

weather
report

59°

noon Monday

Today

• Sunset, 5:22 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:38 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:23 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 40 degrees
• Humidity 27 percent
• Sky cloudy

• Winds southeast 8 mph.

• Barometer 29.79 inches

and falling

• Record High today 68° (1947)

• Record Low today -8° (1936)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 59°

Low Sunday 27°

Precipitation none

This month .19

Year to date .28

Normal .56

The Topside Forecast

Today: mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow with an accumulation of less than one inch, high around 31, low near 18, winds east 10-14 mph. Wednesday: mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow, high around 34, low around 17, winds north northwest 5-7 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: partly cloudy. Friday and Saturday: slight chance of snow or rain.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.08 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.08

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$1.79 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.75

Loan deficiency pmt. — 20¢

Milo — \$1.46 bushel

Soybeans — \$4.65 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.84

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$6 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$10.60 cwt.

NuSun — \$10.70 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



Overtime
win for boys

Although senior Lane Winter (No. 21) lost the tipoff to Oakley's Chad Baalman, it was the Cowboys who scored first on their way to a 72-67 overtime win over the Plainsmen on Friday in Oakley. Photos, story on Page 9a.

Officers help kids ride safely

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Kansas Highway Patrol troopers joined forces with the Goodland Police and the Sherman County Sheriff's Department on Saturday to show parents how to keep their kids a little safer in the car.

Cars lined up for a car seat "check lane" between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at Lonny's Quality Auto Body, marking Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week. Specially trained officers checked out kids' seats.

The officers inspected the seats for cracks or defects and asked owners if the seats had ever been in an accident. The seats were checked for year of manufacture and compared against a recall list.

One of the big things was to show parents how to strap the seats in right, so kids would be safe. Goodland Officer Bob Juleson said about 75 percent of the seats were not installed properly.

Kary Amos, another Goodland officer, said most people have the seat in the right position, but the straps are too loose, or the straps will be right but and the seat is not set up right.

He said officers like seats with a five-point harness that doesn't have a bar or other obstructions. For younger children, he said, the seats are safer if installed facing to the rear.

The Highway Patrol officers hold the check lanes for the Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week, said Tod Hileman, public resource officer for the patrol in Hays. He said through the nationwide program, the Highway Patrol tries to raise awareness for child safety. He said



Emily Smith, 5, (above) waited as Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Joe Greene leaned over to check car seat Saturday at a "check lane" at Lonny's Quality Auto Body. Goodland Police officer Rob Juleson demonstrated to Katie and Stan Bulinski how to properly strap in their 15-month-old daughter Aurora (right). Goodland officers went through 32 hours of training with the patrol to learn to become an installer.

Photos by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

they use the check lanes and sometimes even issue more tickets to get people more active in keeping kids safe.

Officers handed out "Click It or

Ticket" ice scrapers and had a few new seats on hand to replace any that they determine are dangerous.

Hileman said officers installed a total of 12 seats Saturday.



Beef, ethanol highlight Ag Expo Thursday

The second annual "Rally for Beef" will highlight the 14th annual High Plains Ag Expo starting at 8 a.m. Thursday at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The expo is sponsored by KLOE, KKCI and KWGB Radio in Goodland, the National Sunflower Association and Western Plains Energy of Campus.

Station manager Marty Melia said Congressman Jerry Moran has been invited to speak, but he had not confirmed by Friday.

Melia said the theme of the expo

this year is ethanol and its importance to agriculture. Master of ceremonies will be Greg Akagi of the Kansas Farm Network.

Melia said there would be exhibits and speakers on ethanol, a grain alcohol which is blended with gasoline to make motor fuel. Mike Erhart, general manager of Western Plains Energy, a new alcohol plant east of Oakley, will talk about the construction of the plant, its operation and the impact of ethanol on the farm economy.

Other speakers will include Mike Irvin, a lawyer from Goodland now with the Kansas Farm Bureau, talking about agriculture law issues. Melia said there will be a livestock industry person — exactly who has not been confirmed — to talk about the new identification program and other livestock issues.

The Rally for Beef promotion will stress that American beef is safe and good to eat. A free hamburger lunch sponsored by cattlemen from northwest Kansas and eastern Colorado

start at noon on the exhibit floor in Max Jones.

There will be a special presentation during the rally by "the Cowboy," Ron Schilling of Edson.

Nearly 40 agribusinesses will have displays set up to show off some of the latest developments in services and technology, including Shay Realty, Northwest Outback Guidance, Goodland Greenline, Topliff Seeds, Triumph Seeds, World Info Network, Farm Credit, Mueller Grain, Western State Bank,

Sigco-Sun, Servitech, Cornerstone Energy, Frontier Equity Co-op, E-Hedger, Sherman County Farm Bureau, Sherman County Soil Conservation, Sherman County Extension, Eagle Cable TV, Colorado Soy, Westward Products, Eastern Colorado Seeds, Hitchcock, First National Bank, Northern Sun, Kansas Wheat Commission, Fontanelle Seeds, Northwest Kansas Technical College, the Kansas Cattlemen's Association, Cochran Farm Supply and Mycogen Seeds.

