

weather report

57°
noon Monday



Today

- Sunset, 5:54 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 6:08 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:53 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 47 degrees
- Humidity 37 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds south at 10 mph
- Barometer 30.22 inches and falling
- Record High today 88° (1959)
- Record Low today 18° (1997)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	46°
Low Sunday	22°
Precipitation	—
This month	2.46
Year to date	15.31

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny, highs in the 60s and lows in the 30s, south winds at 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high in the 60s and lows in the 30s.
Thursday through Saturday: Partly cloudy, highs in the 60s and lows in the 30s.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.31 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.31
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$1.82 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.55
Loan deficiency pmt. — 39¢
Milo — \$1.50 bushel
Soybeans — \$4.97 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.65
Loan deficiency pmt. — 5¢
Millet — \$6.25 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$8.50 cwt.
NuSun crop — \$9.00
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



Cowboy places third

Junior Kerek Mason finished third at Saturday's regional meet in Buhler qualifying for the state championship meet this coming Saturday. See story, photo on Page 11.

U.S. Army: Up close and personal

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Imagine the excitement of seeing a lot of army tanks, cannons, helicopters and other equipment up close and personal for the first time ever all within a 48-hour period.

That's just what happened to Sherman County Undersheriff Roger Studer this week when he visited Fort Riley on Wednesday and Nickell Barracks in Salina on Thursday. The visits were part of a "VIP trip" sponsored by the Kansas Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Command.

Studer, along with a reporter from *The Goodland Star-News*, was guided on the trip by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Frecks, the recruiter for the northwest Kansas area. Frecks organized the trip to help develop community awareness of the guard.

Although the sheriff's office does not have anyone serving in the guard at this time, Studer accepted Sgt. Frecks' invitation because he wanted to expand on his limited experience with the military.

The group departed Goodland by van around 7 a.m. Wednesday morning for the 300-mile trip to Fort Riley. The trio's first stop was at Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site, called "MATES," one of 22 such sites in the United States.

There the group met Maj. Roger Krull, the site's general foreman. Krull gave a briefing which explained the site's mission, capabilities and organization.

The visitors met three soldiers from Goodland's Detachment 1, 170th Maintenance Company who accompanied the group through its tour. They were Staff Sgt. Ernesto Gonzales, Spec. Randall Lee and Spec. Travis Mote.

Because of various deployments involving full-time employees of the site. The 995th Maintenance Company of Smith Center was activated to help man the facility with select members of the 170th ordered to active duty to bring the 995th up to strength.

Units pre-position most of their vehicles at the site where they are maintained and kept ready for use. Fort Riley serves as both a mobilization station and a major training area for National Guard units in Kansas and other states. Pre-positioning equipment there saves those units time, effort and money, Krull said, if they have to report for mobilization or training.

Currently, the site supports six battalion-sized combat units along with a division and a brigade head-



quarters, he said. It supports company-sized support units, maintenance facilities and other logistical organizations in Kansas.

After the briefing, Krull gave a tour of the facility, including maintenance bays where the guests got an up-close look several types of combat and support vehicles.

Photos by Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News

"It was interesting to see how much work they can do on the vehicles in so little space," Studer said. "It was surprising to see how big some of the transmissions were."

The visitors got to look at Abrams tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles, Paladin self-propelled howitzers, carriers for the multiple launch missile system, along with other tracked and wheeled vehicles.

"It was great to see some of the equipment the military has in person after only seeing it before on TV," said Studer.

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Principal feels ready to return

The Goodland High School staff has worked well together without their principal, who had been ill since September, but may return to work part time by Monday.

School Superintendent Marvin Selby reported at the school board meeting on Oct. 10 that Principal Harvey Swager had a reaction caused by medication at the end of September and had been in the hospital.

Selby said Friday that Swager, has been home since the beginning of October, has started physical therapy to gain his strength back.

"Steve Raymer (the assistant principal and activity director) is in charge at the high school," Selby said, "and the teachers are helping to cover some of the duties. We all hope Swager will be able to return to work."

