

weather report

52°

noon Thursday

Today

•Sunset, 5:26 p.m.

Saturday

•Sunrise, 6:34 a.m.

•Sunset, 5:27 p.m.

Midday Conditions

•Soil temperature 36 degrees

•Humidity 29 percent

•Sky clear

•Winds light and variable

•Barometer 30.15 inches

and falling

•Record High today 74° (1986)

•Record Low today -6° (1942)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 32°

Low Wednesday 21°

Precipitation 0.04

This month 0.23

Year to date 0.32

Normal 0.60

The Topside Forecast

Today: partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain, high near 42, low near 33. Saturday: mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain, high near 50, low near 33.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy, high near 58, low near 32. Monday: mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain or snow, high near 41, low near 22.

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

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.00 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.02

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$1.79 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.79

Loan deficiency pmt. — 00¢

Milo — \$1.51 bushel

Soybeans — \$4.93 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.89

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$10.20 cwt.

NuSun — \$10.20

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



Regionals begin today

Junior Mark Starr tied up Oakley's Aaron Racette on his way to a 2-1 decision at 215 pounds last Friday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The Cowboys will be in Colby today and Saturday for the regional tournament. Photos, story on Page 11.

Wind towers to generate power

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

As the towers go up and the blades get moving, Sherman County will get its first wind farm.

Mark Justus, managing partner of ReNewable Energy Resources, said the company had staked out a five-acre spot about 10 miles southwest of Goodland off of County Road 10 to put the farm.

He said the firms plans ten 150-foot-tall wind towers to form a six-megawatt-per-hour wind farm which will be hooked into the Midwest Energy power grid.

Justus said the average home uses about one kilowatt per hour, meaning the farm could power 6,000 homes.

The site was picked because of its proximity to a power line, he said, making it easy for the power to be fed into the system.

Midwest has lines throughout Kansas, but Goodland's power is fed through Sunflower Electric Power Corp. Justus said the power will be placed on a grid, or put on lines that

feed into the power company, and then used as needed by Midwest subscribers in Kansas and surrounding areas.

Justus said area farmers are investing in the wind operation. Although they will not use the power immediately, he said, the farmer-investors and part owners eventually will use the wind energy to power irrigation pumps.

"In a way," he said, "this is being done as a future project for irrigators."

When they do start using the wind towers, he said, they will pump water through the summer with the energy. In the winter, the power generated will be sold to Midwest.

"It will help offset irrigation costs," he said.

Justus said ReNewable Energy will break ground near the end of April, depending on the weather, and the project should be completed within 80 days.

The company has been researching the area since July, he said, and has found that the area has ideal conditions for a wind farm.

"Kansas has an extremely consistent wind

source," he said. "I'm surprised there's not more wind farms out there now."

The wind, he said, is not very heavy, but is consistent enough to create enough power for the farms.

"It all comes down to Mother Nature," he said.

He said the firm is putting wind farms in near Cheyenne Wells and Sterling, Colo. Justus said the company approaches the concept on a smaller scale. Its biggest one, with around 80 towers near Cheyenne Wells, will produce around 50 megawatts of power.

To put in wind farms, Justus said, you have to gain "qualifying facility status" from the federal government Federal Energy Regulation Commission. He said ReNewable has gained that mark for all locations. Justus said they get incentives that vary from state to state for adding renewable energy sources to other energy generation and they get tax breaks federally.

The company creates energy they sell to power companies. Their Kansas plants use

wood fire, coal fire and gas for energy and the company's wind farms only generate two to three percent of the all their power.

"We've been involved in power generation for 25 years," he said.

ReNewable will be opening an office in Goodland, Justus said. Employees will provide counseling to people interested in setting up wind generators to run irrigation pumps or even energy for their homes.

"There's a strong interest," Justus said. "It's worthwhile to have an office there."

The wind towers installed here will be placed in a line extending east west to catch wind from the north and from the south. Justus said the 150-foot towers will be fitted with 55-foot blades.

This renewable energy source, Justus said, only takes around 10 hours per year of maintenance. He said since the nearest house is a quarter of a mile away, the wind farm shouldn't affect anyone.

"You won't even notice they're there," he promised.

Dig yields evidence of ancient people

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Findings from archeologists' digs in Sherman County are getting national attention, as bones and a rock fragment found near Kanorado are believed to prove that humans were in the area 12,200 years ago.

Another dig is planned for June, and archaeologists are concerned about protecting the site in the meantime. Dr. Rolfe Mandel, an archaeological geologist with the Kansas Geological Survey, said he is worried that attention could stir curiosity, leading people who know nothing about archaeology to tear through the site.

And there has been some misunderstanding as to what the men with picks and shovels are looking for. They are looking for evidence that people were there, Mandel said, such as stone tools, but do not expect to find human remains.

Mandel, archaeologist Steven Holen of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and archaeologist Jack Hofman of the University of Kansas anthropology department have conducted research on bones and a rock fragment discovered last summer in Sherman County.

