

## weather report

**61°**

noon Thursday



### Today

•Sunset, 5:41 p.m.

### Saturday

•Sunrise, 6:14 a.m.

•Sunset, 5:42 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 42 degrees
- Humidity 15 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds northwest 10-16 mph.
- Barometer 29.99 inches and falling

- Record High today 80° (1921)
- Record Low today -15° (1960)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday	60°
Low Wednesday	27°
Precipitation	none
This month	none
Year to date	.93

### The Topside Forecast

Today: partly cloudy, high near 62, low near 28, winds north northwest 10. Saturday: partly cloudy, high around 58, low around 28, winds northwest 10-13 mph.

### Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy, high around 62, low around 28. Monday: partly cloudy, high around 54, low near 25. Tuesday: mostly sunny and breezy, high around 53, low around 26. Wednesday: partly cloudy and breezy, high 54.

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

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$3.25 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.24  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Corn — \$1.90 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.93  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 2¢  
Milo — \$1.62 bushel  
Soybeans — \$5.46 bushel  
Posted county price — \$5.64  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Millet — \$5.25 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$10.90 cwt.  
NuSun — \$11 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



## Cats featured in musical

Fionna Cruz played one of the cats in the Central Elementary third grade music program "Sing for Unity" at 7 p.m. last Tuesday, Feb. 22, at the high school auditorium. Story, photos on Page 3a.

# City gives company final notice

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

City officials moved Thursday to force Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp. out of the Wolak building and make way for an auto parts firm from Hays that wants to expand here.

The city commission voted at a special meeting at noon to cancel the Aircraft Seal and Gasket lease because the company allegedly has failed to hire the promised number of employees.

City Manager Ron Pickman said a commissioner had asked for the meeting because the California-based aircraft parts company has failed after more than a year to hire the 15 employees stipulated in its lease.

The commission voted unanimously to exercise an option in the lease which gives Aircraft Seal and

Gasket 30 days to prove it has 15 people working full-time at the facility. Otherwise the lease will be canceled.

Commissioner John Garcia, owner of Garcia's Home Furnishing and a member of the county Economic Development Council, requested the special meeting.

The commission discussed the gasket company's lease of the building in October, after officials discovered the insurance had not been paid. The city gave the company until December to have things in order.

In December, Roy Dixon, operations manager for the firm, told the commission the company had hired two people and had begun production.

Dixon said the company planned to hire three more people in January,

when new equipment became operational. After they had been trained, three more were to be hired in February or March. He said there were plans to hire three more in May, but anything beyond that would depend on production needs.

To date, Pickman said, there is no evidence that any more people have been hired. The doors on the plant are always locked, and a sign says that prior permission must be requested to enter the building because the production is classified work for the Department of Defense.

Most days there have been one or two cars parked in front of the building, and there have been some when there were no cars and no lights on.

The city got a \$200,000 economic development loan for Aircraft Seal and Gasket through the state Depart-

ment of Commerce. Pickman said he had talked with state officials and was told that during a recent inspection, there was no evidence that equipment was being brought into production or that more people had been hired.

Aircraft Seal got a \$50,000 training grant from the Department of Commerce in August to train up to 44 employees, with the training to be done in Goodland.

Dixon told the city commissioners the training would begin at the end of October, and at that time the first two employees for Goodland were hired. Employees from Wichita were to travel to Goodland for some training as well, Dixon said.

There has been some suggestion that if Aircraft Seal and Gasket cannot meet the terms of the lease, there

might be another company willing to move in.

Commissioner Garcia and Pickman were two of seven people from Goodland who traveled to Hays on Tuesday to meet with officials of a company looking to expand its production. They discussed the possibility of using the Wolak building.

Garcia said Thursday that he has been working with the Hays company for over a month, and that the groundwork has been laid for them to expand to Goodland.

"I think this will be a great shot in the arm for the community," Garcia said.

He said details about the company and the proposal should be released soon, but that the company was ready to begin production this

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# Meth numbers stay high

By Kathryn Burke

*The Goodland Star-News*

Claims by state officials last month that the number of methamphetamine labs found in the state had gone down turned out not to be true, and police in Sherman County says they are still fighting a drug problem here.

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation claimed that the number of labs found across the state had dropped from 649 in 2003 to 583 last year. Reporters for *The Hutchinson News* found that 32 counties simply hadn't bothered to report their meth lab seizures, however. So much for optimism.

The number of unreported cases bumped Kansas back into the top 10 nationally in labs seized, a spot the KBI hoped to give up.

Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts said regardless of the statewide numbers, methamphetamines are a big problem here.

"I do believe meth is a widespread problem in our communities," he said, adding that ingredients for the drug are easy to find.

"It's so easy to make," he said.

The state Senate voting unanimously last month to pass a bill to put strict controls on the sale of cold pills used to make methamphetamines.

