

## weather report

44°

noon Thursday

### Today

• Sunset, 6:22 p.m.

### Friday

• Sunrise, 6:50 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:20 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 68 degrees
- Humidity 49 percent
- Sky overcast
- Winds variable at 5 mph
- Barometer 30.39 inches and falling

- Record High today 95° (1934)
- Record Low today 13° (1952)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday	59°
Low Wednesday	31°
Precipitation	0
This month	trace
Year to date	12.85

### The Topside Forecast

Today: Highs in the 60s, lows in the 30s, south wind 10 to 15 mph.  
Saturday: Partly cloudy, highs in the 70s, lows in the 40s, south wind 10-15 mph.

### Extended Forecast

Sunday: Partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of rain, highs in the 60s and lows in the 40s. Monday: 40 percent chance of rain, highs in the 60s and lows in the 40s. Tuesday and Wednesday: Partly cloudy, highs in the 60s and lows in the 40s. (National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$3.37 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.39  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Corn — \$1.82 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.54  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 40¢  
Milo — \$1.53 bushel  
Soybeans — \$4.99 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.71  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Millet — \$6.25 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$9.6 cwt.  
NuSuncrop — \$10.65  
Confection — Call  
Pinto beans — \$17 (new crop)  
(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 beat Brewster

Junior Shandel Simon played libero for the Cowgirls in their match against Brewster Tuesday. Goodland won 25-23, 25-17. Photos, story on Page 9a.

# Betty dances into Edson

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

After playing host to hundreds of basketball and volleyball games, school functions and city-wide garage sales, the old Edson School gym has been transformed into a permanent flea and farmer's market.

The doors to the new market opened at 9 a.m. this morning and the business will be open from 9 to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

"I think if they come out and look," said owner Jeff Soper, "they might be surprised."

Soper, from California, bought the gym to use to sell stuff he buys at auctions from abandoned storage units.

The Goodland School District sold him the gym using the Internet auction service eBay in January, but Soper had a few setbacks getting to town. He finally made it out to Goodland two weeks ago and set up for the Flatlander Fall Festival.

After selling items at the festival, he loaded up his truck and moved all of his wares into the gym.

Norie Elliott, caretaker of the gym for over 25 years, said she worked through boxes and boxes of items and set them up for display. The work turned into a family affair for Elliott as her husband and sisters pitched in to get the gym ready to go.

She said Wednesday, the market was all set up and she expected another load from Soper on Thursday.

The pair said they hoped to get everything ready in time.

The gym shopping experience starts right inside the door with a case full of dolls of all shapes and sizes. An old Shirley Temple doll takes center state with a selection of Barbie dolls. A doll made of corn husks and a Native American doll are mixed in among the collection.

Inside the gym, tables are lined up filling more than half of the space. The bleachers on the east side are filled with quilts, rugs, mirrors and

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An entire Betty Boop collection, including a hula Boop (left), a cup and a camel are just a few of the eclectic pieces that can be found in the Edson gym market.

Photos by Kathryn Burke  
The Goodland Star-News

# County looks at dispatch position

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County commissioners are looking at splitting the job of central dispatch and emergency management director into two.

Friday, the commissioners met with Mary Messamore, head of central dispatch and emergency management, who is moving to Hutchison. She talked about her job duties, and things she is doing to make sure the office is ready for the next department head.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said the commissioners were thinking about splitting the dispatch job from the emergency management duties.

Tiede said he called Gary Rogers of St. Francis, who is the emergency manager for Rawlins and Cheyenne County. He said Rogers was interested in handling Sherman County's emergency management duties also.

Tiede said that might work for an interim period while the commissioners looked for a new person, or it might be something they decided to do on a regional basis.

Messamore said she knew Rogers, and that it would be a possibility. She said the state is pushing for multi-county emergency management programs, and there are some incentives.

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# Pioneer Park work almost finished

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

As work on Pioneer Park nears completion, the Goodland City Commissioner is paying the bills and collecting state and federal money.

