

## weather report

**51°**  
noon Monday



**Today**  
• Sunset, 4:27 p.m.  
**Wednesday**  
• Sunrise, 6:40 a.m.  
• Sunset, 4:27 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**  
• Soil temperature 51 degrees  
• Humidity 54 percent  
• Sky High clouds  
• Winds South 10 mph  
• Barometer 29.91 inches  
and decreasing  
• Record High today 72° (1925)  
• Record Low today 0° (1941)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Sunday 35°  
Low Sunday 29°  
Precipitation .02  
This month 1.89  
Year to date 21.15  
Above normal by 1.98

### The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with scattered flurries and areas of fog. Much colder, high mid 30s. Northeast wind 10-20 mph with gust to 35. Tonight: Mostly cloudy, becoming partly cloudy. Low around 20. North wind 10-20 mph.

### Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Partly cloudy. High upper 30s, low lower 20s. Thursday: Partly cloudy, high upper 40s, low mid 20s. Friday mostly cloudy, 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 — \$3.22 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.33  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Corn — \$1.89 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.70  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 25¢  
Milo — \$1.52 bushel  
Soybeans — \$4.87 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.82  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0.00¢  
Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$12.60 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$00  
NuSun — \$12.70  
Confection — \$19/\$13 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)  
(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



## Basketball opens soon

The Cowgirls basketball team worked out Wednesday afternoon. The Cowgirls, who finished 9-12 last season, will play a intra-squad scrimmage starting at 6:30 p.m. next Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Photo on Page 12a.

# County approves district proposal

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

Sherman County commissioners Tuesday approved a resolution which is the first step in creating an extension district with Wallace County.

The process requires a 60-day protest period after the resolution is published because the state law establishing the districts allows the new board to raise property taxes to fund the extension program.

Officials brought the idea of creating an extension district to the commissioners Nov. 9. Daniel O'Brien, area extension director; Marsha Schilling, head of the Sherman extension council; and Dana Belshe, county agent, met with the commissioners to explain what a district would mean.

O'Brien said the commissioners needed to consider a resolution forming the district, and that after formal adoption and publication, there is a 60-day waiting period to see if there is any opposition. Unless

someone mounts a petition, the district would be reviewed by the attorney general for a 90-day period, and if approved, the new district could be in operation by July 1.

If there is a petition filed in the 60-day period, O'Brien said, the commissioners would have to take the district to a vote of the people either at the next general election or a special election.

Prior to approving the resolution Tuesday, the commissioners had County Clerk Janet Rumpel read a portion of the state law establishing an extension district, and setting up the taxing authority.

The law says an extension district "...is a taxing subdivision, and has the power to contract, sue and be sued, and to acquire, hold and convey real and personal property in accordance with law."

State law defines the composition of the district board, and how members are to be elected. Under the sec-

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# Suspect sought in shooting Friday

A Goodland man was shot when he opened the front door of his home south of town Friday morning.

Tony O'Neal, 24, told officers someone shot him in the face after he opened the door. He called 911 at 6:11 a.m.

O'Neal had to wait 20 minutes for help to arrive because fog delayed emergency crews.

He was then taken from his home five miles south of Goodland, at 5830 Highway 27, to Goodland

Regional Medical Center. He was later sent on by ambulance to Swedish Medical Center in Englewood, Colo., where he was released over the weekend.

Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts said officers don't know the shooter's identity. He said they are continuing the investigation and he isn't releasing anything on the assailant or the weapon used.

"We haven't gotten anybody located yet," Butts said.

# Fireworks program gets county support

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

Next year's Freedom Fest got a shot in the arm Tuesday when the Sherman County commissioners agreed to give \$2,500 for the weekend festival as requested by the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce.

"I think we ought to do it," Commissioner Kevin Rasure said. "It is worthwhile, and I feel we can do the full \$2,500 for next year."

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said he agreed the fireworks program was something the county could support, and asked if there was any possibility of adding to the county donation for this year to help pay for this year's shortfall.

"I think the city and county should participate in supporting this," Rasure said.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the county had donated \$350 this year.

Commissioner Thomas suggested the county contribute an additional \$350 for this year's fireworks plus committing to the \$2,500 for next year. The Chamber reported a loss of \$3,500 this year after rain dampened its fund-raising meal on the Fourth.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he thought about the fireworks program, and agreed with Rasure that it was a good way to bring people to town. He said he had thought about cutting it back, but decided that was not a good answer, and felt the county could help support the Chamber on this program.

Thomas made the motion to contribute the added \$350 for this year, and commit to the \$2,500 for next year. Tiede seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Zachary Krause of KVK, a building systems management company from Woodbine, talked to the commissioners about handling the heating and air conditioning needs of the courthouse.

Krause said he could provide the county with a comprehensive system management plan that would include a quarterly check of all systems, and that all repairs and parts would be covered by a monthly fee.

Another option was a preventive maintenance plan which would include inspections twice a year, but the county would pay for all repair parts.