Bones from at least two mam-

moths and at least one extinct camel were found, Mandel said, along with a flake of basalt believed to be from a stone hammer. These were six to eight feet below the surface, he said.

The research suggests the bones were flaked by a hammer, Mandel said, but it is not irrefutable. Evidence suggests, he said, that the fragment was not a natural occurrence.

Dated by carbon-14 methods at 12,200 years old, Mandel said, the bones would be the oldest evidence of humans on the Great Plains if it were proven they were broken by humans.

The finds include bones from a now-extinct Ice Age camel and two mammoths.

"Fracture patterns on the bones suggest they were broken by humans who may have been processing them for marrow or to make bone tools," said Holen. "The radiocarbon dating shows that these finds are a thousand years older than the best documented evidence of humans on the Great Plains."

"This location has the potential for shedding new light on the timing of human entry into the Western

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Declining population, streets, sewers top city issues

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Major issues facing the City of Goodland, candidates for the City Commission say, include a declining population, the need to rebuild sewer and water lines and streets and alleys, and trying to attract new jobs and people.

The issues have brought out eight candidates for three seats on the commission. That forced a primary on Tuesday, March 1, to cut the field down to six.

Of the eight city candidates, John Garcia, owner of Garcia's Home Furnishing and Appliance, is the only incumbent seeking to be re-elected, having served two years.

There are eight candidates running for three seats on the Goodland School Board and four running for Kanorado mayor. Primary voting for all offices will be at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall in Goodland, with no polling place in Kanorado.

Voters may choose three candidates in the city and school board elections and one for Kanorado mayor. The top six candidates for city and school board and the top two for mayor will advance to the general election on Tuesday, April 5.

"A major issue facing the city is progress," said Josh Dechant, an ag loan officer at Bankwest. "I believe we can redevelop our streets, sewer and water lines, and by starting at this level, the bottom up, our city will grow, causing a domino effect. "With this development it will bring in new business, thus bringing in more families to run those businesses, in turn bringing more money



Dechant



Fairbanks



Farris



Garcia



Golden



Miller



Walker



Wood

to our community."

"Goodland is a charming community in which to work, live and raise a family," said Annette Fairbanks, owner of Teeters Abstract and Title Co., "but in order to flourish, Goodland needs to attract new business and industry.

"We can accomplish this by preserving and protecting the city infrastructure, working on long-range plans, setting attainable goals and promoting northwest Kansas."

"The major issue is declining population," said Gary Farris, owner of Farris Manufacturing. "We've got to have something to keep the people here. The kids are leaving. The farm economy is not good enough to support all the communities."

"Streets and alley improvements and curb and guttering on Main," are

among the top issues, Garcia said, "and we have sewer plant issues.

"I feel those are some of the major issues facing the city and there are other things where the city and county have to be on board together and representing the citizens in the best way possible."

"Infrastructure is something we need to pay attention to," said John Golden, owner of Golden Wheat Ranch, "and keep in mind that much of it was put into place many years ago. While I was on the commission before, there were three water projects that replaced about 40 percent of the existing lines.

"When outside money is available, we need to see that sufficient funds are available to take advantage of this. I am speaking about water, sewer, streets, fire and police."

Eight candidates vie for city commission seats

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Seven men and one woman are vying to advance to the general election in April for the three seats open on the City Commission. Two of them will be eliminated in the primary on Tuesday, March 1.

Annette Fairbanks — the one woman in the field said, "As a resident I care about the City of Goodland. My husband Jerry and I work here, own our home, have raised

our children and been actively involved in school and community for the past 27 years. I know the challenges and rewards of living and working in a small town. I feel Goodland is at a crossroads and needs strong, positive leadership to send it forward. I believe I am one of those leaders."

She was born and raised in Kansas City but has lived in

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"We need to keep the cost of living as affordable as possible," said Mike Miller, owner of Miller Construction. "I feel that economic development needs to be an ongoing process in some form. I feel the declining population is a big issue facing not only the city but the schools and the county."

"Economic development should be our main effort," said Brent Wood, a financial advisor with Sun America Securities, "and as a part of that, we need not only to focus on bringing business to Goodland, but to help the businesses that are existing to stay here and to expand if possible."

Dave Walker, who moved to Goodland from California and works at the Kit Carson Correctional Facility, said the big issue facing the city is "an unwillingness to

recognize the facts that are destroying the city."

"Taxes are too high," he said, "and the commission is unable to establish realistic priorities. We need things more important than a park, like water treatment and to fix the streets. We need to set priorities necessary for the success of the city. We have unrealistic tax rates that are killing us.

"I left California to get away from the madness. I believe this is a good place to live, and in contrast to Denver, we do not have the crime, and outside of the taxes, a good cost of living.

"I believe the city commission is willing to secede responsibility to the city manager. I have nothing against Ron Pickman and feel he

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