

weather
report

65°

noon Monday

Today

•Sunset, 7:27 p.m.

Wednesday

•Sunrise, 6:03 a.m.

•Sunset, 7:28 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 54 degrees
- Humidity 58 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds northwest 5 mph.
- Barometer 29.80 inches and steady

•Record High today 87° (2001)

•Record Low today 18° (1953)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 77°

Low Sunday 46°

Precipitation none

This month 1.38

Year to date 1.97

Normal 2.77

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, high near 82, low near 51, winds west southwest 5-28 mph. Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon, high around 73, low around 43, winds north 14-17 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high around 63, low around 41.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings end at midnight.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.76 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.90

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$1.77 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.85

Loan deficiency pmt. — 10¢

Milo — \$1.49 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.37 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.57

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$9.80 cwt.

NuSun — \$10.80 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



Cowboys
lose to Colby

Tanner Smith, playing left field, caught a long foul ball for a Colby out during the fourth inning of the first game on Friday. The Cowboys lost the doubleheader at Colby, 6-2 and 13-3. Story and photos on Page 12.

Kids celebrate bear's first birthday

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

West Elementary was abuzz last Friday, with kindergartners, first and second graders eager to celebrate the first birthday of "Grizzly," their stuffed Box Tops for Education mascot.

Kids won a party for Grizzly by beating their goal of 15,000 box tops clipped from General Mills products by March 15.

Denise Floyd, organizer of the program and a parent of two students in Goodland schools, said they had collected 17,000 box-top coupons, each worth 10 cents for the school.

Friday, kids poured into a cafeteria decorated for the birthday party. Many carried boxes and cans of food to donate to Genesis, the Goodland food pantry, as gifts for Grizzly.

On a big table at one end of the cafeteria, pans of cupcakes were set next to each other to make a gigantic cake.

In front of the table, Grizzly was seated in a chair, wearing a hat for his party.

The bear has moved through the school, spending a week at a time with the class collecting the most box tops. The bear always comes with a surprise from the last class tucked away in his backpack.

Students sat cross-legged on the floor while Floyd thanked them for their help in the campaign. She urged the students to continue collecting the coupons through the summer for next year.

Floyd told students that Marianne



Kaitlynn Raile (above), a first grader at West Elementary, enjoyed a bowl of ice cream and a cupcake to celebrate the birthday of Grizzly, their Box Tops for Education mascot bear. Ussiel Gallegos (right photo) and Grace Cole, both first graders, dropped off canned goods to be donated to the Genesis Food Bank as gifts for Grizzly.

Photos by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

Gray's first grade class, with 1,430 box tops, collected the most. Karen Stone's p.m. kindergarten class collected over 1,100 box tops and Stone's a.m. kindergarten, Pat Stindt's p.m. kindergarten and

Sandy Jamison's second grade collected over 1,000. Lynette McLean's first class brought in 900; Janet Davis' first grade class and

See BOXTOPS, Page 11



Steep ditches draw complaints on road

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Residents along County Road 17 south of I-70 met with the Sherman County commissioners last Tuesday to complain about elevation work being done by the road and bridge department.

Dean Topliff was the spokesman for a group that included Terry Richardson, Brady and Jane Philbrick, Doug Irvin and A.C. Holton.

Topliff told commissioners that the road was too high and the ditches were too steep after the work was done, making the road dangerous to drive.

"The road is too high and too narrow for agriculture equipment to use," Topliff said. "If you try to move off to the side to pass, there is a real danger that one or the other might roll over."

Public Works Manager Curt Way said the county right-of-way on that stretch is 60 feet, and the standard width for the road is 26 feet.

"That is not enough room for farm equipment to meet and pass," Irvin said.

"We are not done with the road," Way said. "We have another cut to do on the west which will widen it out."

