

## weather report

**39°**

noon Monday



### Today

•Sunset, 7:20 p.m.

### Wednesday

•Sunrise, 6:13 a.m.

•Sunset, 7:21 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 38 degrees
- Humidity 73 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds northwest 35-45 mph.
- Barometer 29.82 inches and rising
- Record High today 90° (2004)
- Record Low today 5° (1997)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Sunday	50°
Low Sunday	35°
Precipitation	.32
This month	.77
Year to date	1.36
Normal	2.47

### The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, high near 60, low near 34, winds north northwest 11-29 mph. Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high around 68, low around 39, winds north 9-11 mph.

### Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, high near 63, low near 36. Friday: Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, high near 63. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \* Readings end at midnight

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$2.79 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.94  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Corn — \$1.76 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.82  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 13¢  
Milo — \$1.48 bushel  
Soybeans — \$5.33 bushel  
Posted county price — \$5.45  
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



## Cowgirls take doubleheader

Goodland High junior Justeen Koehler hit a double in the fourth inning of the second game against Scott City on Thursday. The Cowgirls took the doubleheader at home, 18-8 and 5-4. Story, photos on Page 12.

# Storm closes schools, freeway

By Kathryn Burke

*The Goodland Star-News*

Schools closed, hotels filled up and farmers rejoiced after the skies opened up and dropped almost an inch of moisture on Goodland on Sunday.

Rain mixed with small hail turned into heavy, wet snow Sunday evening and overnight, said Jeremy Martin, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service here.

Chris Harabe, a communications specialist with the Kansas Highway Patrol, said heavier snow causing blizzard conditions in Colorado, forcing the Colorado Department of Transportation to close I-70 west of Limon at 2:37 p.m. Sunday.

The Kansas Patrol stepped in, Harabe said, closing I-70 west-bound at Goodland at 2:44 p.m. and then at Colby at 4:55 p.m., as motels filled up.

He said the roads weren't closed because of weather here, but because of the conditions on the Colorado roads.

"We didn't have anything going on here in Kansas," he said.

Monday morning, he said the roads were still closed in Colorado, which was keeping the roads here closed, too.

"They have no idea when they will open" he said.

Harabe said he didn't have any reports of accidents in the area, but



At least 130 trucks and recreational vehicles were parked in Goodland Sunday afternoon because I-70 was closed in Colorado by blizzard conditions. Total had 71 trucks parked, there were about 20 at Wal-Mart, 16 behind McDonald's, and 20 behind Presto. The

the Sherman County Sheriff's Department that a drunk trucker rolled his semi about 9:40 p.m. near mile marker 8 in the eastbound lanes on I-70. The accident happened near the rest area where the road starts to curve.

Sheriff Kevin Butts said John Hellen of Denver was charged with driving under the influence after rolling his 2005 Freightliner, which

was hauling automotive parts. Butts said Hellen spent the night in the Sherman County Bastille and was released on a \$560 bond Monday morning.

Other than closing roads, Martin said, the heavy, wet snow caused some minor damage to power lines and tree limbs.

"We had a report of a power line down by Brewster over the high-

Interstate remained closed Monday because of blowing snow and vehicles blocking the highway in Colorado. The highway was expected to reopen later in the afternoon or early evening as the sun helped melt the snow.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

way," he said adding there were power outages reported across some Colorado counties. "It was pretty bad."

Scanner reports from Monday morning said a power line behind Grant Junior High was down.

The storm closed down Goodland, Brewster and Burlington Schools and forced several around the area to start late including: the

Northwest Kansas Technical College, Weskan and Sharon Springs schools.

Martin, the forecaster, said the storms came from a strong low-pressure system that moved out of the Rocky Mountains. He said the system hit humid air here, sparking storms across Kansas. Cold air built

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By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

The third seat on the Goodland City Commission was settled by a one-vote margin in the final tally as county commissioners canvassed the votes Friday morning.

Tuesday's election results had given Annette Fairbanks, owner of Teeters Abstract, a four-vote lead over Gary Farris, owner of Farris Manufacturing. However, there were enough provisional ballots to change the outcome.

Provisional ballots are filled out on election day when a voter comes to the polling place and his information does not match the voter list. This often happens when he or she has moved from one address to another, or has gotten married. Most of the ballots that were counted were people who had been registered, but had moved within the city or within the county.

Friday morning, the commissioners decided to allow 11 additional ballots to be counted, nine by Goodland citizens and two from Kanorado. A total of 14 provision ballots were cast on Tuesday, but the commissioners decided not to count three.

One of the ballots that was not



County Clerk Janet Rumpel and the Commissioners Chuck Thomas, Mitch Tiede and Kevin Rasure checked totals during the official canvass of votes Friday morning. Rasure read the totals while the other three checked the numbers and adjusted the totals.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

counted was because the person had moved from Wichita without registering, and one of the others was a person who had been registered, but had moved out of state and then moved back without re-registering in Sherman County.

