

weather report

51°

noon Monday



Today

- Sunset, 5:45 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 6:08 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:46 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 48 degrees
- Humidity 27 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds northwest 28-40 mph
- Barometer 29.99 inches and rising

- Record High today 83° (1989)
- Record Low today -4° (1932)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	69°
Low Sunday	33°
Precipitation	none
This month	none
Year to date	.34
Normal	1.07

The Topside Forecast

Today: partly cloudy and breezy with a 20 percent chance of showers after 11 a.m., winds north northwest 10-39 mph, high around 56, low near 24. Wednesday: partly cloudy, high around 59, low around 29, winds north northwest 11-33 mph

Extended Forecast

Thursday: partly cloudy and breezy, high around 56, low around 27. Friday: partly cloudy, high around 63, low near 31. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Buyers can get refund

Anyone who bought a car from a private seller in Sherman County after July 1 may be able to get a refund on part of the sales tax, thanks to a law passed by the Kansas Legislature this year.

A law that went into effect last year required buyers to pay sales tax on the book value of the car if it was higher than the amount they actually paid.

Sherman County Treasurer Shelby Miller said the law had a few people grumbling last year and some even decided not to tag their car when they found out about the change.

For example, if a buyer paid \$1,000 for a car, but the property tax value was \$2,500, he was charged \$180 sales tax at 7.2 percent. The amount due before the 2004 law would have been \$72, and the changes fueled an outcry across the state.

Under the law passed this year, the buyer would get a sales tax refund of \$108.

To get their money back, people must fill out a refund application available from the county treasurer's office, or on-line from <http://www.ksrevenue.org/pdf/forms/st21V.pdf>.

Miller said the application form is available at her office. She said that last year several people filled out protest forms and sent them to the state over the sales tax issue.

"We do not have a lot of people in this situation," Miller said, "but we do have the forms here. We are not sending out any special notices, and it is up to the person to either download the form from the Internet or

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Council closer to hiring

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County Economic Development board members have decided to form a hiring committee to negotiate a contract for their next executive director.

Although the board is not releasing the name of the potential director, the group met for an hour in closed session Friday, Feb. 25, at S&T Telephone.

When the meeting was reopened to the public, board member Don Newell made a motion to form the committee with himself, Chairman John Garcia, Steve West and Gary Slough as members.

Garcia said the committee will negotiate the contract and bring a recommendation back to the board. "The committee is going to talk to

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Cowgirls lose to Colby

Cowgirl Dani Bedore (above) leaped past the Colby Lady Eagle defenders Jessie Stephens, Lissa Mazanec and Tasha Waggoner to score late in the fourth quarter of the sub-state championship Saturday in Larned. The Cowgirls lost to Colby 52-37. Goodland's Jordan Frazier (right) found it difficult to move the ball up the court against the pressure from Colby's Jessie Stephens (5) and Ashley Barnes (24) in the second half Saturday. See story, photos on Pages 11, 12.

Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News



Goodland athletes post some smart grades

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland's High School athletes juggle long practices with school work and, from a look at recent numbers, have found a way to balance both.

Principal Harvey Swager said schools in the Northwest Kansas League ask how well athletes do in the classroom and then compare the numbers each year.

Goodland's football team came in fourth, with a 3.24 grade point average, about a B plus, for the team. Hoxie led the league with a 3.42 for the football team. On the low end, the St. Francis football team has a

2.93, more of a B minus.

The averages for a team are taken from everyone who participates, Swager said, including the team manager. Some athletes excel in academics; at least 10 Cowboys had a 3.70 (A-) or higher and a letter in football: Josiah Goodley, John Mosbarger, Wyatt Dautel, Anthony Benavides, Dexter Deeds, Jake Johnson, David Livengood, Brock Lohr, Derrick Raymer and Drew Wilkens.

In volleyball, Swager said, Goodland came in last with a 3.29 average, a B plus, and still higher than the football team. The highest was a 3.71 from Hoxie.

