

weather report

35°

noon Monday



Today

•Sunset, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

•Sunrise, 5:46 a.m.

•Sunset, 6:01 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 42 degrees
- Humidity 96 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds north 18 mph.
- Barometer 29.69 inches and falling
- Record High today 80° (1945)
- Record Low today 7° (1952)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	59°
Low Sunday	28°
Precipitation	.03
This month	.11
Year to date	.45
Normal	1.66

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy, slight chance of snow in the morning. Slight chance of rain in afternoon. High mid 40s, wind north 15-25. Tonight: Partly cloudy, low upper 20s. Wind northeast 5-15.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday and Thursday: Partly cloudy, highs low 50s, wind south 5-15, with higher gusts. Chance of thunderstorms, chance of snow after midnight. Lows around 30. Friday: Mostly cloudy, high around 50, low upper 20s.

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

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$3.08 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.31
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$1.86 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.92
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$1.58 bushel
- Soybeans — \$5.52 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.78
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$5.25 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$11.30 cwt.
- NuSun — \$11.40
- 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 girls take three

Sophomore first baseman Shanae Calkin, a 2003 graduate of Goodland High, caught the throw to complete a double play and end Dodge City's turn at bat in the second inning Sunday. Photos, story on Page 12.

Antenna company moving to city

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

If you drive a General Motors, Honda, Hyundai, Kia, Isuzu, a Hummer or even a Harley Davison motorcycle, the vehicle's radio might be picking up stations with an antenna made by the company that's moving into Goodland

Adronics/Elrob Manufacturing Corp.'s move to town was announced at an informal press conference Friday, and two Adronics vice presidents, Karen Robinson Murphy and Troy A. Robinson, were welcomed to town.

The two had breakfast with city leaders, members of the Sherman County Economic Development Council, Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce and the Convention and Visitors Bureau board, Goodland Regional Medical Center Northwest Kansas Technical College officials, county leaders and members of the press.

"On behalf of the city of Goodland," said Mayor Rick Billinger, "welcome to our community. Thank you for coming to Goodland."

"We're excited they're here," said City Manager Ron Pickman.

The business will take over the city-owned plant at 1006 Center formerly occupied by Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp.

"The building is great. Everything is working out well," Robinson said. "When they're out, we'll move right in."

He said Adronics makes antennas and related parts, including the coaxial cable used to connect the antenna to car radios, antenna base mounts, global positioning system mounts for cars and under-hood lighting.

"This is a winner," said John Garcia,



School, business, city and county leaders watched as John Garcia (right), Sherman County Economic Development Council chairman, introduced a company that's moving to Goodland at a press conference Friday. Adronics/Elrob Manufacturing Corp. will be employ-

ing around 30 people at a car-antenna manufacturing plant that is going in to the city-owned building now occupied by Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

cia, economic development chairman and a city commissioner. "They're a huge company."

Murphy said the New Jersey-based corporation moved its manufacturing operations to Hays in 1990. Robinson said they currently employ 265 people at the plant there and expect to hire 30 people initially in Goodland.

"We plan to go up from there," he said, adding they will train eight to 10 people in Hays initially and then train the rest here.



Murphy



Robinson



Garcia

Adronics will start, he said, by offering employees full-time work and full benefits after 90 days, including medical, dental, life insurance, a drug card, vacation after one year, a raise in six months and bonuses for perfect attendance. After

See COMPANY, Page 11

Wolak building changing occupants

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

City commissioners took less than 10 minutes Friday morning to approve a two-year lease with the Kansas Division of Adronics for an auto parts manufacturing plant in the Wolak Building.

Later that morning Karen Robinson Murphy, vice president of the New Jersey-based firm, and

Troy A. Robinson, vice president and manager of the company's Hays plant, made it official at an announcement ceremony at Howard Johnson's.

At a commission meeting before the announcement, City Manager Ron Pickman said the lease for the city-owned building

See LEASE, Page 11

County studies baling trash and recycling

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Sales representatives talked about a new trash baler with Sherman County commissioners at their regular meeting last Tuesday.

The county saw a presentation from Scott Holden of the Harris Corp. and Dave Lane, with the Glen L. DeHart Distribution Co., about a Harris Badger solid waster baler, basically, a big trash compactor.

Members of the solid waste committee were on hand to hear the presentation and watch a video of how the machine works.

Committee chair Tom Betz said the county needs a baler to help save space in the landfill. He said compacting the trash will keep debris

from blowing away and will require less dirt for cover.

The baler starts at ground level, Lane said, where the trash is pushed onto a moving conveyer belt. The belt then moves the trash up to a roughly 17-foot height. The belt drops the waste into the top of the baling machine, where it is compressed. The trash is compressed horizontally then vertically and is then wrapped in wire. The waste comes out of the machine in a 30 X 45 X 60-inch solid square that can be hauled to the landfill.

The Badger has a 32-tons-per-day capacity but Curt Way, county public works director, said the county currently produces about 13 tons.

He said they would rather invest

in a bigger machine now, though, instead of finding it was too small in a couple of years.

