

weather report

46°

noon Thursday

Today
•Sunset, 5:34 p.m.

Friday
•Sunrise, 6:24 a.m.
•Sunset, 5:35 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 39 degrees
- Humidity 28 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds northwest 12 mph.
- Barometer 30.19 inches and falling

- Record High today 75° (1989)
- Record Low today -19° (1960)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	38°
Low Wednesday	23°
Precipitation	none
This month	.25
Year to date	.34
Normal	.74

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny, high around 57, low near 25, winds northwest 5-8 mph. becoming south. Saturday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain after midnight, high around 55, low around 30, winds south southwest 7-17 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Partly cloudy and breezy with a 30 percent chance of rain or snow after noon, high around 46, low around 18. Monday: Partly cloudy, high near 40.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.20 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.23
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$1.86 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.88
Loan deficiency pmt. — 7¢
Milo — \$1.58 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.18 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.28
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$10.35 cwt.
NuSun — \$10.45 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 beat Broncs

Senior David Livengood (No. 23) looks for an opening around a Lakin defender as the Cowboys' took a 70-50 road win over the Broncs Tuesday. The Cowboys will host the Pratt Greenbacks at 5 p.m. Monday. Story, photos on Page 12.

City contracts for wind power

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Wind power generated from a wind farm near the city could be producing power by September, and Wednesday the city commission approved a contract to purchase that power for the next 20 years.

Mark Justus, of Renewable Energy Resources, along with his attorney Mike Foust of Goodland, explained the contract at the regular commission meeting on Tuesday, but because commissioners Rick Billinger and Jim Mull were absent the contract was tabled until noon

Wednesday when they could be present.

"This will produce a 15th of what we use in a year," Commissioner Mull said Wednesday. "I haven't seen my natural gas rates go down. I think this is a no-brainer. If they produce we buy it, if they don't produce we don't buy. Besides there is no cost to the city except to buy the power."

Mull made the motion to approve the electric sales agreement and it passed unanimously, 5-0.

Justus told the commission the plan is to build a wind farm on a site south of I-70 and about a mile west

of the city to exclusively produce power to be sold to the city.

He said the wind farm will have a minimum of five towers which could produce up to three megawatts, and the towers could be expanded to 10 towers with the agreement of the city and his company. The contract calls for the city to purchase all the power generated from the wind farm with the expectation it will produce about one megawatt on a daily average.

The company will build the wind farm and pay for the lines to connect with the city's incoming line. There is no cost to the city other than paying for the power generated by the wind farm Justus said.

Justus said he has been conduct-

ing wind studies in Sherman County since July, and has been talking to the city for several months about a way to build a small wind farm to provide power to supplement the power the city buys from Sunflower Electric of Holcomb.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the staff feels it is a good deal, and that the price of the wind power would be lower than what the city is purchasing from Sunflower.

The sales contract locks the price in at \$.04112 per kilowatt for the first five years and at \$.045 per kilowatt for the remaining 15 years. Based on buying one megawatt the city would pay \$360,000 a year for the first five years and \$394,000 for the next 15 years.

Billinger asked Rod Blake the city power plant superintendent how that compares with what the city is paying Sunflower.

Blake said the city pays Sunflower \$31.57 for the first four megawatts (firm power) under an existing contract, and pays the monthly market rate (non-firm power) for anything over that. In January Blake said the non-firm price was \$48 per megawatt.

He said the Sunflower contract is on a year-to-year basis and is up for renewal in May when he expects the price for the firm power to increase to between \$42-\$48 per megawatt.

