

## weather report

54°

noon Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:57 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 37 degrees
- Humidity 41 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds northwest 20-30 mph.
- Barometer 29.83 inches and rising

- Record High today 71° (1975)
- Record Low today -14° (1972)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday	51°
Low Wednesday	25°
Precipitation	none
This month	.02
Year to date	21.38
Normal	19.52

### The Topside Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high near 50, breezy with wind north northwest 36-9, low near 29. Saturday: mostly sunny, high around 64, low around 31, winds west southwest 11-15 mph.

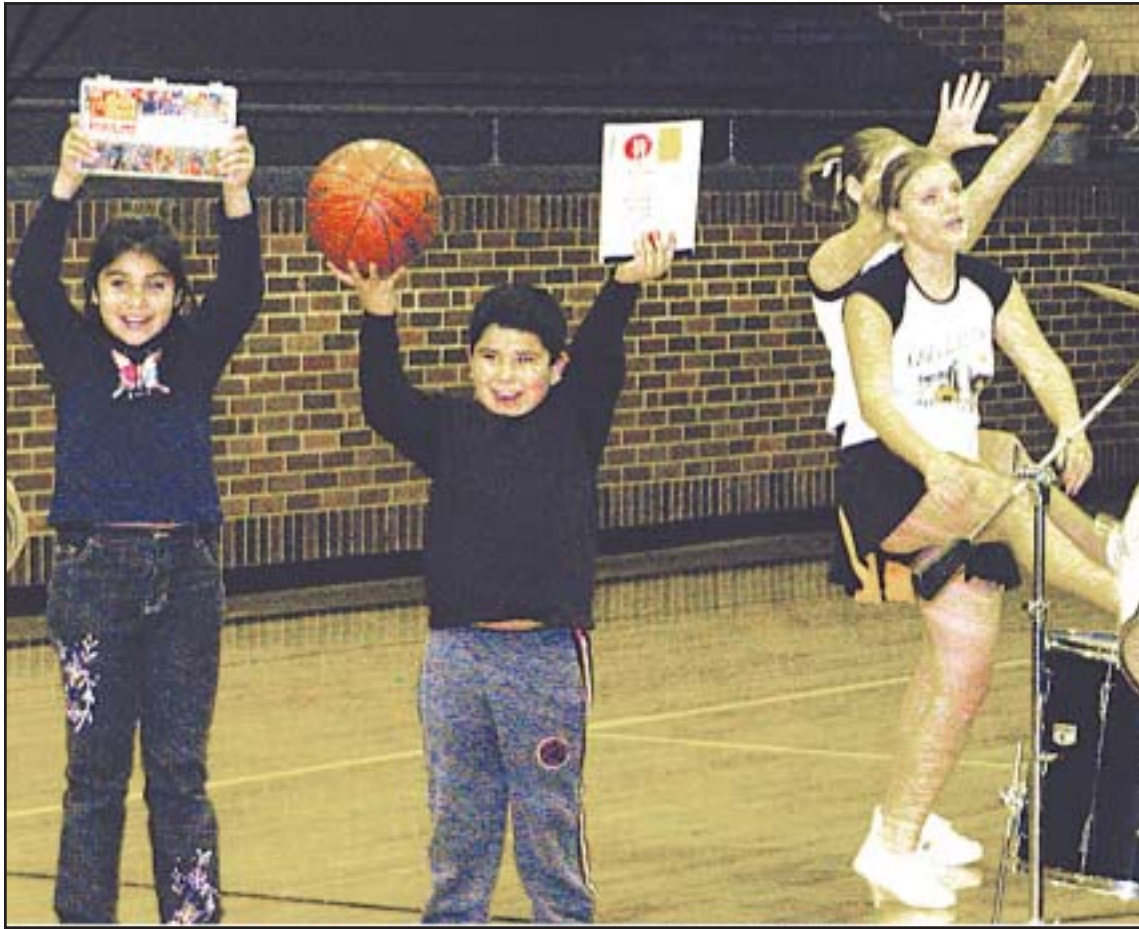
### Extended Forecast

Sunday: mostly cloudy and breezy, high around 41, low around 17. Monday: partly cloudy, high near 43, low near 21. Tuesday: partly cloudy, high around 50. (National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

# Commercial message 'don't smoke'



Priscila and Gabriel Ledesma held up examples of positive pursuits as Grant Junior High Cheerleader Hannah Blake did the anti-tobacco cheer for the Motivation, Achievement, Success and GRACE tobacco-free commercial shot in the Goodland High School gym Monday.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Don't smoke — you'll choke.  
Don't smoke — you'll croak.  
Don't chew — peeyew.  
Don't smoke; don't chew; it's the best thing to do. Be tobacco free!