The commissioners began at 8

a.m. and it took about an hour to go through the canvass procedure and to get the 11 provisional ballots ready to process through the counting machine.

Farris arrived just in time to watch the count and hear Commissioner Kevin Rasure read off the totals. As

Rasure read each total, Commissioners Mitch Tiede and Chuck Thomas wrote them down and then added the new results.

Farris picked up six votes while Fairbanks got three, and that was just enough to give her the win, 646-645.

When the totals were announced, Farris smiled and said he had to get back to work.

Rasure said he felt it was a good race, and one of the closest he has seen.

"That's the way it goes," Farris said as he walked out the door. "There'll be other days."

"That shows that one vote does county," Thomas said.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said there will not be a recount unless one of the candidates asks for one.

Fairbanks was in Garden City for a Kansas League of Municipalities program on city finances. Before going, she said she wanted to win, but she was not concerned about the possibility of losing.

"I want to serve," she said, "but I believe Farris would be a good commissioner if I should lose."

Fairbanks won a two-year city commission seat. The top two placers, John Garcia, an incumbent commissioner and owner of Garcia's Home Furnishings, and Joshua Dechant, an ag loan officer at Bankwest, get four-year terms. All will be sworn in at a meeting at 5 p.m. Monday.

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# Health survey begins soon

By Sharon Corcoran

*The Goodland Star-News*

When a stranger calls asking you to participate in a survey, a lot of people think are too busy.

But hospital officials and members of the Sherman County Health Care Steering Committee, say it's important that at least 200 households make time to answer a survey they've developed.

The Docking Institute of Fort Hays State University will be conducting the survey as part of the Rural Health Works project to determine the health care needs of Sherman County. Pollsters will be making calls between Monday, April 25, and Monday, May 2.

The contents of the survey have pretty much been established, said Jay Jolly, administrator of the Goodland Regional Medical Center, and 200 households will be contacted. How long it takes to conduct the survey depends on how hard it is to get a hold of 200 people, he said.

If you should be called, said Donna Price, director of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau and a member of the committee, please give a few minutes of your time to answer the ques-

tions.

This is an opportunity for you to give honest answers and voice your opinions of the Sherman County health care system, she said; only a few people will be called, so it's vital that they respond.

Kansas State University Research and Extension will compile the results, Price said; all answers will be kept completely confidential, with only the final results of the survey being published.

The survey contains questions about experiences with the health care system, Price said, and any health care needs that people see for Sherman County.

The results will help the committee identify issues with health care in Sherman County, she said; the goals are to learn about people's health care usage patterns, awareness of services and opinions.

Rural Health Works, a national initiative started in 1998 with pilot programs in Nevada, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Pennsylvania, is being administered here through the Kansas Rural Health Options Project, a partnership between the Kansas Office of Local and Rural Health, the Kansas Hos-

pital Association, the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services and the Kansas Medical Society.

The project has in turn partnered with the K-State Research and Extension through county offices. K-State is providing the research and planning leadership.

The project is administered in phases and paid for by grants. It produced a health care economic impact study for each of the 105 Kansas counties in Phase 1 in February 2004.

The goal of the project is to make the most of services and help the economy at the same time, not just in the pilot counties, but in other Kansas counties willing to implement the plan developed in the process.

The idea of the survey, Jolly said, is to figure out what's important in health care, what services are most important to people and where they like to go to get them. It will get feedback on how people use the services.

"In order for services to remain strong," he said, "we need to know what people like and don't like, what they're looking for."

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# Body identified; cause of death unclear

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

A K-State forensics expert has confirmed identification of the human remains found northwest of town last month, but the cause of death is still unclear.

At this point, though, officials say, the case is being classified as a natural death.

"The remains have been identified as being Jimmy McClelland," Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts said today, "but the cause of death is unknown."

"Dr. Michael Finnegan (a forensic anthropologist from Kansas State University) said he was not able to say with certainty what caused McClelland's death. He said there was a skull fracture, but it appeared to have happened after his death.

"Dr. Travis Daise, local deputy coroner, is listing the death as from natural causes, possibly by exposure. The investigation is

continuing because they are testing the clothes that were found.

"We do not know when the tests will be completed."

The skeletal remains found the afternoon of March 30, northwest of Goodland are those of Jimmy McClelland, 44, who had been missing for 16 months.

Sheriff Kevin Butts said a farmer found the bones while working a field, and called 911 about 3:30 p.m.

McClelland had been missing since the evening of Nov. 24, 2003, when sheriff's deputies were called to an argument at the home of Mark Peden, 6940 County Road 19, about 3 1/2 miles northwest of Goodland. On the phone, Marci Peden told dispatchers her husband was in an argument with a man holding

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