

**weather
report**

41°

noon Monday

Today
• Sunset, 5:06 p.m.
Wednesday
• Sunrise, 6:53 a.m.
• Sunset, 5:07 p.m.

Middy Conditions
• Soil temperature 35 degrees
• Humidity 70 percent
• Sky cloudy
• Winds north 8 m.p.h.
• Barometer 30.28 inches
and rising
• Record High today 73° (1963)
• Record Low today -21° (1951)

Last 24 Hours*
High Sunday 32°
Low Sunday 29°
Precipitation none
This month .09
Year to date .09
Normal .42

The Topside Forecast
Today: partly cloudy, high near 45, low near 23, winds north northwest 5-30 mph. Wednesday: partly cloudy, high near 53, low around 23, winds north northwest 15-30 mph.

Extended Forecast
Thursday: mostly sunny, high near 51, low around 23. Friday: mostly sunny, high around 55, low near 25. Saturday: partly cloudy, high near 53, low around 24.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local
markets**

Noon
Wheat — \$2.99 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.08
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$1.76 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.69
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$1.44 bushel
Soybeans — \$4.53 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.78
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millett — \$6 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$11.50 cwt.
NuSun — \$11.60 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Confection — \$19/\$13 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$25
(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



**Cowboys
take league**

Sophomore Brett Bahe won a 12-8 decision over Trevor Richard of St. Francis to win the gold medal at 112 pounds at the Northwest Kansas League tournament held on Saturday in Atwood. Story, photos on Page 11.

Player has many God given talents

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

The black folds in the large accordion open wide exposing its red belly while a rich sound filled the room at the Sherman County Good Samaritan Center in Goodland Thursday.

Accordionist Angie Smith, 27, of Tribune, stretched to pull the heavy instrument apart as she played a variety of songs from popular polkas to her favorite, "The Sound of Music."

Smith, played "My Favorite Things" mentioning that the accordion is among her personal favorite things. She included some hymns in her performances and at the request of her mother, Nancy Ward, has started playing Elvis Presley tunes like "Can't Help Falling In love" and "Love Me Tender."

Residents of the center tapped their toes or clapped along with the music.

The concert ended with a rendition of the Battle Hymn of the Republic, a song Smith said is important to her family. She has been asked to play the song at the funerals of both her grandmother, Joan, and her father, Mark Smith.

"My family just really likes it when I play that," she said.

The unusual free-reed wind instrument with a keyboard and classified as an organ has been a love of Smith's for about 14 years.

Smith said to play the accordion she had to overcome serious medical conditions.

"The doctors said I couldn't play the accordion," she said.

She was born with Hydrocephalus, the abnormal buildup of fluid in the brain, she developed epilepsy when she was one year old and she has been diagnosed with a learning disability. Smith has undergone 13 surgeries for the Hydrocephalus and 12 for the epilepsy.

She said because of the nature of the complicated instrument, there are 120 bass and chord buttons along with the keyboard on most, doctors didn't believe she could learn to play.

"I like it," she said about playing the accordion, "because by God's grace, I've proven people wrong. I can do it."

Smith first got interested in play-

See **PLAYER**, Page 7



Accordionist Angie Smith (above right) played at the Sherman County Good Samaritan Center Friday. Resident Lola Hartley (above) got into the music and clapped along with the songs. Resident Lee Walters (below, middle) celebrated her birthday at the performance along with another resident and her daughter Virginia Bell (left) who works at Wal-Mart with Smith.

Photos by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News



Citizens asked for money to finish park

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Completing Pioneer Park to make it an attractive entrance to the city is the objective of a group of citizens who are trying to raise as much of the \$85,000 shortfall the project is facing.

The Rev. Gene Tromble, a retired Methodist minister and volunteer chairman of the Pioneer Park committee, is working with a group of financial advisors to raise the money to cover the costs of building the park as it is designed.

"It is exciting news that work on

beautiful Pioneer Park may begin as soon as March," Tromble said, "and that news is being received with enthusiasm by citizens of Goodland."

Tromble said he has talked to Jim Wedermeyer, Terry Richardson, Larry McCants, Randy Coleman, Pete Whalen, Dwight Perry and others who have given him ideas and are willing to help raise the money.