Blake said the wind power could

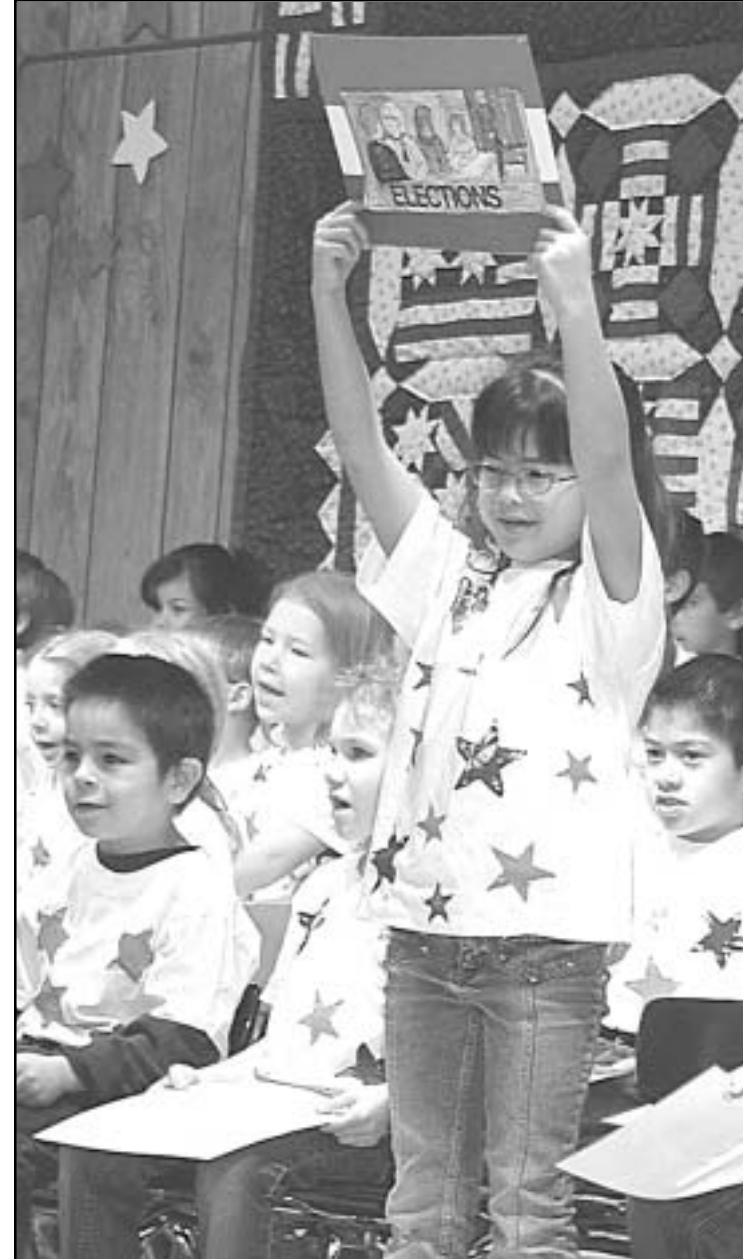
See WIND, Page 7

Patriotic program explains freedoms



Patricia Ledesma (from left), Raquel Tomsic, Nicole Sederstrom and Ryleigh Paxton crossed their hearts to start the West Elementary patriotic program off with the pledge of allegiance. Sarah Johnson held up a sign representing freedom for elections at the program, Thursday, Feb. 17. The program had a "We the People" theme and featured tributes to America with songs about our freedoms. The program was emceed by first grade teacher Pat Thompson and featured a guest appearance of George Washington played by music teacher Linda Lucas.

Photos by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News



Four face off to become Kanorado mayor

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

If Kanorado voters like to have choices, this is their year.

In years past, there have only been one or two candidates for mayor, but this year's race features four contenders.

The top two after the Tuesday, March 1, primary will go on to compete for the April 5 city general election.

Running for mayor are the incumbent, Robert E. Helderman, elevator superintendent at the Kanorado Co-op; Dennis Korbeklik, a retired farmer and business owner; Bob Handle, who has a small business selling ice; and Gerald R. Webber, a retired detention officer who works nights at Wal-Mart.

Kanorado has a five-person city council that meets the first Monday



Handle



Korbeklik



Webber

what the council wants gets done, fields citizen complaints and keeps order, adding that the council makes the decisions.

Concerning economic development, the mayor said his main goal is to clean the town up, getting rid of a lot of old junk cars and debris. They need to bring property values up, he said, and get the city's tax base back to what it should be.

Also, he said, if the city is cleaned up, people will want to live in Kanorado. If junk is left around, he said, that will attract "riff raff."

If the city is cleaned up, he said, people will understand there are or-

finances and they will be carried out. After the clean up, he said, the second step will be development.

Helderman said in the eight months he has served, he has made it a point to be fair and honest with everyone, to work with those who come in with complaints and to do what he can within the budget, setting priorities.

He said he can't promise to lower taxes or water rates.

"They will probably go up," he said. "Anytime you move forward, there are compromises."

Helderman said he doesn't want the city to sit still, but to move ahead, make some progress, but that depends on the people.

The future depends on the people, he said; all the council members and mayors can't do anything if the people aren't willing to compromise

and work together.

Helderman has been in Kanorado 40 years and has been the elevator superintendent for 30. His wife Penny is the supervisor at the Kansas Highway Patrol port of entry and has worked there for 25 years. They have two grown children, Montana McCuailey of Yuma, Colo., and Blake Helderman of Goodland.

Handle — He said he is interested in Kanorado and wants to see growth.

"If I'm mayor," Handle said, "I'm planning to go east and try to get businesses to move here."

Handle said he would plan to talk to a place in Hays that shreds tires and other businesses to try to find someone who would like to expand.

"I'd give them a tax break of

See MAYOR, Page 8

Businessmen host farmers for annual banquet

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

City businessmen are taking farmers out for dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at the Goodland Veterans of Foreign War hall for the 16th Annual Farm City Banquet.

"Basically it's just to pay tribute to our businesses and farmers of Sherman County," said Debbie Reed, banquet chairman this year.

Reed said this year the city is taking the farmers out to a prime rib dinner followed by awards and en-

tertainment.

"We are excited about it," she said, "looking forward to it."

She said businesses or individuals invite the farmers to dinner and pay for the meal.

The prime rib will be served by the 4-H Junior Leaders and entertainment will be provided by the Right Combination Dance Studio run by Jessica Kennedy.

The dance studio will provide babysitting at the Goodland Activities Center after the performance.

The dinner is not only to bring the farm and the city together, but the city has chosen a farmer of the year for the event. Reed said the committee had trouble deciding who to choose as farmer of the year because of the quality of applicants and eventually had to draw a name out of a hat.

"We have a lot of good farmers," she said.

Last year's businessman of the year, Wade Barnett, retired businessman, will present the farmer of

the year with a plaque this year.

The banquet will start with a welcome and then a flag presentation by the Junior Leaders. Reed said they want to enlist a trumpet player to perform the "Star Spangled Banner." The banquet will continue with an invocation before the guests line up for dinner. She said they will recognize guests and thank the sponsors next.

Although they are still in search of a master of ceremonies, she said, the chosen speaker will award the

farmer of the year and introduce the dance studio for the performance.

The decor will include wheat and dried flower centerpieces tied with rust colored ribbon made by Serendipity, she said. The tables will have a stripe of raffia down the center, too.

The banquet has been put on through a banquet board, including members Jon Yost, Yost Farm Supply; Joshua Dechant, Bankwest; and Jackie Drennan, Eklund's First In-

See BANQUET, Page 8