

weather report

75°
 noon Monday

Today
 •Sunset, 7:33 p.m.
Wednesday
 •Sunrise, 6:08 a.m.
 •Sunset, 7:31 p.m.

Midday Conditions
 •Soil temperature 75 degrees
 •Humidity 68 percent
 •Sky partly sunny
 •Winds east 7 mph.
 •Barometer 30.13 inches
 and steady
 •Record High today 101° (1943)
 •Record Low today 38° (1964)

Last 24 Hours*
 High Sunday 82°
 Low Sunday 63°
 Precipitation .03
 This month 1.35
 Year to date 11.10
 Normal 15.73

The Topside Forecast
 Today: Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon, high around 85, low near 61, winds south southeast 7-28 mph.
 Wednesday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m., high near 88, low around 61, winds south 11-14 mph.

Extended Forecast
 Thursday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high near 90.
 (National Weather Service)
 Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
 * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon
 Wheat — \$3.07 bushel
 Posted county price — \$3.11
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Corn — \$1.76 bushel
 Posted county price — \$1.74
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 20¢
 Milo — \$1.47 bushel
 Soybeans — \$5.26 bushel
 Posted county price — \$5.39
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Millet — \$6.50 hundredweight
 Sunflowers
 Oil current crop — \$9.70 cwt.
 NuSun — \$10.70 cwt.
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Confection — Ask
 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



Tennis team gets ready

Junior Jillian Parker returned a ball to her practice partner during a Cowgirls' tennis team practice Monday morning. Photo, story on Page 10a.

Relay draws people of all ages

By Kathryn Burke
 The Goodland Star-News

Tears rolled down the cheeks of survivors, those still battling cancer and their caretakers as they took a lap around the track for the annual Rely for Life at the Sherman County Fairgrounds on Friday night.

The American Cancer Society event features people walking around a track for 12 hours to raise money for cancer research. Fifteen teams signed up for the relay, which started at 7 p.m. Friday. One member of each team was supposed to be on the track at all times.

Sherida Shoff, vice president of First National Banks and a relay committee member, said Friday they had raised over \$28,000.

The opening ceremony started with Janet Redlin singing "Someone's Watching Over Me." Cancer survivors took a "victory" lap together followed by a lap with survivors and their caretakers as Jessica Kannady sang "No Fear."

Next, all of the members from participating teams lined up and took a lap together.

After each team went around, Tom Harrison started to auction baskets full of goodies donated by the teams to raise money for the cause.

Then teams began their all-night walk around the track.

At 9 p.m., volunteers began lighting luminaries. Candles were placed in paper bags that had the name of the person being honored or remembered. The Relay sold over 1,000 of the candle-lit honors, 200 more than last year.

During the luminary service, the Relay committee lit luminaries lined up to spell out the word "HOPE." A long list of names of the people listed on the luminaries was scrolled across a projection screen.

At 10:30 p.m., men dressed up as women and danced on stage in the Tacky Queen contest. Biker "babes"



Amanda Amthor, 16, (above) won the bubble-gum blowing contest at 4 a.m. Saturday morning during the Relay for Life cancer fund raiser. A little earlier in the morning, Kinsey Volk, 6, (right) won the newspaper costume contest with her wedding dress, flowers and veil.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



Joshua Dechant and Dan Hayden from Bankwest rode into the contest atop motorcycles. The winner was "Jane," or Dustin Juleson, the 12-year-old son of Lori and Bob.

At 11 p.m., a puzzle contest and bingo began, and an hour later a water balloon volleyball contest was held. The puzzle contest was

won by the Bankwest team, the bingo had several winners and the water balloon volleyball was won by a Lonnie's Angels team.

At 1 a.m., a scavenger hunt sent participants running across the fairgrounds to find items. Bankwest and

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Friday good time for Mars watching

By Sharon Corcoran
 The Goodland Star-News

Earth is preparing for a close encounter with Mars, and though some of the information circulating is a little exaggerated, the red planet will come close enough for amateur astronomers to get a good view.