Candidates: Enrollment, money major school issues

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Candidates elected to the Goodland School Board will go into office facing challenges due to the district's declining enrollment and an uncertain future as school districts, legislators and the counts fight over school finance.

The state's school finance formula, which determines how much money each district gets, has been declared unconstitutional by the state Supreme Court, which gave the Legislature until April 12 to make changes.

"It's hard to ask a question about (the funding formula)," candidate Greg Stover said, "without involving some expert who needs several days to come up with an answer, and more than likely has to check with a lawyer before giving it."

Other candidates agree, saying the rules are complicated and would take time to study.

"I'm not really familiar with it," said LeAnn Friedrichs. "That's an area where I would have to educate

School board candidates a varied lot

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Eight people — a veterinarian, a housewife, a court clerk, a sports writer, a deputy sheriff, a pastor, a farmer and a business owner — walked into the courthouse last month and signed up to run for three seats on the Goodland School Board.

The candidates

Current board member **Dick Short**, stock holder and president of Short and Son truck lines and Century Feeders, is the only candidate seeking re-election to one of the three school board seats up for grabs.

Short has been on the school board since 1982.

He has experience with schools, since he was a math and business teacher in the high school from 1969 to 1973. All three of his children, Amy Hofer of Garden City, Angie and her husband Ben Labertew of Natoma, and Andy of Sublette, are teachers, and his wife, Sarah, teaches family and consumer science at the high school.

"I'm running because I care about kids," he said. "Education is just really important to me."

See **IEWS**, Page 8a

myself."

She added the complicated issue is critical to schools and the board will be forced to make the best of the legislature's decision.

The Rev. Chad DeJong said although he knows the funding issue is important to Goodland, he would spend more time studying the problem before making any moves.

Stover added the district will have to make the best of the state formula for now. He said the issues seem more political than concerned with education.

"It's an issue," said Dr. Gary Smith. "Any rural area is gonna be concerned with that."

He said legislators from this area are trying their best to keep funds

equal, but the district has to work with what it gets.

"We'll try to finance and budget accordingly," he said.

Veteran board member Dick Short said the district has been concerned about the formula and the board is hoping for a change.

"It's a big concern where we're gonna be," Short said. "The lawsuit

says they need to change the formula."

He said he expects to see more money come into Goodland schools, but fears declining enrollment will make it harder for the district to make ends meet.

"There's got to be a way for Goodland to get a better shake," Jason Showalter said, adding he doesn't want to raise taxes.

Andrew House said we will have to wait, but he expects the legislature to make changes.

"We just have to deal with what we have," he said. "It's gonna have to change over a period of time."

Amy Sederstrom said she fears bigger schools in eastern Kansas are pushing smaller schools toward consolidation. She plans to work against letting the minority of smaller schools lose freedoms to the bigger districts.

"The budgets are tight," she said. "We're just going to have to do the best with the money that's out there."

See **SCHOOL**, Page 8a

Gym sale contract, money in hand

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland School District is one step closer to selling the old Edson school gymnasium, as Superintendent Marvin Selby received a signed contract last week with a check for \$10,000.

The sale came from Jeff Soper of California, who has been talking with Selby for weeks about the deal. The district has been trying to sell the gym for more than two years.

Soper wants to use the building for his Internet business selling goods from abandoned storage units. He will use the gym for storage and open it up as a permanent flea market in the summer.

"We're excited about this gentleman," Selby said.

The building went for \$50,000 and Soper sent \$10,000 for the school to hold in an escrow account. Selby said the balance is due June 1, allowing the school to use the gym

through spring.

Soper is still interested, Selby said, in buying roughly eight acres of adjoining land owned by Melvin Musil where the old Edson school, the football field and bus barn are still standing. Selby said although he wants the land, Soper will wait to make a deal after he gets here.

"He's just got lots of ideas," Selby said. "I think he'll enjoy being here

See **GYM**, Page 8a

Town meetings Saturday

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Sen. Jim Morrison will be at Hank's cafe from 7-8 a.m. on Saturday to visit with taxpayers and hear ideas on issues in the Legislature.

The two will begin their day in Goodland and then travel to Colby for a session at 9:45 a.m. at the Quality Inn. They will be in Hoxie at 11:30 a.m. at Trish's

Steak House, Hill City at 1:30 p.m. at the Catholic Church, and finish the day in Plainville at 3 p.m. at the Dog House.

The men will have information on issues facing the Legislature, including school finance, and be ready to talk about the impact on all of us.

Everyone is invited to the sessions.