"The project was delayed when

Old heating system needs help

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Some rooms in the Sherman County courthouse are so hot in the winter employees have to open windows, and it becomes more of a problem when the outside temps start to push into the 70s in the spring.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby complained about the heating system at Tuesday's commission meeting. She said it was not building superintendent William McKnight's fault, but that he needed help to get a handle on the problem.

"We need to get someone in here to address this archaic system," she said. "I know if it gets much hotter, it will blow my office away with heat."

"The thermostats don't work, but that is only part of it. We need to address the real problem — the system itself. I know that means bucks."

"I know William is beating his head against the wall."

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he had talked to McKnight, and knew that several of the radiators have been shut down and some have had manual

controls put on them in place of the thermostats.

A check of the three radiators in the commission room revealed that two were off, but at least one window was open to keep the heat from going over 76 degrees.

Tiede and Selby went into the county attorney's office and found that the one behind the secretary's desk was on, with the thermostat set as low as possible. Tiede said he would talk to McKnight about putting a manual control on that radiator.

The commissioners agreed the boiler system is a problem, but given the age of the building and the potential cost, they did not want to consider replacing the whole system right now.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said her offices were always overheated in the winter, but the heat is different in every office.

The commissioners said they would consider talking to McKnight about what might be done in the short term, and then look for a longer-term solution.

See COUNTY, Page 11

so everyone knows what to expect.

"I can't accept a road that tall in front of my house," Topliff said. "I can't drive a \$30,000 vehicle so that it will roll if we have to drive off the shoulder."

"There is a lot of traffic on that road," Richardson said. "I think there needs to be some flexibility based on the traffic load."

"The road should be 28 feet wide when we finish," Way said. "One reason we don't want it to be much wider is the cost of maintenance."

"We have to live with your solution," Jane Philbrick said. "I am worried about my daughter driving that road. She is young and inexperienced, and we are having her drive east to the highway rather than north on that road."

Tiede said he would check it out. He asked that the residents give the crew a chance to finish the work to see what it looks like when it is widened to 28 feet.

Jerry Bauman said with today's farm equipment, even 28 feet is probably not wide enough.

Tiede said there is no way to make the road much wider with the 60 foot right-of-way.

Way said he would get a crew out on the road as soon as possible to finish the work.

the phone lines out there were cut, and we gave the phone company 30 days to replace and bury their lines. That time has passed, and we will get back out there as soon as possible to finish."

"We need a workable solution," Commissioner Mitch Tiede said. "We have to stay within the right-of-way and have a good distance from the road to the bottom of the ditch. How high is acceptable?"

"Half as high as it is now," Topliff replied.

Tiede said he thought the county should be sure there is a standard height for the roads, and suggested this could be put in the county policy

Upgrading computers remains board's goal

By Kahtryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland School Board decided Monday to move gradually toward upgrading its computer system instead of implementing the "One-to-One" initiative, a plan to give a laptop computer to each high school student.

After hearing a presentation from teachers involved in a Laptop Initiative Focus Group, the board agreed that laptops are a good idea.

Karla Murray, technology coordinator for the district, said she plans to replace desktop computers with laptops from now on.

To implement the original initiative plan, the board would have to give each high school student a computer at the same time, would cost the district at least half a million dollars.

Instead of spending the cash up

front, the board is considering giving more money to the technology department for regular upgrades.

Harvey Swager, high school principal and a member of the initiative committee, passed out results of a survey of students and teachers on computer use.

They were originally charged with investigating costs and benefits associated with implementing the laptop plan, he said.

Since the school board already decided to table the project at their last meeting because of the cost, Swager said, the committee only came up with suggestions for the board.

"First, we'd like to get more teachers involved in what you just saw," he said.

The group would like to see ob-

See LAPTOPS, Page 11

Kids learn about Navy officer



The USS Antietam, a sister ship to the USS O'Kane, passed on the port side while the two Arleigh Burke-class destroyers were underway in the Pacific. Ensign Craig Townsend from Goodland is stationed on the O'Kane and has been e-mailing to students at West School. Story and photos on Page 8.

Navy photo from the USS O'Kane