

weather
report

53°

noon
Thursday

Today

Friday

- Sunset, 4:30 p.m.
- Sunrise, 7:06 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:30 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 38 degrees
- Humidity 38 percent
- Sky Partly Cloudy
- Winds north at 22 mph
- Barometer 29.56 inches and falling
- Record High today 65° (2003)
- Record Low today -5° (1996)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 59°
Low Wednesday 27°
Precipitation —
This month .12
Year to date 16.02

The Topside Forecast

Today: 20 percent chance rain, mostly cloudy turning to sunny, high 55, low 25, and a west wind at 5 to 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday: Mostly sunny, high near 47, low around 21, northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph. Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 59, low around 25 and a south wind around 15 mph. Sunday: 20 percent chance of rain, mostly cloudy, with a high near 52, and a low around 23.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

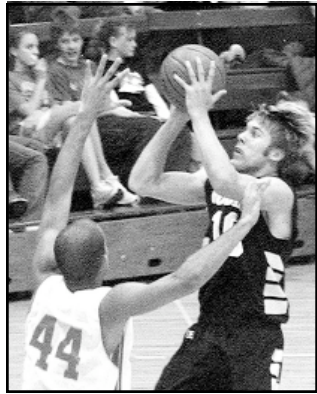
local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.60 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.47
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$1.85 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.85
Loan deficiency pmt. — 9¢
Milo — \$1.53 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.39 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.50
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5.75 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.75 cwt.
NuSun crop — \$7.75
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
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Goodland
Star-News



Cowboys
head south

Senior Jase Herl scored a team-high 14 points in the championship game of this year's Topside Tip-Off against Ottawa on Dec. 10. The Cowboys resume action on Tuesday at Johnson City. See story, photo on Page 10a.

City cuts use of well near dump

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

One of the city's best water wells is not being pumped because of underground contamination seeping from the old city dump north of town.

Rich Simon, public works director, and Wayne Hill, city manager, said Thursday the city has cut back pumping Well No. 11. Simon said they will be giving the county the figures today on how much water it pumped this year.

The Sherman County commissioners talked about the contamination at their meeting on Dec. 20, and asked Public Works Manager Curt Way to get the pumping information.

Concern about the well surfaced

County took over landfill in 1975

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County commissioners' minutes show that in May 1975, Royal Reid and Ken Halbleib, representing the City of Goodland, asked the county to take over the expense of the landfill.

The first county solid waste fee was adopted in

June of that year, said County Clerk Janet Rumpel, researched the history of the old landfill. It was set at \$12 a year for homes. The fee was raised to \$15 in 1977, and to \$20 in 1983.

The county purchased 144 acres for future

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in April, and on May 5, Simon said, he talked to Darrell Plummer with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment about using the water. Plummer, chief of public water supply compliance for the state, in a letter to Way and Simon,

recommended the well be used "sparingly due to a contamination plume that flows from the closed Sherman County landfill towards the city well."

"I have been pumping it about every two weeks to keep the pump

oiled and operational," Simon said Thursday. "Because of the health concern, we are mixing the water with another city well in the area."

The well is tested every three months. Mark McMullen, an engineer with American Environmental

of Denver, the county's consultant on the water problem, said contamination in monitoring wells nearest the city well showed a slight increase in the last test.

Simon said the city well itself has never shown any contamination, and Plummer told him the well is safe at this time. The worry is that the plume, apparently created by dry cleaning chemicals left in the old dump, is spreading west, toward the city well.

McMullen said the state is concerned pumping the city well will pull the contamination closer and eventually contaminate the supply.

Way said in the past, when the

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Fred Juenemann (left) showed that the pump at the kitchen sink brings well water indoors at the Minor Family Sod House Bed and Breakfast. Fred got a chuckle out of his wife Lesa's demonstration (above) of how an old-fashioned popcorn popper works on the wood/coal stove in the kitchen.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Sod house gives guests feeling of Plains history

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

You notice the wind sweeping over the prairie grass as you bump along on the dirt road. As you pull into the driveway, the soddy looks small against the backdrop of grass pastures on hills rolling for miles around.

As you enter the nearly 100-year-old sod house, you can't help thinking how adorable the little wood/coal stove in the kitchen is and wonder whether the pump at the kitchen sink works. (It does.)

As you take a look around, you can't help but notice how thick the walls are (about two feet), how rustic the decor and how old the black-and-white photos on the walls.

You can't help feeling you have stepped back in time, as you forget the horsepower that brought you here was under the hood and you really don't notice the electric lights. (You're used to those after all.)

Call it a real prairie experience. City folks seem to like it.

The Minor Family Sod House Bed and Breakfast, 17 miles north of Brewster and a little west, was built in

1907, later than most, and is one of few surviving original soddies.

Nestled in an area steeped in history, the soddy is a reminder of times past. In the southwest corner of Rawlins County, near the Cheyenne, Sherman and Thomas county borders, it is 2 1/2 miles from the site of the Dewey-Berry shoot-out in May 1903 and is near the Dewey Ranch and the site of the Kidder Massacre in 1867.

The owners, Fred and Lesa Juenemann, are great-grandchildren of Tom and Mary Minor, who bought the house in 1909 and became friends with their neighbors and former owners of the property, the Deweys.

The Juenemanns are helping to keep the history of northwest Kansas alive by preserving the soddy and by providing plenty of historic reading material, with pictures, for their guests.

Several books and scrapbooks on the large round table in the parlor tell tales of the Kidder Massacre, the Dewey-Berry gun fight, the Last Vigilante Hanging in

See SODDY, Page 9a



The soddy (above) looks small among the hills of southwest Rawlins County but is actually larger than most sod houses.



The Juenemanns used branding irons for towel racks in the bathroom (left) and built one wall of wood from the old wash house on the property. The gingham



tablecloth in the kitchen (right) and the telephone add to the old, country feel of the soddy. Wide sills at the windows leave room to display other antiques.