The park, which started a drainage project, expanded to include benches, a paved path and landscaping as part of a new entrance to Goodland.

At a city meeting Monday, Mayor Rick Billinger asked how the project was going.

Darin Neufeld, project engineer with Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, said last time he visited the site, they checked out the hike-bike path. He said a few of the cement squares had to be replaced because they were cracked.



The sign was put up this week at Pioneer Park.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

Otherwise, the park just needs minor details before it is done. He said the Goodland sign would be in place this week.

The project was paid for with city, state and federal money, adding some private donations.

The empty lot just west of the Van Gogh sunflower painting was transformed this summer into a park, too, with grass planted around the big canvases.

On the corner of Cherry and U.S. 24, the south eastside of the park, a bricked planter is topped off with a sign welcoming people to Goodland. A black metal fence behind the sign extends past the bricks.

Matching brick was used around landscaping, including trees and

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# Trail ride set for Sunday in Cheyenne County

By Karen Krien

The Saint Francis Herald

The 15th annual Cheyenne County Trail Ride will start at 2 p.m. Sunday along the Republican River bottom southwest of St. Francis as a fund raiser for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

The riders will enjoy the river and changing colors on the trees as they follow the bluffs on the Douthit Hereford Ranch. This year's ride is dedicated to Thad Douthit, who died on Aug. 17 at the age of 61. Mr. Douthit enjoyed the trail rides and had allowed the ride to be held on his land before.

"Thad Douthit's general spirit will be with us as we ride the land that he loved and cared for," said Gary Cooper, one of the coordinators.

The weather could be a little brisk, as weathermen are forecasting a chance of showers and

lower temperatures. Bring a jacket just in case. If the weather gets bad, though, the ride will be held a week later.

The ride will last about 2.5 hours and about halfway through, members of the Cheyenne County Historical Society will provide refreshments. At the end of the ride, the Cheyenne County 4-H Horse Club will serve a meal, which is the club's main way of raising money.

Directions to the ride: From St. Francis, west 1.2 miles from K-Store on U.S. 36, then turn south before crossing the bridge and follow the River Road 7.4 miles. Turn north and follow the field road to a sand pit area.

For information, call Mr. Cooper, 785-332-2904; Martin Hilt, 785-332-3200; Sharon Olofson, 785-332-2248; or Gail Yonkey, 785-332-2488.

# State experts advise council to ask businesses

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Ask business people, trying to get a conversation going, and they'll tell you exactly what they think, state advisers told the Sherman County Economic Development Council at its monthly meeting last week.

Cary Catchpole and Donald Ballek of the Department of Commerce's Business Development Division were at the meeting to talk about the state's new program for business retention and expansion.

Ballek is the project manager for the northwest regional office, which covers 18 counties. Based in Hays, he has worked with several groups and projects here.

Catchpole is a business development representative out of Topeka.

Ballek said he wanted to brag a little about Kay Younger, office manager for the council. He said a call came from a large company looking for a place to locate a distribution center that would hire 500 people.

"Kay is a trooper," Ballek said. "She worked very late to be sure the presentation from Sherman County was perfect."

"This is a once-in-a-career opportunity. We had six

Kansas communities along I-70 apply, but I am sorry to say that none will get a site visit. With people like Kay, we know where there is good information if someone wants to open a plant that needs 500 employees."

John Garcia, council chairman, said he had worked with Ballek on several things and said he was a "dictionary on feet."

Catchpole presented information on the retention and expansion program, which uses teams of volunteers to meet with business people to ask survey questions designed to gather information about the firm's experience in the community.

She said it is best to have about 20 volunteers and plan to survey 20-40 businesses. The survey takes from 30 minutes to an hour, she said.

"This is an important way to open channels of communications with the businesses," she said. "The important part is that 75 percent of all new jobs come from existing businesses expanding."

"Since the survey is anonymous, the business people tell you exactly what they think of the community, and

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