

weather report

59°

noon Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:59 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:31 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 60degrees
- Humidity 42 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds northwest 27-35 mph.
- Barometer 29.99 inches and steady
- Record High today 96° (1989)
- Record Low today 22° (1982)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	71°
Low Wednesday	41°
Precipitation	none
This month	1.38
Year to date	1.97
Normal	2.92

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly sunny and breezy, high near 60, low near 30, winds north northwest 22-38 mph. Saturday: Sunny, high near 64, low around 36, winds south 6-9 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, high near 67, low around 42. Monday: Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings compiled by midnight

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.86 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.99
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Corn — \$1.82 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.90
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 5¢
 - Milo — \$1.54 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$5.59 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$5.74
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Millet — \$5 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$9.60 cwt.
 - NuSun — \$10.60 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Confection — \$19/\$13 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$25
- (Markets by Mueller Grain, Stigco 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



Mustangs hosted meet

Eighth-grader Adam Duell of Grant Junior High tried his skill in the triple jump during the Mustang Invitational on Saturday. Boys and girls track results and photo on Page 9a.

City manager retiring in May

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland's city manager for the past 10 years told city commissioners Monday that he plans to retire next month.

Following a nine-minute closed session, Mayor Rick Billinger said "with regret" that City Manager Ron Pickman had decided to retire.

"This is a sad day for Goodland," Billinger said. "I am glad for Ron that he is able to do this."

"I know he has been the best city manager we've had, and those will be big shoes to fill. I wasn't prepared to give this kind of praise, but I have to thank Ron for all the extra time he has given. We appreciate it."

"This is a great city," Pickman said. "There are things around the corner to make it better."

Mayor, vice mayor re-elected

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland's mayor and vice mayor were re-elected Monday night after new commissioners had been sworn in.

City Clerk Mary Volk opened the meeting by swearing in the newly elected commissioners Josh Dechant and Annette Fairbanks. Commissioner John Garcia won re-election, but did not need to be sworn in again.

Commissioner Rick Billinger asked for nominations for mayor and Commissioner Dave Daniels nominated Billinger. The was seconded by Garcia. There were no further nominations and Billinger was re-elected unanimously. Daniels was nominated and approved unanimously as the vice mayor.

Garcia asked engineer Darin Neufeld about the status of the project to rebuild the intersections of

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"I want to thank the people and commission to allow me to serve. It is a great city."

The praise contested with conflict between the commission and Pick-

man over his contract and salary increase, dating back to October. At the time, Billinger said he did not believe the city manager should get more than \$1,000-per-year raise.

The manager's contract, however, said he was to get the same amount as the other city employees. The commission had approved a 75-cent-an-hour raise for all employ-

ees, or \$1,560 per year.

Special meetings were called in November on the raise issue, and City Attorney Perry Warren, told the commission the contract, as he read it, meant Pickman was entitled to the minimum of \$1,560 raise.

In December, the commission offered Pickman the \$1,000, and after another closed session, that amount was approved unanimously.

This was the second year there had been a conflict over the manager's salary. Two years ago, it took seven closed sessions for the commission to offer Pickman a \$1,200 raise and a two-year contract with an automatic renewal for two years.

After the decision, Pickman said he was not satisfied, and was look-

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Logo contests create confusion

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The search for a new logo and slogan for the city has created some confusion and conflict, with two logo contests running at the same time.

Members of the Sherman County Community Foundation have been looking for an identity for their group, and with the help of a \$100 donation, are working with the Carnegie Arts Center to have artists submit designs.

"We want to have our own identity," said Kin Huang, president of the foundation board. "We have been working on this with Tina Goodwin at the arts center. We are looking for a logo for our group, and are not part of the other contest, which is seeking a logo and slogan for the city."

"The signals got crossed," said Donna Price, executive director of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau. "We were working with the Chamber and economic development to get a new logo and slogan. It was mentioned by Dave Daniels, who serves on the foundation board and is a city commissioner, that the foundation was doing a logo contest and he thought the two efforts could be combined."

The foundation board wasn't in on that, though.

"We were never asked about the city slogan and logo until our meeting on Tuesday," Huang said. "Our

effort is to get the foundation moving forward and to show people it is legitimate and has an identity of its own."

Price said Thursday morning the idea of a combined logo and slogan for the city was to help in the marketing efforts of the Chamber, visitors bureau and the Economic Development Council.