With the cost of wire, power, labor, maintenance, fuel, and other factors, Lane said, 32 tons per day would cost about \$849 per ton. The number was developed when the county was looking into the baler a couple in 2002 so, Lane said, they will need to update some of the figures.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said the people who will be working the machine are already county employees, so labor costs wouldn't go up.

The cost of the baler starts out at \$268,000 and with freight and extras, would be closer to \$396,000,

said commission Chairman Mitch Tiede.

The machine is safe, Holden said, with no pinch points or compression except for inside of the baler. He said the hydraulic press parts are inside of cylinders so they won't need lubrication.

The trash comes out, he said, in a solid brick that doesn't drop much trash.

"The biggest dropage is right out of the machine," Holden said adding that most operations use a flat-bed truck with a curtain to contain any leaked trash.

"It's really a good solid brick," he said.

Holden said the baler won't jam. He said if an oversized bale is made,

the doors automatically open and push out the trash. On other machines, he said, people spend hours or days trying to dislodge an oversized bale.

For damp or wet trash, the baler would need to be placed in a room with drainage around the edges of the machine, Holden said. He suggested cleaning the machine every night. Visual inspections should be made to be sure nothing is cracked or damaged.

Sometimes, he said, they might want to run cardboard through the machine to remove any stains, like paint.

The waste committee said they

See BALER, Page 11

Convention bureau wants to market Max Jones

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Would people come from all over the country to attend events at the Max Jones Fieldhouse? Members of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau may try to prove, "If you market it, they will come."

Director Donna Price asked board members at their meeting Tuesday, March 15, to brainstorm ideas for a new promotion to compete for a marketing grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce.

The grant will cover up to 40 percent of the costs, Price said, but no more than \$2,500 per item or \$3,500 per year. The promotion has to be on a new program, she said, not something they already have.

The ad has to be in a publication the bureau hasn't tried before, she said. Board member Brenda McCants, director of patient relations for Goodland Regional Medical Center, suggested marketing Max Jones. Teams from all over the area come for Mid America Youth Basketball (MAYB) tournaments, she

said, and most of the tournaments are in the summer, when the fieldhouse would not be used for school activities.

The bureau has never marketed the fieldhouse before, Price said.

McCants said that while working on the Slice of Life fund raiser for the hospital, some people she had talked to suggested bringing bands to Goodland to play at the fieldhouse, another possible avenue for marketing.

Board members said they would need the school district's permission

to use the fieldhouse and would want the schools' cooperation in marketing it. The board voted to pursue the possibility.

In other business, the board:

- Approved \$290 for advertising and a banner for the stock car club.

- Approved donating 100 Van Gogh sunflower painting pins to the hospital auxiliary for the District V Hospital Auxiliaries meeting Monday, April 25, in Goodland. The pins will be added to gift bags for volunteers from several area hospitals, McCants said. She abstained from

voting.

- Proofread and approved changes for the Goodland motel and restaurant guides and calendar of events to be printed.

- Learned that the Flatlander Fall Festival will be run by a committee this year, and the Chamber of Commerce will no longer be solely responsible. The committee will meet at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 13, at the Howard Johnson Hotel.

- Set the next board meeting for 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 13, at the Super 8 Motel.

Candidate forum planned next week

Want to know how the candidates for seats on the Goodland City Council and the Goodland School Board stand on the big issues?

Check them out at a debate at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 31, at the Goodland High School auditorium, sponsored by the 2005 class of Leadership Sherman County and the Sherman County Farm Bureau.

The election will be Tuesday, April 5, with all voting to be at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall.

The first hour will feature school

board candidates fielding questions from a moderator and the audience. Candidates for the three seats on the school board are Amy Sederstrom, LeAnn Friedrichs, Dick Short, Andrew House, Dr. Gary Smith and Jason Showalter.

City candidates will answer questions for the second hour. Candidates for the three commission seats are Joshua Dechant, Annette Fairbanks, John Garcia, Gary Farris, Brent Wood and John Golden. KLOE will broadcast the forum.

Businesses sponsor egg hunt

The hunt is back on, as S&T Communications, Wal-Mart and the KLOE, KKCI and KWGB radio stations step in to sponsor Goodland's Easter Egg Hunt this year.

The hunt was in danger of not happening as members of the Goodland Lions Club decided to take a year off.

The hunt will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Gulick Park. In case of bad weather, the hunt will be moved indoors to the Goodland Activities Center.

Karen Duell, S&T employee and egg-hunt volunteer, said she stepped in to help because there are too many kids in town to call off the event.

"I hated to see it not happen," she said. Employees of S&T and Wal-Mart got together last

week, she said, and stuffed 2,100 plastic eggs full of candy and small prizes.

"Everybody's helped out," Duell said adding the Lions donated leftover supplies from last year and the businesses provided the rest.

She said anything left over again will be used next year.

The park will be sectioned off into age groups including: 1 and 2 years old, 3 and 4, 5-7 and 8-10. Duell said they will hide eggs in each section, with the difficulty increasing for each age group.

Along with searching for eggs, Duell said, kids will get to meet the Easter Bunny at the hunt. S&T is sponsoring another hunt at 2:30 p.m. at the Kanorado City Park. Duell said people got the supplies together and enlisted S&T to sponsor the event.