

## weather report

**61°**

noon Thursday

### Today

• Sunset, 5:56 p.m.

### Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:52 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:57 p.m.

### Middy Conditions

• Soil temperature 43 degrees

• Humidity 13 percent

• Sky partly cloudy

• Winds southwest 12-20 mph.

• Barometer 29.60 inches

and falling

• Record High today 85° (1921)

• Record Low today 1° (1923)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday 57°

Low Wednesday 31°

Precipitation none

This month .08

Year to date .42

Normal 1.47

### The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy and breezy, high near 48, low near 20, winds north northwest 13-32 mph. Saturday: Partly cloudy, high around 57, low around 29, winds south southeast 9-11 mph.

### Extended Forecast

Sunday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain after noon, high near 55, low around 30. Monday: partly cloudy, high near 54, low near 28.

(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 — \$3.34

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$1.95 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.97

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$1.67 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.77 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.03

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$5.25 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$11.45 cwt.

NuSun — \$11.55 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



## Colby loses doubleheader

Sophomore Shanae Calkins, a former Goodland Cowgirl, waited for a pitch during the bottom of the second inning of the second game against Garden City Community College on Wednesday in Colby. Photos, story on Page 12.

# New company leases city building

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

Events are moving quickly to bring an automotive parts company to Goodland, along with about 50 jobs.

The city commission planned to meet at 8 a.m. today to approve a lease with Adronics/ELROP Manufacturing Corp. of Hays to move into the Wolak Building at 1006 Center. The city had remodeled the building for Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp., which has agreed to move out.

City Commissioner John Garcia, chairman of the Sherman County Economic Development Council, said Thursday a formal announcement about the new company's plans would be made at 9 a.m. today

## City proclaims Clean-up Month

The Goodland City Commission plans to proclaim April as "Clean-up Month" when it meets at 5 p.m. Monday.

After hearing a presentation last meeting from Christie Rasure and Arlo Hansen from the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce beautification committee, the city agreed to help out.

Rasure told the commission the project will include collections on Saturdays, April 2 and 16, and

a highway cleanup on Saturday, April 23.

The group said they plan to pick up construction debris, metal and tree limbs, among other junk.

In other business, the commission will:

- Review the grant writer program.
- Approve a land acquisition contract for a piece of property on the south edge of town that is part of

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at Howard Johnson's.

"This is a win-win for Goodland," Garcia said. "This is possibly one of the biggest economic development events in the last 30 years.

"The company is producing parts for General Motors, Honda, Isuzu and KIA."

Garcia said officials from Aircraft Seal and Gasket expect to have their

equipment out by the middle of April. The city had moved to void the firm's lease, saying it had hired only two of a promised 15 workers. "It appears we will have a smooth

transition," Garcia said. "It is disappointing that company did not work, but we are going to see a new beginning with this auto parts company."

Adronics has been in business since 1948 in the design, engineering and manufacturing of automotive antennas and accessories, courtesy lights and wiring harnesses.

Headquarters is in Cedar Grove, N.J., and the Automotive Engineering Office is in Southfield, Mich.

The company has a plant in Hays which employs 265, and has been there for about 10 years. The Goodland plant is to be an expansion of the Hays works, and plans are to start with 50 employees, Garcia said.

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## Land plan may bring families

By Kathryn Burke

*The Goodland Star-News*

The Sherman County Economic Development Council talked about a plan to give land to families that want to move here at a meeting Tuesday.

Chairman John Garcia said he spoke with school Superintendent Marvin Selby about offering free land to people willing to move to town.

He said although the idea sounds good, but 31 acres owned by the schools on Kansas Ave. would need to be hooked up to utilities and they would have to add streets and sidewalks before selling the land.

Board member Harlan House said they should look into getting grants to buy some of Goodland's older houses for sale. He said they could then clean off the lots and put the land up for grabs.

"A way of revitalizing some of the old parts of town?" asked board member Don Newell.

Garcia suggested getting with Penny Nemecheck, county grant writer, to find money for revitalization projects.

City Commissioner Dave Daniels had another suggestion. He said Ken Clouse, president of the Northwest Kansas Technical College, gave him a proposal to eliminate added property taxes for home improvement projects.

Daniels said people spending \$5,000 or more to fix up their property wouldn't have to worry about the increasing property taxes that go along with home improvement.