That's the new cheer for Grant Junior High cheerleaders. It's not for any sport, of course, but rather for a tobacco-free commercial filmed in the Goodland High School gym on Monday.

Twelve cheerleaders and six other kids will appear in the commercial for the Motivation, Achievement, Success Youth Group and GRACE. The youth group got \$10,000 grants from tobacco lawsuit settlements in 2002 and 2003, and this year, the group and GRACE applied together and received another \$10,000.

The groups have used the grants to pay for commercials, radio spots and newspaper advertising, offered Family Nights to increase parent involvement, provided outreach programs to Kanorado youths, recognized smoke-free restaurants and have sent members to statewide training to help them with "cross-age" teaching to elementary kids.

The youth group has done two other commercials, sponsor Cris Lovington said. The first was a state-

wide commercial filmed in Topeka 2 1/2 years ago company and the second was a bilingual commercial shot last year by KBSL television in Goodland.

When deciding what to do for the latest commercial, Lovington said, the group wanted to include more kids and thought doing the commercial at the school would be a good way to do that.

Lovington talked to Principal Harvey Swager, and members of the clubs distributed flyers at the high school to try to drum up help.

Of the 300 flyers distributed, Lovington said, no one responded, so club members sought out elementary and junior high students.

Junior high cheerleaders Shelby Herl, Hannah Blake, Shayla Matthews, Heather West, Kayla Long, Ashley Heier, Linsey Owens, Sam Erickson, Cassie Cooper, Kiesten Dutton, Erica Fenner and Kathy Wood did the cheer for the commercial.

Youth group members Juan Coyote and Lukius Medrano played the drums and guitar. Crystal Hernandez, Louann Medrano and Olivia Lovington worked behind the scenes to get the commercial ready and were there to see it shot.

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# Tree of Hope remembers pets, loved ones, helps animal shelter

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

The Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter has come up with the perfect way to keep the special animals in your life around for years to come — a personalized ornament on their Tree of Hope.

"All of us have lots of pets that were really special for us," said Sandy Rodgers, a shelter volunteer and board member, "and we thought it was a really great idea."

She said each year for the past five, the shelter sets up a Christmas tree in the foyer of Western State Bank to hold the personalized ornaments.

She said they send out letters and have some fliers near the tree for people to sign up for an ornament. Each letter has a section to put the donor's name and the name of the pet or loved one, animal lovers or just someone special.

The ornaments, made in a bone shape, will be printed with the name. They cost \$5 each, but Rodgers said the group will take larger donations.

"The ornaments are in memory or in honor of a pet or loved one," she said. "I think it's a nice way to honor a companion animal."

The money is used to provide food and medical care for shelter animals. Rodgers said they will use the money to maintain pens and dog houses for the animals, too.

Rodgers said right now they have



Sandy Rodgers, a Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter volunteer and board member, adjusted some of the branches on the Tree of Hope in the foyer of the Western State Bank Tuesday. The tree will soon be dotted with ornaments that help financially support the shelter and memorialize or honor a pet or loved one.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

over 80 animals spread out in foster homes around town.

She said the shelter is a "no kill" facility, meaning they must place the animals to make room for new ones.

"We're not an average animal shelter," she said. "We have some animals in the wings that we can't take in yet."

The all-volunteer board com-

prises nine people who work on fund raisers including bake sales, garage sales, a golf tournament and the tree.

The Tree of Hope was named especially to highlight the spirit of offering hope to animals in the shelter.

"Tree of Hope," Rodgers said, "that's what the shelter is all about...hope."

Each year, she added, she uses the tree to remember her lost pets — Jazmyn, Barclay and Issac the dogs and Scruffy the cat — with an ornament for each.

