland Ambassadors. The Ambassadors gave each traveler a "goodie bag" for the trip to the state championships in Wichita. See story and photo on Page 9.

Board will keep Central open

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland School Board affirmed the future of Central Elementary School on Monday, voting unanimously to keep the building open next year despite anticipated budget cuts and declining enrollment.

"We are proud to announce we are keeping Central School open for next year," said board member Ron Schilling, suggesting wording for a public statement.

He said the vote was a response to growing concerns from parents that budget cuts will force the board to close Central. Although the board acknowledged that future budgets still might force closing, members said they are determined to keep Central open for now.

If the district should be forced to close a building, administrators said there is plenty of classroom space in North and West Elementary schools to handle the third and fourth grades now housed at Central.

Board member Mike Campbell said with inevitable budget cuts, the district needs to be prepared to make that happen.

The current organization of the district is popular with parents, staff and faculty, members said, and the quality of education it provides is important. As long as enrollment stays steady and it is financially feasible, though, Central will stay open.

The board went into closed session for evaluation of the district's five principals: Sharon Gregory of Central Elementary, Jim Mull of Grant Junior High and North Elementary, Jerry Burkett of West Elementary, Harvey Swager of the high school, and Steve Raymer, the high school's assistant principal and athletic director. Later, members voted unanimously to extend the contract for all five through the 2005-2006 school year.

The board was briefed on some of the projects going on at West Elementary that enhances learning experience of its students. Burkett gave a short introduction, then introduced teachers Lynette McLean and Janice Davis who briefed the board on Animated Literacy. The program helps kindergarten students learn letters by associating each one with a sound, gesture, story and/or song by which the students can make a connection, they said.

Teacher Kara Smith described the 4 Blocks literacy program, which builds "a framework to support what we already have." Two of the blocks are guided reading, she said, which

helps develop comprehension, and self-selected reading, which give a student the chance to what they want to read, building enthusiasm and self-confidence. The word block works on spelling and teaches word decoding skills. The writing block helps students work on sentence structure, including tense and punctuation.

In his report, Selby told the board about a seminar on "Bullock, Bunten and Budgets" on March 11 in Topeka and asked if any members would be interested in attending. The seminar will update board members and administrators on school financing and budgeting in Kansas, and address some of the more controversial issues, such as building-based budgeting and Judge Terry Bullock's ruling that the school funding system is unconstitutional.

He reported the repairs to the bleachers in the main court at Max Jones Fieldhouse were done and a final inspection would be Tuesday.

Selby said he was worried about the future of the Goodland Learning Center because of changes in the way the state counts students. Selby said the method used to determine the number on students enrolled will change and that could bring a funding cut.

Selby said contractors were working up estimates for remodeling the rest rooms at Cowboy Stadium. He said the work must meet all American With Disabilities Act codes, and the type of fixtures selected will be a major factor in the costs. The board discussed other alternatives, including opening up the rest rooms near the high school cafeteria for games or opening up those on the south side of Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Selby told the board some parents and teachers have concerns about having enough textbooks. Although not all students have individual books for every class, he said, each one does have daily access to those they need.

In other business, the board:

- Heard from Ryan Scheopner, of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Sherman County, about Bowl for Kid's Sake on Saturday, April 3, which is the organization's main fund raiser of the year. The board voted unanimously to form a team.

- Voted to accept the resignation of Jenny Schlosser, a library technician at the high school, effective today.

- Voted to give \$1,000 to the Carnegie Arts Center to help pay for its summer arts program for the district's children. This is the fourth year the board has supported the program.



Pie in the face part of carnival

Karlee Raile (top), a second grader at West Elementary, donned goggles and braved a pie in the face at the North Elementary School carnival Tuesday. Alexis Bateman and Elaine Reiter (above) played clarinets in the band at the carnival, while Teather Dautel (right) picked out books at a book swap.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

Four line up to run for Sherman County sheriff

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

The race for Sherman County sheriff has drawn four candidates, with the filing deadline still more than three months away, but incumbent Doug Whitson is not among them.

Whitson said he has enjoyed working as sheriff, but has decided not to run for re-election. He would not elaborate on his reasons, but in January, he had said he was planning to run.