"We do not want to interfere with anyone's individual logo," she said. "We are looking for different things. It is unfortunate there has been this confusion about the two logo contests."

"To those who are interested in submitting an entry in either contest, we want them to be sure to check the details of what is being requested."

The citywide project is looking for a logo and a slogan for the city of Goodland.

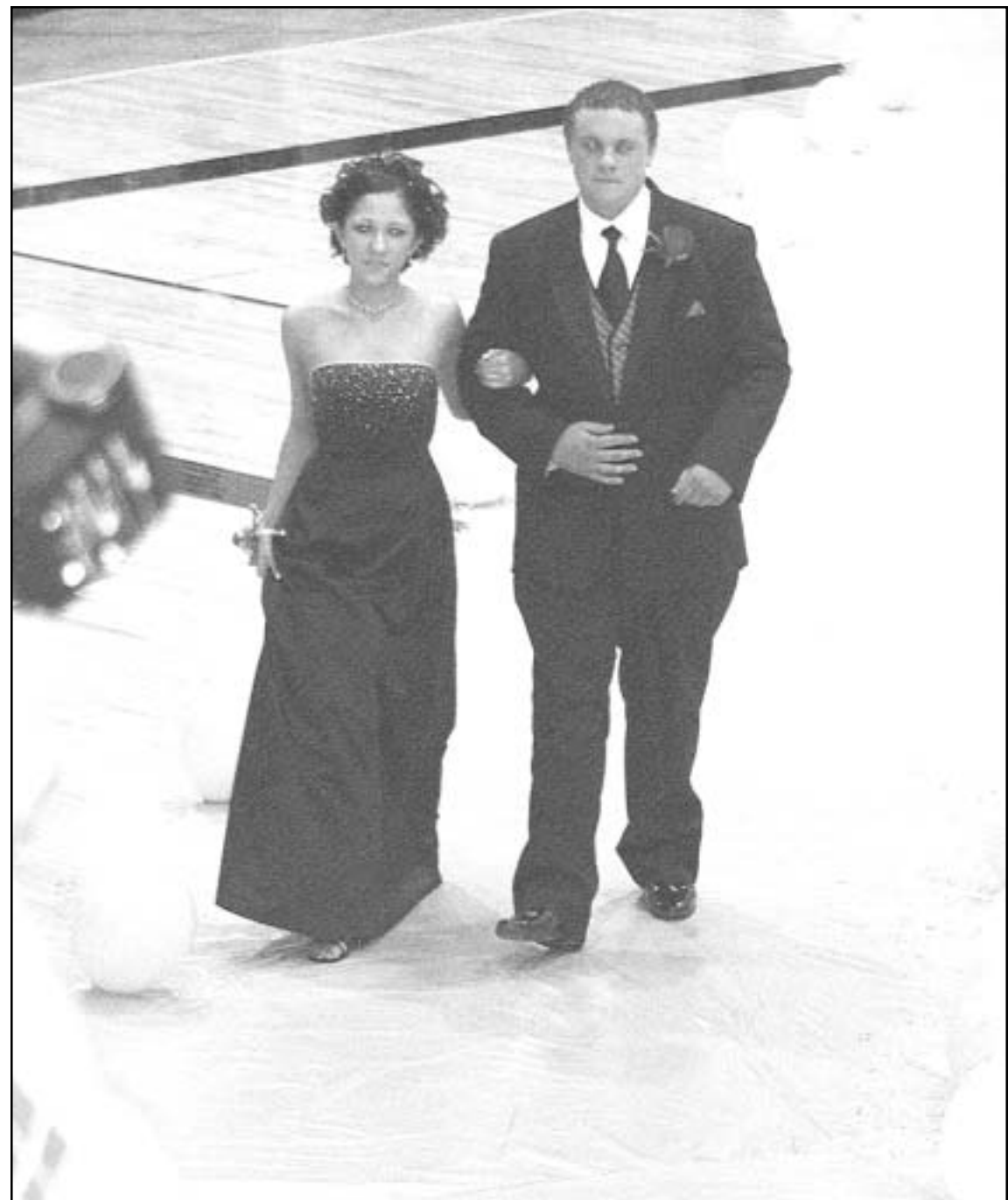
Price said there is a \$100 prize, but it could be split if the selection committee likes one of the logos and a different slogan.

Entries for the city logo contest are to be mailed to Logo Contest, Box 126, Goodland, Kan. 67735 by Tuesday, May 31.

The target date to select the winning city logo and slogan is June 8.