The bank also let the shelter set up a plaque to honor people who have left donations to the shelter in their will. Rodgers said the plaque was established to honor the mother of a board member and has been adorned with many names since.

Donations for the tree of hope will be taken through Thursday, Dec. 23. She said the ornaments will start to show up on the tree next week and will be up through Christmas. She said they have already gotten a few orders for ornaments, and Tuesday they received a \$100 donation from the Goodland Board of Realtors.

Rodgers said right now they have more dogs, but they want to place cats, too. All of the shelter animals have been spayed or neutered or the shelter asks for a deposit. Anyone who wants to adopt a pet can call 899-6464 and fill out an application.

# Director decides to resign

Sherman County Economic Development will be looking for a new executive director after accepting the resignation of Carolyn Applegate at a special meeting at noon on Thursday.

The special meeting followed over three hours of closed sessions over the past three weeks where the council discussed the performance and contract renewal for Applegate. The most recent special meeting was held Monday at S&T Telephone where the council met behind closed doors with Applegate for about 50 minutes, and then spent an additional 70 minutes in closed session.

At noon Thursday the nine council members went into closed session for 20 minutes, and when the council reopened the meeting Chairman John Garcia announced he had received a letter of resignation from Applegate. Garcia said that after Applegate met with the council on Monday, she elected not to renew her contract for the third year.

Garcia asked for a motion, which was made by Harlan House and seconded by Don Newell. The motion to accept Applegate's resignation was approved unanimously.

The next council meeting is to be 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 21, in the basement at Western State Bank.

# Six winners collect \$50 each

Six people have turned in winning tickets to claim their instant prizes in the Christmas on Us contest bringing the total to seven winners so far.

Tim Lee, Don and Minnie Belle Jones, Delmer West, Lucy Ackerman, Cecil Schneider and George Van Vleet all of Goodland found their winning numbers in Tuesday's Goodland Star-News and collected a \$50 instant prize each in the "Christmas on Us" contest.

There will be \$150 hidden in the paper on Tuesday, and a few people with the right ticket numbers can win a chunk of it. The first three to bring in their winning tickets will collect the instant prize.

The instant winners of \$50 are part of the Goodland merchants' seventh annual "Christmas on Us" promotion, which will spread a total of \$2,500 around to 12 lucky shoppers over this month.

Lee got his ticket at S&T Communications, the Jones's got their ticket



Ackerman



West



Lee



Schneider



Minnie Belle and Don Jones

at McClungs when their daughter bought them a Christmas gift from there. West's ticket came from Kear's Quality Liquor, Ackerman got hers from Garcias Home Fur-

nishing and Appliance and plans to use her winnings on either gas or a present. Schneider got his from the Medical Arts Pharmacy and plans on using it there. It is unknown at this time where Van Vleet got his ticket.

Participating businesses are handing out tickets to customers, and the contest continue until the grand prize drawing at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 11th west of Main. Ticket holders must be present to win the grand prize of

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# City manager's raise finally approved

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

After weeks of indecision, the Goodland City Commission approved a \$1,000 raise for the city manager after a 30-minute closed door session.

Commissioner Jim Mull made a motion to approve a \$1,000 raise effective Oct. 1. Commissioner Dave Daniels seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

"We apologize that we didn't do that at the first meeting," Mayor Rick Billinger said after the vote.

City Manager Ron Pickman was asked to come into the closed session after about 20 minutes, and remained in room until the commission came out and reopened the meeting.

He said he did not know what the commission was going to approve until Mull made the motion.

In October last year, the commission approved a two-year management contract with Pickman which calls for an annual review of the salary.

The contract has an automatic extension clause for an additional two years, unless either party gives notice 90 days prior to the renewal date.

"It is similar to the contract I have had all along," said Pickman who has been the city manager for 11 years. "This one is modeled after the International City Managers Association contract, and

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## Cowboys drop Cougars

Junior Jase Herl tried to get around Burlington's Brian Collins during the third period of the Cowboys' 86-70 win over the Cougars Tuesday in Burlington. The Cowboys continue Topside Tipoff tonight. Story, photo on Page 12.

## inside today

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