Sunday evening, the principal said he is doing much better, and the therapy is helping him get his strength back. He said he hopes to return to work part time Monday, but will have to talk to Jack Lucas, his therapist, and Dr. Travis Daise first.

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Council checks list of Chamber bills to pay

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The Sherman County Economic Development Council agreed Tuesday to pay \$8,008 after reviewing a list of bills from the cash-strapped Goodland Chamber of Commerce.

The council has been trying to help the Chamber wrestle with its financial problems since the Chamber asked for help in August. At that time, Chamber board members showed the council a list of outstanding bills totaling \$19,926, and asked for \$7,500 to help pay the bills.

The council voted to loan the Chamber \$8,000, but questions from the county clerk and auditor changed the plan. They sent the Chamber back to find things that could be considered as economic development items that could be paid by the council.

Tuesday, council Chairman John Garcia handed board members a new listing from the Chamber showing a revised total owed of \$27,076. Of that, the Chamber asked the council to pay \$8,008, leaving a debt of \$19,068.

No one from the Chamber board was at the council meeting to discuss the list, but Garcia said he was told the Chamber had been in negotiations with some of the creditors.

There were six items on the second list that were not included in the first list of Chamber bills. These include a partial salary payment to Courtney Warden, former director, of \$670; payroll taxes to the state of \$1,820; High Plains Office Supply,

Rebate rewards home improvements

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Nearly 15 percent of the homes in Goodland are valued at \$25,000 or lower, and a new tax rebate program would encourage homeowners and businesses to expand, remodel or redevelop these places.

The rebate program is the second half of an incentive package developed this year by the Sherman County Economic Development Council. The first half, approved in August, was a tax abatement program to encourage new businesses to come to Sher-

man County and encourage the expansion of existing businesses.

Dwane Timm, head of the incentive committee, presented the program to the council at its meeting Tuesday, and explained the differences in the two plans. He said the tax abatement program, approved in August, is designed for manufacturing businesses, but the tax rebate program is tied to the improvement of real estate and can be either business or residential.

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\$669 for copies and office supplies; Mark Scheopner, \$399 for web site hosting and advertising; and Shad's Electric, \$634 for concert wiring; In the Can, \$24 for trash service; and S & T Communications, \$159 for phone service and advertising.

Council member Dwane Timm questioned paying the salary and payroll taxes. He said it would be better for the council to trade checks on those items so they would be shown on the Chamber's records. County Commissioner Kevin Rasure agreed.

Member Don Newell asked about the differences, and that it appeared that some of the bills from the first list in August have either been paid or cleared off. Bills from Coca-Cola for \$216 and Gary Farris for \$1,000 that were on the first list were not included, and the new listing showed there was no balance owing. Steve West of Western State Bank

said the list of suggested payments appeared to meet the requirements the council had set, and made a motion to commit to pay them. It passed unanimously.

Garcia said the council still has not found a director. Before the meeting, he said that the last person who had accepted the job had called and backed out.

Treasurer Kim Bohme mentioned that under the bylaws, the council's next meeting is to be the annual meeting, and that nominations for the board are to be opened at that time.

Garcia asked if the council wanted to meet earlier than the third Tuesday in November, but the consensus was to leave the meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the regular date, Nov. 15, but to move it to a larger place to allow the public to attend.

Four council seats are up this year, two of them reserved for Western State Bank and People's State Bank,

and these members will be nominated by the banks. The positions of Garcia and Chuck Wilkens are up this year. Wilkens is serving the unexpired term of Larry Harper, who resigned in the spring.

Garcia said he would be going off the council at the end of the year, as he has completed two terms.

Location of the annual meeting will be advertised, Garcia said, and nominations will be taken from the floor that night. He said the council will leave the nominations open for two weeks, and then meet to hear from the nominees and vote for their choices. The new members will be sent to the county commissioners for approval in December, and they will begin serving in January when new officers are elected.

The council agreed to contact the Goodland Elks Lodge to see if their building can be used for the annual meeting.