"I have been talking to these people and welcome any ideas from citizens about how to raise the money," Tromble said.

He said the advisors have come up

with three suggestions and they are being put into action.

Over 200 Goodland families have received a letter asking for their donation to help build the park.

The service clubs and fraternal organizations will be approached to double the amount of the contributions they may have made in the original fund raising.

Businesses are being contacted, and asked to make a donation where the project could be considered a business expense, Tromble said.

The donations need to be made by Friday, Tromble said, so a report can

be made at the city commission meeting on Monday when they are to consider the options for Pioneer Park.

It took seven years for the plans for Pioneer Park to get to the bid stage, but the city commission was told the lowest bid was about \$85,000 over what was available to complete the project.

The park site is on the west side of Cherry Ave. between Business U.S. 24 and 19th Street. The project was begun in 1998 as a drainage and flood control project, but a citizens group felt it should be an attractive

entrance to the city, and proposed adding a lot of grass, trees, shrubs, sidewalks, a hike and bike trail, a gazebo and decorative lighting to beautify the area and gave it the name of Pioneer Park.

Miller Construction was the low bidder for the construction at \$65,404, but the engineering costs with a maximum of \$75,000 had to be added to bring the total to \$538,904. The city has \$453,916 set aside, leaving a shortage of \$84,989.

Tromble believes there are some

See **PARK**, Page 7

Gym sale moving forward

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

The sale of the Edson gymnasium is moving forward, and the district should have the paperwork in hand soon said Goodland School District Superintendent Marvin Selby.

In a meeting Monday, Jan. 24., Selby said the buyer, Jeff Soper of California, told him last week he would be on vacation. He said Soper planned to sign and mail in the paperwork as soon as he returned.

"He's still very interested," Selby said.

He added Soper is looking forward to moving to Edson since he currently pays \$1,500 per month to rent storage in California. The merchandise Soper buys from abandoned storage units will be moved to the old gym where he plans to run an Internet business and part-time flea market.

"Evidently he has lots of stuff,"

Selby said. "I think we may have the biggest flea market in Kansas."

Soper has bid the \$50,000 asking price from the eBay auction site. He will put \$10,000 into a nonrefundable escrow account to hold the gym and pay the balance June 1.

The school currently uses the gym and will continue to have access through the spring.

Selby said along with expressing an interest in the old Edson school building and land adjacent to the gym, Soper is interested in property to the east of the site. He said the 16 acres have a rental house and used to be an elk farm.

"He's real excited about coming," Selby said.

In other business board members:
• Offered a new contract to Superintendent Selby for next year. He plans to accept the contract under the same terms with a salary to be determined later.

"I'm looking forward to (another year)," he said adding there will be a few new board members he wants to work with.

• Approved next year's school calendar with few changes.

The preliminary version of the calendar was made up by a committee and then given to each school principal. The early version was then made available in the lounge for teachers to comment.

Selby said the calendar has not changed much over the past few years, but a few changes were made.

"It's only a one day difference here or there," he said.

Christmas break will fall roughly the same as it did this school year with students getting out on Wednesday for travel before the holiday. Students will get one week off in March again for spring break

See **GYM**, Page 7

Bigger and better health fair Saturday

What happens to your arteries when you eat food that is bad for you?

Children will have the opportunity to see the results from the inside of an artery at the Sherman County Health Fair from 8-11 a.m. Saturday at the Goodland Activity Center.

Sarah Linton, a registered and licensed dietitian at Goodland Regional Medical Center, will have a model of an artery at the health fair for children to walk through, said Brenda McCants, director of patient relations at the hospital.

Children can climb through and see what happens if you eat good food or bad, McCants said;

the hospital is emphasizing the importance of children being at the health fair.

There will be information on diabetes, she said, and three doctors, Travis Daise, David Younger and Moe Shafei will be there. The health fair is expected to be even bigger than last year, McCants said; more vendors signed up, and the hospital did more blood profiles this year than last.

The hospital did 386 blood profiles before the fair last year, she said, adding that about 480 were done this year. There are about 30 vendors signed up, Activity Center Director Steve Jimenez said,

See **FAIR**, Page 7