The bill has been named the Sheriff Matt Samuels Chemical Control Act in honor of the Greenwood County sheriff killed earlier this year in an attempt to serve warrants at a suspected meth lab.

This would affect only the tablet form of pills containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, making them a controlled substance to be sold only at pharmacies. Today, the drugs, known most commonly by the

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## Go Cowgirls!



Senior Whitney Carmichael (No. 15), sophomore Emily Murray (No. 31) and sophomore Dani Bedore (right) formed a barrier to disrupt a Russell inbound pass during the Cowgirls' 60-50 win over the Lady Broncos on Monday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The

Cowgirls are in Larned today to face the Pratt Lady Greenbacks in the semifinals of the substate tournament, and could face the Colby Lady Eagles in the championship on Saturday. Story, photo on Page 10a.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

# Races set for general election April 5

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

The field for city commission, school board and Kanorado mayor was thinned down in Tuesday's primary, setting up contests for the general election on Tuesday, April 5.

A total of 1240 voters — 30 percent of those registered — turned out Tuesday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, which is where the general election voting will be held as well.

### City Commission

In the Goodland City Commission race, where there are three seats open, the top position in the primary went to Joshua Dechant with 458 votes. Annette Fairbanks was second with 444 and John Garcia was third with 432.

Fourth was Gary Farris 407, fifth

Brent Wood 262 and sixth John Golden 222.

These five men and one woman will be on the general election ballot, with the top three to be elected. In the general election, the two getting the highest votes will serve four year-terms and the person who finishes in third will have a two-year term. Under the city charter this provision means there will always be three seats up for election every two years.

The two candidates who do not advance were David Walker, with 208 votes, and Mike Miller, 152.

Fairbanks, the only woman in the city race, is the owner of Teeters Abstract and Title Co. Dechant is an ag loan officer at Bankwest. Farris owns Farris Manufacturing. Garcia, the only incumbent, owns Garcia's

Home Furnishings. John Golden operates Golden Wheat Ranch, and Wood is a financial consultant with Sun America.

### Goodland School Board

The top vote-getter in the Goodland School District primary was Amy Sederstrom with 702 votes. Second was LeAnn Friedrichs with 616, while veteran board member Dick Short was third with 547 votes.

In fourth was Andrew House with 464, fifth Dr. Gary Smith at 361, and sixth Jason Showalter, 278.

There are three seats open on the school board and the top six names will be on the general election ballot, where the top three candidates will win four-year terms.

The two candidates who will not advance are the Rev. Chad DeJong, 205, votes and Greg Stover, 66.

Short is president of Short and Son truck lines and Century Feeders. Sederstrom is a housewife, farmer and part-time office manager at Truck and Tractor Repair. Smith, a veterinarian, operates Prairieland Animal clinic. Friedrichs is a deputy court clerk; Showalter, a deputy sheriff; and House is a farmer.

### Kanorado mayor, council

In the race for Kanorado mayor, incumbent Robert Helderman was on top with 37 votes while Gerald Webber was second with 12 votes. They will face off in the general election.

Eliminated were Bob Handle, third with 7 votes, and Dennis Korbek, fourth with 5 votes.

There was no primary for three

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# Fourth grader wins district spelling bee

By Kathryn Burke

*The Goodland Star-News*

Fourth grader Dane Frazier didn't miss a letter Wednesday, Feb. 23, as he beat out 10 contestants at the District Spelling Bee, held in the high school auditorium.

Starting with V-I-E-W-P-O-I-N-T, Frazier went on to correctly spell I-L-L-E-G-A-L, A-B-O-L-I-S-H and S-E-N-S-I-T-I-V-E before moving on to the final round.

He faced off in the finals against the Grant Junior High winner, eighth grader Brad Geist, son of Gene and Paula Geist, who had a challenging bunch of words starting with O-R-P-H-A-N, N-U-G-G-E-T, C-O-N-T-R-A-C-T, J-U-N-G-L-E and T-H-E-S-A-U-R-U-S.

In the final rounds, Frazier, son of Bill and Mary Frazier, started by spelling P-E-R-E-N-N-I-A-L. Next, Geist was given the word "elegance" but slipped up, replacing the second "e" with an "i." Frazier stepped up and spelled E-L-E-G-A-N-C-E before reaching into the can to draw the winning word, J-U-X-T-A-P-O-S-I-T-I-O-N.

He will have his name added to a plaque of district champions hanging in North Elementary that already features his brother Taylor, now a sophomore in high school, for winning in both sixth and eighth grade. He will go on to state spelling bee on Saturday, March 26, in Topeka.

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Dane Frazier, district Spelling Bee champion, pulled the winning word from a can last Wednesday and handed it to Kevin Winston, the pronouncer for the competition, while Grant Junior High Principal Jim Mull watched.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News