The third option would be that his

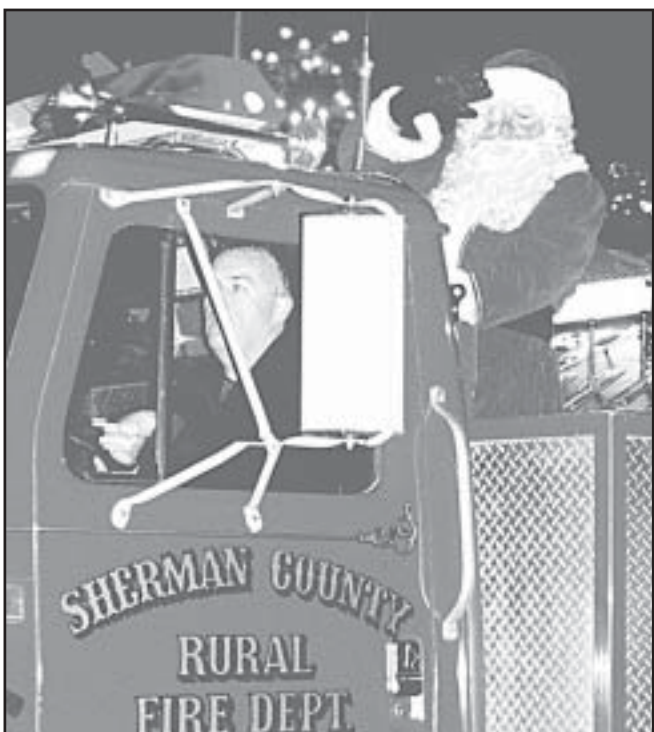
**See FIREWORKS, Page 9a**

## *Santa arrives for visit*



Santa and Mrs. Claus made their first appearance in Goodland on Saturday night as they rode in a parade down Main and then stopped for cake and punch at Santa's Hut in the Economic Development office. Braelyn Hoelting (above) was one of the first in the long line of kids waiting to give Santa a wish list. Santa (below left) arrived on the Sherman County Rural Fire Department truck, followed by The Grinch (below right). More parade photos on Page 3.

Photos by Tom Betz and Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News



# City reviews invitation policy

By Kathryn Burke

*The Goodland Star-News*

At a meeting Monday, the Goodland City Commission reviewed its policy on invitations to the city's annual holiday banquet and service award celebration, debating whether or not to add two bus drivers.

Commissioner John Garcia asked why part-time bus drivers were not asked to join the celebration, sparking a debate on who comes to the banquet and why.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the commissioners put a cap at \$2,000 for what they will spend on the event, so they have to limit the guest list.

All full-time employees city are

invited, along with a spouse or guest. He said employees from city funded operations, including the Senior Center, where the bus drivers are employed, are not invited.

Pickman said the city pays for the bus program through the Senior Center, but the drivers are not actually city employees.

Volunteer firemen, part time law enforcement workers, the municipal judge and city attorney are all invited, he said, but library and museum employees are not.

Commissioner Jim Mull noted that they don't invite the people who serve on city boards, either.

"You wouldn't know where to stop," added Commissioner Dean

Blume. "I'd say leave it where it's at."

Garcia said he thought it would be nice to add the two bus drivers to the banquet to spread the holiday spirit.

"In the spirit of good camaraderie," he said, "I don't have any problem adding two more."

Pickman said the banquet is not only about celebrating the holidays, but also about handing out service awards. He said they decided to have the ceremony in December to tie it in with the holidays.

The board made no decision on the invitations.

In other business:

**See CITY, Page 9a**

# Commission fails to reach agreement on raise

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

The Goodland City Commission gathered for a special session at noon Friday, but a 20-minute closed-door session failed to find an agreement about a raise for City Manager Ron Pickman.

Commissioner Dean Blume said he had asked for the special meeting because the commission had failed to reach an agreement on the manager's contract after doing the

evaluation on Oct. 18. Commissioners have held at least four closed door sessions in the past two meetings.

"I felt we needed to resolve the issues of Pickman's contract and raise," Blume said Friday afternoon. "I was disappointed when the mayor said in the closed session he would not bring the issue to a vote until the next regular meeting."

Blume said the sticking point seems to be that Pickman's contract

says he cannot receive a lesser raise than other full-time city employees, and that is what City Attorney Perry Warren explained to the commission.

At the meeting on Nov. 1, the commission approved a 75-cent-an-hour raise for all city employees beginning in January, which means \$1,560 a year for full-time employees.

Commissioners announced on Nov. 1 they would give the manager

a \$1,000 raise. Blume said the \$560 was the sticking point, and that some of the commissioners felt the manager's contract was separate from other city employees.

Pickman said the clause about his getting the same benefits as other full time employees has been in the contract for several years, but this is the first time it has been an issue.

Mayor Rick Billinger was 12 minutes late getting to the meeting Friday. The other commissioners

decided to wait while he was called, and when reached, he said he had forgotten the special meeting.

As soon as Billinger called the meeting to order, Blume made a motion to go into closed session for 20 minutes with Warren. Near the end of the 20 minutes, Blume and Warren emerged from the commission room and headed out of the building.

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