And although the closest approach is more than two months away, now is the time to start watching the red planet get closer and closer.

A Sherman County astronomer is offering an opportunity to watch the planet's approach on a television monitor, magnified by a 12-inch aperture, 600-800-power telescope.

Ron Thompson has been offering "star-be-cue" parties this summer in an effort to fuel an interest in astronomy for anyone interested, adults and children.

So far, Thompson said, he hasn't had a lot of interest, but with the red planet approaching, he's hoping that will change. Thompson is planning to start his Mars watch Friday night at his farm on County Road 67. Call him at 899-2053 by Thursday if you want to be there.

People are welcome to bring a barbecue, food and equipment, he said, and stay for the evening or camp all night. It's planned as a family event, he said, so no alcohol is allowed.

Although Mars won't reach its closest point to earth until late October or early November, there is

plenty to see now. On Sept. 21, says an article in the *Palm Beach Post*, Mars will surpass the brilliance of the star Sirius, and by Oct. 4, it will be brighter than Jupiter.

An article in "Newsday" says Mars is already conspicuous in the predawn sky. If you aim a backyard telescope in its direction, the article says, you should be able to see its bright south polar icecap.

Most people looking at Mars through a moderate scope, the Palm Beach article says, at least a 4-inch aperture and 145-power or more, will see a bright white polar cap and perhaps some dusty markings on a small, rust-colored disk.

Thompson's scope offers more than three times the power, and it filters out some light, so the planet won't be too bright to look at.

With the scope, you can see bands on Jupiter, Thompson said, and four to five moons. The scope has a place to hook up a video camera, he said, to transmit the view onto a monitor, so a group can watch it at once.

One e-mail circulating says Mars will appear as large as the full moon and will be only 34,649,589 miles from earth on Friday. News reports say this e-mail is a repeat of information circulated about a Mars encounter in August 2003 with some false information added.

Mars will be 43,137,071 miles from Earth on Oct. 29, said the Palm

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Ron Thompson showed how his telescope can be set to track a star or planet, using a Global Positioning System unit, and how the eyepiece can be used for one person to look through. A camera can be attached to the same eyepiece to take pictures or a video camera can transfer images to a monitor.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Council approves business tax incentives

By Tom Betz
 The Goodland Star-News

The final draft of a tax incentive policy designed to bring businesses to Sherman County and encouraging expansion of existing businesses was approved by the Economic Development Council last Tuesday.

The policy will be on today's agenda for the Sherman County Commission, which meets at 8 a.m. at the courthouse.

Under the policy, a qualified business could have up to 90 percent of

its property taxes exempted for 10 years — based on the size of the investment it makes — or have up to 50 percent exempted for up to nine years — depending on the number of new jobs the business creates.

Dwane Timm, a council representative from the First National Bank and chairman of the Incentives Committee, said the final draft was worked out after months of research and a special meeting of representatives from the city, county, school district and the state Board of Tax

Appeals.

He said the policy would apply to all businesses. A special committee will review applications for tax exemption or incentives.

A statement in the policy, Timm said, prohibits the county from using the tax exemptions to pirate a business from another Kansas city. That does not apply if the business is expanding its operation in the state or the business is considering moving out of the state, he said.

Any business that is expanding or

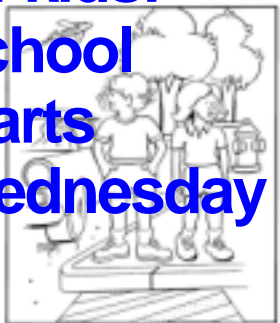
relocating to Sherman County could be eligible, Timm said. The tax exemption would be for both real property and personal property taxed by the state.

"There is a feeling that we are giving something away," said County Commissioner Kevin Rasure, "but with the policy, we are inviting business to the city. This is across the board for anybody who qualifies."

"The tax break makes us more

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Watch out for kids! School starts Wednesday



Special back-to-school safety tips on Page 1b.