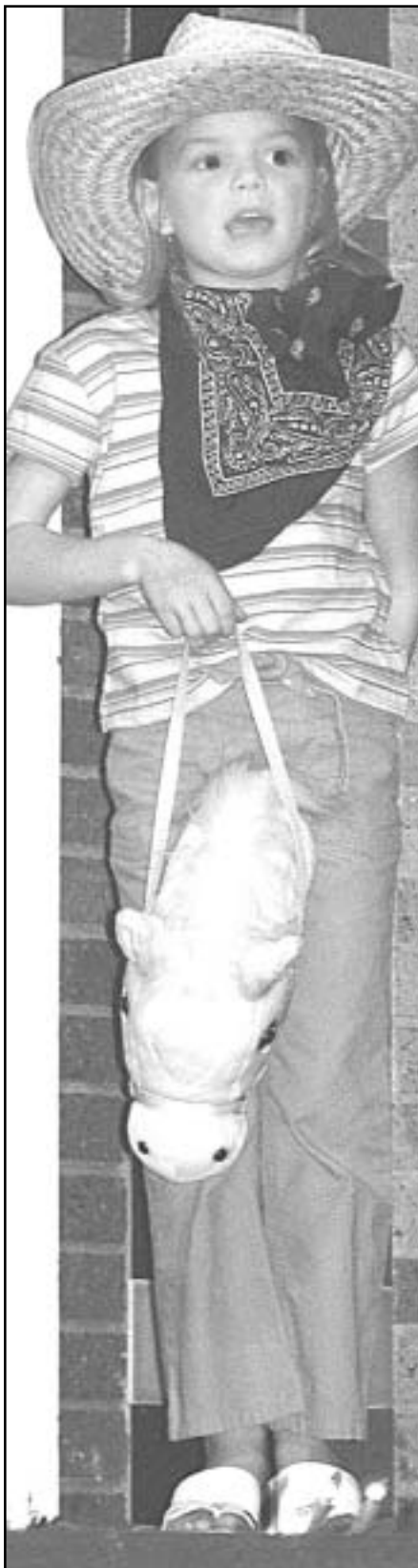
"One of the fears is if I fix up my property, I'll have to pay more taxes," he said. A tax break would be an extra incentive to clean up some of the rough parts of town.

He said the Kansas Senate passed a law allowing the program in 1994 and other communities, including Pratt, have used it.

Goodland, he said, could make up a plan to designate certain spots or the whole town. Daniels said he would like to get the county and city on board for the project.

Tom Harrison from the Board of Realtors told the board that home buying is up a little bit in town. Five houses have been sold in the past three months. He said some of the houses were sold to newcomers retiring from Denver and others were upgrades for people living in town.

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Riley Wilson (left) played the cowgirl during "A Cowboy's Lament" in West Elementary's spring program Monday. Savannah Bassett and Alec Gonzales (top) were among the first graders dancing and singing. Bianca Olivias and Alineixis Castillo (above) told a "knock, knock" joke.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

## First grade lightens spring with song

By Sharon Corcoran

*The Goodland Star-News*

"Knock knock."

"Who's there?"

"Stan."

"Stan who?"

"Stan back, I'm coming through!"

Laughter and applause filled the Goodland High School auditorium Monday, as first graders delighted the audience with a spring program that was part song, part comedy.

"I was minding my own business when a mud puddle jumped on me," the children sang during the West Elementary performance of "Lighten Up," by Teresa Jennings, the school's

"Spring into Song" program.

Linda Lucas, elementary music teacher, directed the program, starring students in Janet Davis', Lynette McLean's, Marianne Gray's and Pat Thompson's classes.

The students opened the program with "Hello Song" and closed with "So Long Song." In between, they danced and sang to several tunes, including "A Mud Puddle Jumped on Me," "Blarney," "March of the Leprechauns," "Carmen's Banana Song," and "The Cow Says Meow."

The children made funny faces during "Funny, Funny Face," and several fought off "The Crocodile Guy," played by Hiram

Hendrich, with "noodles." A cowboy and a cowgirl, Brevin Gough and Riley Wilson, rode stick horses as they and their classmates drawled about being "saddle sore, saddle sore; don't wanna sit in the saddle anymore" during "A Cowboy's Lament."

Jokes were interspersed through out the program, including: Q. Why don't people go to the moon on vacation? A. Because it lacks atmosphere. and, Knock, knock. Who's there? Theo. Theo who? Theo Later.

First graders in the production included: In Davis' class: Brock Butts, Daniel Cepeda,

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## Architect may look at hospital's use of building space

By Sharon Corcoran

*The Goodland Star-News*

When people think of health care, they usually think of doctors and nurses, but the things going on behind the scenes make an impact, too.

That is why Goodland Regional Medical Center may volunteer for an accreditation program that looks not just at whether it meets standards but also how it does so.

And hospital officials plan to have

an architectural firm look at the structure to see if its space is being used as efficiently as possible and whether a major remodel is needed to meet current and future goals.

The hospital board talked about both possibilities at its regular meeting Monday, Feb. 28. Hospital officials have been talking to architectural firms, Administrator Jay Jolly said, and one will probably be hired in the near future to look over the

facility and make recommendations based on the hospital's priorities and goals.

At some point, he said, a major remodel may be a possibility, but now the hospital is trying to answer the question of whether it needs a remodel to make the facility function properly.

Hospital officials also need to know what would be involved if the building was to be remodeled, Jolly

said. Building codes change all the time, he said; existing buildings are grandfathered on the codes when they were built.

But if major structural changes are made in an older building, he said, things may have to be brought up to the current codes. For example, he said, the Americans with Disabilities Act did not even exist when the hospital was built 30 years ago.

Some things have been upgraded to meet the act, Jolly said, but more may have to be done if the hospital is remodeled. What things would need to be done and the costs would be considered, he said, by the firm that checks over the facility.

There comes a point in a building, he said, where you say, "to do what we want, we have to make major

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