"I changed my mind," he said.

Whitson was appointed sheriff in 1995 when former sheriff Jack Arm-

strong resigned, and was elected to two four-year terms.

As of Wednesday, two of the four prospective candidates had filed petitions with the Sherman County clerk. They are Kevin Butts, the current Sherman County undersheriff, and Greg Kroskey, a city policeman. Dee Albers, a former undersheriff who ran for sheriff as a Democrat four years ago, and Art Lovington, a former deputy, have started petitions to have their names placed on the ballot.

All four are running as Republicans.

Carol Armstrong, the county's register of deeds; County Attorney Bonnie Selby; and County Clerk Janet Rumpel have started their petitions for re-election.

So far there is only one possible contest; Iris Scheopner, a clerk in the treasurer's office, has started a petition to run for treasurer. Treasurer Shelby Miller has not announced whether she is going to seek re-election.

Filing deadline for the Aug. 3 primary election is noon June 10. Filing by petition requires the signature of at least 3 percent of the registered

voters in the county, all registered in the same party as the candidate. Once the petition is completed and filed in the county clerk's office, and the required fees are paid, the candidate will be added to the ballot.

A person can get their name on the ballot by paying a fee rather than filing a petition.

Filing deadline for the Nov. 2 general election for candidates running as independents is noon on Aug. 2.

An independent candidate must be registered as an unaffiliated voter and his or her petition must be signed by at least 4 percent of the

county's registered voters.

People have until July 18 to register to vote in the primary. Applications can be delivered in person to the county clerk's office, Room 102 in the Sherman County Courthouse, 813 Broadway Ave, or can be mailed in.

First-time voters who registered by mail must present picture identification (such as a driver's license) when they arrive at the polls. This is one of the changes the Kansas Legislature implemented to conform to the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002.

Smoky Gardens filling, closed to fishing for two years

The outlet gate has been closed and water is returning slowly to Smoky Gardens lake as upgrade work winds down, but it will be a couple of years before you can wet a line.

Kenny Sanderson of the Smoky Gardens board said the springs are slowly filling the lake, but it will take a lot of time at this rate. He believes the lake will need a good rain or two to help it fill.

While the lake is filling, Sanderson warns it will take a couple of years to establish a viable fishery, capable of sustaining a yield that will handle the high harvest rates

typical at the lake.

The board has decided to keep the lake closed to all fishing until the fish mature, Sanderson said. The board voted to close the lake to fishing until April 1, 2006. When the lake is reopened, there will be new regulations about size and number of fish which can be caught.

The park will be open for activities such as camping and picnicking.

As the water rises, the next step is restocking of the fish. Sanderson said if the water gets high enough this spring, sport fish will be reintroduced to begin creating a quality fishing base.

A lot of time and money has been spent by Sherman County to upgrade the lake, add fish habitat, and enhance fishing access with piers and jetties, he said. Board members have worked to see the project was completed. The result is nothing short of tremendous, he said, a great facelift for the lake that will benefit users in the future.

Sanderson said the board realizes the persistent drought gripping the High Plains has affected nearly every facet of rural life. Farmers and ranchers are in a bind, small town economies suffer and even leisure time and recreational opportunities

change as a result of the dry conditions.

Smoky Gardens Lake has suffered from a shortage of water for the past three years.

The drought prompted the board to drain and rehabilitate the lake. Less than a third full, the lake had been taken over by undesirable fish, namely carp and crappie.

Tame fish numbers dwindled with the lack of water. With the advice of state fish biologists, the board decided to drain what little water was left, let the bottom dry, and remove years' worth of sediment.

Sanderson said the decision may be unpopular with the angling public. However, the board believes future users will agree the value of a quality fishing recreational facility will be worth waiting for.

To learn more about the Smoky Gardens rehabilitation project, restocking, and/or future plans, contact members of the Smoky Gardens board: Randy Bellamy 899-2816, Sanderson 899-5526, Jason Artzer 890-5420, Bob Rohr 899-5189, and Gary Barricklow 890-5944 or Lynn Davignon, state wildlife district fisheries biologist (785) 726-3212 or email at lynnd@wp.state.ks.us