Huang said the foundation logo contest would be running through May.

For details, call Goodwin at the arts center, 890-6442. She said the Goodland Arts Council newsletter will have contest details.



Brittney Espinoza and Heath Mannis walked down the special "ice" path Saturday at Max Jones Fieldhouse for the annual high school prom promenade. A crowd of friends, family and the curious cheered and snapped photos of the prom goers. More photos on Page 1B.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

California man soon to take over Edson gym

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Who buys an old school gym in the middle of nowhere?

Jeff Soper.

This enthusiastic Californian is looking forward to Wednesday, June 1, when the Goodland School Board will hand him the keys to the Edson gymnasium.

"I'm totally excited about doing this," he said. "I don't know how many individuals own a gymnasium."

Soper says the building, used only for an occasional basketball game or community sale in the last few years, will be revitalized into an indoor/outdoor Flea & Farmers Market.

He said the building should be ready for business by Friday, June

24, if not sooner. The flea market will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday and the farmers market on Wednesday.

Soper says he plans to fill the gym with merchandise he buys at auction from abandoned storage units, but he wants to open the building to include other vendors.

His web site, www.edson-gym.com, lists booth prices as \$12 for a 10-foot-by-8-foot booth indoors and \$10 for a 20-by-10 outdoor booth. He has a diagram that shows the gym holding 30 booths with five-foot isles in between, and says he expects to have room for 50 outdoor booths.

The web site says vendors staying overnight can buy an outdoor space to park a recreational vehicle or

pitch a tent. People staying overnight can use the men's and women's showers in the gym.

"The gymnasium, for me," he said, "was basically built for people to get together."

He says he wants to work with people who already have auctions, farmers markets in the area, not against them.

"If you already have a farmers market going on, lets bring it into the gymnasium," he said.

He says he isn't looking to get rich, but only wants a nominal fee for anyone using the building.

People who sign up for booths, he said, will get help appraising items for the market and to put online.

He said after spending 15 years working in an auction house, he has

experience with pricing.

When people sign up for a booth, he will help them develop a portfolio to place on his web site. He said he will help people list items on the eBay electronic auction, too.

"I've been on eBay since 1998," he said.

In California, Soper said, he has storage units holding different kinds of merchandise that he will haul here for the flea market. He said he could more than fill the gym with his stuff, but he plans to add a little at a time.

"I'm gonna bring out some nice stuff," he said.

Soper plans to have the gym open through the summer. He will keep his three houses in California and travel back and forth to see his family. He said eventually someone here

could be trained to run the business while he travels.

He has big ideas for the future of the gym, including opening it up for weddings, reunions or other events in the winter.

Soper says he has a professional stage he plans to move into the building for concerts or events.

"It's the perfect venue for concerts," he said.

He has even gotten an offer to open up an actors' camp, where kids would come for one- or two-week seminars with famous actors.

Another idea for the gym is to bring out people interested in doing music videos and escaping from Los Angeles.

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Final cleanup Saturday targets city highway entrances

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Volunteers will fan out along the highways Saturday to pick up trash and debris in the final push to clean up Goodland.

The third weekend cleanup will focus on the entrances to town along K-27 and the north stretch of Caldwell Street by the airport.

Volunteers plan to meet at the Northwest Kansas Technical Col-

lege at 8 a.m. to view a video about highway safety. They will then don bright orange vests and take trash bags out along the roads from 9 a.m. to noon.

Ken Clouse, college president and chairman for the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce Beautification and Revitalization committee, said they need about 50 volunteers.

"I need a lot more help," he said, noting that people already have

turned out for two weekends this month. "Hopefully they'll hang in for one more week."

Clouse said volunteers should bring gloves and be ready to take safety precautions. He said this cleanup won't involve much heavy lifting or strenuous work.

"It's pretty easy," he said. "You walk and pick up trash and throw it in a bag."

He said the weather is expected to

be cooler Saturday, making conditions ideal for the cleanup.

The crews will haul trash from Caldwell to the Sherman County transfer station while the Kansas Department of Transportation will take care of trash collected on K-27.

Clouse said they are not cleaning up old U.S. 24 because the Future Career Leaders of America at the high school pick up the road as a project every year.

"We always leave that to the high school students," he said.

The Chamber plans to organize another highway cleanup in October, he said.

He hopes the city-wide project to cleanup trash in town and on the highways will become an annual event.

"I think we'll plan to do this on an

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