

weather report

65°

noon Monday



Today

•Sunset, 7:14 p.m.

Wednesday

•Sunrise, 6:22 a.m.

•Sunset, 7:13 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 52 degrees
- Humidity 35 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds south 21 mph
- Barometer 29.88 inches and falling

- Record High today 88° (1991)
- Record Low today 8° (1936)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	65°
Low Sunday	30°
Precipitation	none
This month	none
Year to date	1.37

The Topside Forecast

Today: partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high near 70, low near 42, winds east northeast 8-14 mph. Wednesday: partly cloudy, high near 68, low around 30, winds north northwest 6-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: partly cloudy, high near 55, low around 30. Friday: partly cloudy, high around 58, low near 33.

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

\$42,000 taken in scam

An elderly Goodland man told police he gave con artists \$42,600 in a yard cleanup scam Friday.

Police Chief Ray Smee said he believes there are three or four people involved, including one posing as a U.S. marshal. He said the suspects stayed at Motel 8 for two nights and made reservations for a third. Police put the room under observation after the scam was reported, but no one returned.

The chief said the man, in his mid-70s, was quite embarrassed that he had turned over the money. He said the man's yard did need some cleanup, but \$1,000 should have covered it.

"I don't want to embarrass the man," Smee said. "He already feels bad about it, but I sure want to find these guys."

"We were about two hours behind them when we got the call. We don't have much to go on. We know there is a criminal case and probably a civil case when they are caught."

Smee said the con artists are believed to have headed for Colorado. Information about the scam was sent to police in both Colorado and Kansas.

The chief said the man posing as the marshal wore a badge and a set of handcuffs on his belt, a white cowboy hat, white shirt and jeans. He cashed two checks, one for \$10,000 and the other for \$32,600, at First National Bank. The bank called the victim to verify the checks, then converted them to money orders.

Smee said the victim's nephew, who lives in Atwood, became suspicious when he found out about yard cleanup deal and called the bank, which in turn called the police about two hours after the checks were cashed.

"The nephew called to ask why the city was referring people to a Wisconsin firm to clean up yards," Smee said. "I told him the city had not referred anyone about yard clean up."

"That was when we found out these people had gone to the man's house and said they were there representing the City of Goodland, and that he needed to clean up his yard."

Smee said a teen-ager youth, not part of the scam, was to help with the cleanup and promised a total of \$160 but only got \$40.

Smee said the suspects left behind a Bobcat that may have been rented in Hays. He took the loader and put it in the city impound lot.

"I figured if they were coming back, they would have to come talk to me," Smee said. "We don't have much information, and what we do have is sketchy. All we know is they were driving a red Ford pickup and a white Ford pickup. No one was sure about the license plates."

"We will be waiting for the money orders to be cashed to see if we can follow them."

Churches gather for Palm Sunday



Congregations from four churches gathered in Chambers Park Sunday morning for the blessing and sharing of the palms, a traditional ceremony which marks the coming of Jesus into Jerusalem before Good Friday and Easter. United Methodist Pastor Janet Hernandez (left) held a bunch of palm branches which were added to those from the other churches and Father Hal Lycett of St. Paul's Episcopal Church (above left) gathered them all together in the fountain, where they were blessed. Father Norbert Dlabá (above right) of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church and Pastor Scott Grimshaw (above center) of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church read scriptures about how the palm branches were laid on the road as Jesus rode into Jerusalem.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

Goodland pushing to be clinic site

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The Veterans Administration announced in February they were planning a new community-based outpatient clinic, and Sherman County Economic Development and the Goodland Regional Medical Center are pushing to get it in Goodland.

Carolyn Applegate, economic development director, and Hospital Administrator Jay Jolly traveled to Clay Center last fall to the Eastern Kansas Veterans meeting. They met with representatives from the Veterans Administration offices in Topeka, the Bob Dole Center in Wichita and from Washington and provided information about why a veterans clinic was needed in Sherman County.

Congressman Jerry Moran said

during a recent phone interview he was pleased to see the Veterans Administration had approved a new clinic for Kansas.

"The Veterans Administration was the top topic when I was in Goodland and toured the hospital last fall," he said. "It is good to see there is going to be another community-based outpatient clinic."

"I won't expect this decision immediately. We have opened three in the district since I became a congressman, and it has taken about two years to get each one open."

"The three are at Fort Dodge, Salina and Hays. There was one in Liberal when I became a congressman."

"We will do anything we can to help Goodland be the location for the new clinic, and help the VA look for information upon which to make a decision."

He said there are questions to be answered on best location.

"One question is how many veterans are in the area who would be served by a clinic in Goodland," he said. "Will there be enough to meet the base amount the VA believes it needs to justify opening a clinic? We need to be able to show them there are veterans not just in northwest Kansas, but in eastern Colorado and Nebraska who would be served by having a clinic in Goodland."

"The decision will be made at a

regional level in Kansas City, and I am sure they will be listening to the VA hospitals in Topeka and Wichita on where the need is."

Moran said he believes there is a better way to deliver medical services to the veterans, and is working to make that day happen.

"I hope one day we can open the system so a veteran can take his card and go to any doctor or hospital," the representative said.

Applegate said she has been taking testimony from veterans who live in Sherman County and the surrounding area to give the Veterans Administration some idea about the type of veterans who live here and would be able to use the clinic.

Is it acid or base?



Karen Purvis from Ellis County showed County Commissioner Mitch Tiede and Rural Fire Chief Kenny Griffith how to test chemicals for acidity at the household hazardous waste collection Saturday morning. Griffith said 86 people brought in about 6,500 pounds of hazardous waste and about 65 computer monitors. He said the next collection will be on July 17.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$3.86 bushel
- New Crop — \$3.82 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.84
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$3.14 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.02
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$2.96 bushel
- Soybeans — \$9.86 bushel
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$6.50 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$12.55 cwt.
- NuSun — \$12.80 cwt.
- Confection — \$16/\$9 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$15

(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



Track opens at Norton

Senior Speedy Aguilar approached the finish line during one of the three races he won Friday at the track meet at Norton. See story and photos on Page 11.

Big game tonight

"Basketball Madness" begins at 7 p.m. tonight at Max Jones Fieldhouse as a team of high school faculty and former X-pressos will play a team of Goodland business leaders.

The game is part of a fund-raising campaign by Goodland's music boosters for scholarships, trips and other activities for the Goodland High School music department.

A soup supper will start at 5 p.m. featuring a choice between chicken noodle and vegetable, with a brownie and drink. The cost is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. Children 5 and under are free. The supper will last until game time, after which DECA students will open the concession stand.

Players for the "GHS Faculty Plus" team include teachers Connie Livengood, Tremon Kizer, Travis Witman, Jon McLean, Steve McCall, Randy Berls, Jim Nelson and bus driver

Wanda Schritter. Also playing for the faculty are former X-pressos members Brian Linin, Jeff McCall, Brady Stindt and Brett Flanders.

The lineup for the business leaders includes Chevrolet dealer Jay Herl, chiropractor Sid Unruh, Danny Archer of Finley Motors, Jason Hickson of city parks and recreation, Josh Dechant of Bankwest, Dairy Queen owner Danny Whalen, Steve West of Western State Bank, Jay Jolly of the Goodland Regional Medical Center, Travis Daise of Goodland Family Health Center, Chuck Wilkens of Wilkens Truck and Trailer, Steve Jimenez of Seamhead, John Dautel of Goodland Machine, and Cliff Leach and Dwane Timm of First National Bank.

Referees will be Rollee Hallagin and Don Dawes. Ryan Schoepner will be timekeeper and Marty Melia of KLOE Radio will be the announcer.