Girls with a 3.70 or higher and a letter in volleyball include Dani Bedore, Emily Murray, Jordan Frazier, Justeen Koehler, Melissa Swager, Lisha Tedford and Aubrea Winter.

The boys cross country team averaged 2.77, a C+. The Goodland boys scored near the bottom, while Hoxie was at the top with a 3.49.

Students with a 3.70 or higher grade point average and a letter in cross country were Daniel Blake and Craig Mason.

The girls cross country team scored a 3.08, a B. Colby was at the top with a 3.84.

Swager said even if the teams didn't come in first in the league,

they still made good grades.

"I'm pretty pleased with how our athletes show," he said.

In neighboring towns, Colby had nine football players who lettered with a 3.70 grade point average or higher, Rawlins County one, Hoxie six, Oakley 11, Oberlin four, Quinter four and St. Francis seven.

For volleyball, Rawlins County had six, Colby seven, Hoxie six, Oakley nine, Oberlin two, Quinter three and St. Francis 12.

In boys cross country, Colby had five, Hoxie three, Oberlin two, and Quinter one. For girls cross country, Colby had nine, Hoxie two, Oakley six, Oberlin three, Quinter one and

New city slogan?

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

What represents Goodland? How do we want potential tourists to view the town? What kind of marketing will convince people to come here?

Those are the questions being asked by the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau as the group plans for the next Goodland Getaway Guide. The bureau has been thinking about developing a logo and slogan for Goodland but waited for the state's new logo and slogan to decide what to do.

Now the bureau wants to get everyone involved in developing a slogan and logo and want all area organizations on board, particularly the city, county and Chamber of Commerce. Visitors bureau board members brainstormed on the idea, who should be involved and how to get it off the ground at their meeting Thursday, Feb. 24, at Howard Johnson Hotel.

The state Commerce Department started marketing Kansas with the slogan, "KANSAS. As Big as You Think" the first week of January with television, radio and print ads featuring Kansans Dwight D. Eisenhower and Amelia Earhart.

The Kansas image campaign promotes the idea that the state's wide open spaces allow people to dream big and make big things happen.

The visitors bureau wanted to see the Kansas campaign before developing a Goodland logo to see if it could borrow ideas and run a parallel campaign to the state's.

The Goodland slogan and logo should not divide the community, said Brenda McCants, who is serving on the Goodland guide committee; the Chamber, city and county should be involved. There should be continuity, she said, and it could bring cohesiveness to other organizations.

It will have more bang if you can get everyone on the same page, Visitors Bureau Director Donna Price said.

The slogan and logo would be used in the guide, and visitors bureau members would like it to be something that could be used on city and county letterhead and by area businesses. They cited the success of Colby's "Oasis on the Plains" marketing as a reason to make a slogan and logo that could be widely used to get Goodland's name and reputation out.

The bureau is thinking of having a contest too.

"I like the idea of community effort," said Lincoln Wilson, a board member and Howard Johnson owner. "The community owns it.

"I can't imagine other affiliates in the community being against the idea of a slogan."

A lot of businesses use "Topsides of Kansas," Chamber Manager Courtney Warden said; it's not a slogan, but that together with a logo is a good idea.

The bureau voted to have the Getaway Guide committee meet the first week of March to come up with a proposal to present to the city and county at their commission meetings.

St. Francis one.

The idea to make an all academic team and compare grades, he said, came from Goodland about three years ago.

"I'm kind of proud of that, too," he said, adding it sets a standard to honor students who do well on the classroom and in sports.

He said the mark helps to combat stereotypes of the "dumb jock." Making good grades is harder for some athletes, he said, because of practices and missed classes for games.

"We want to show people that not only are our kids doing well in the field," he said, "they're doing well in the classroom."

inside today

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Special day for reading

Blake West, Kansas National Education Association Vice-President, read stories to students West Elementary School on Wednesday. He visited the school to celebrate Read Across America Day. Photo on Page 3.