

The Goodland Star-News

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Ten Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

MIDWEEK
Tuesday, Jan. 10
2006

75¢

**weather
report**

34°

noon Monday

Today
• Sunset, 4:43 p.m.
Wednesday
• Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:43 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil temperature 37 degrees
• Humidity 59 percent
• Sky partly to mostly cloudy
• Winds north at 12 mph
• Barometer 30.33 inches
and rising
• Record High today 65° (1908)
• Record Low today -9° (1973)

Last 24 Hours*
High Sunday 52°
Low Sunday 32°
Precipitation .02
This month .06
Year to date .06

The Topside Forecast
Today: Mostly sunny, high around 55 and low near 23. Southwest wind changing to a west wind at 5 to 15 mph.

Extended Forecast
Wednesday: Partly cloudy, high around 60 with a low near 23. West wind at 10 to 15 mph. Thursday: A slight chance of rain and snow after noon. Partly cloudy and breezy with a high around 47 and a low near 20. Friday: Mostly sunny, high around 52 with a low near 22.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local
markets**

Noon
Wheat — \$3.49 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.35
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$1.86 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.86
Loan deficiency pmt. — 8¢
Milo — \$1.51 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.29 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.35
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
your
Goodland
Star-News



Cowboys beat Eagles

Junior Mikey Doll scored two of his 10 points with a layup early in the fourth period of the Cowboys' game Friday against Colby. Two overtime periods gave the Cowboys the win 67-62. See story, photo on Page 10.

New book recaps Ruleton history



Arbutus Topliff (above left) and Lois Sieck checked out the old merry-go-round at the Ruleton School on Friday. Sieck said she couldn't climb on as easily as she had when she attended the school years ago. Sieck and Topliff (below) walked away from the old building, which was the inspiration for their book on Ruleton history.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News



By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

A Goodland woman has been digging up the good ol' days, and a couple of her friends, plus many people and organizations, have helped her turn them into a book.

Arbutus Topliff has spent the last three years researching the history on Ruleton and its school. Lois Sieck and her cousin, Janice Parish Scanlon of Florida, helped her compile the information and put the book together.

And, the author says, countless others helped her find records from the school and contributed photos for the book.

From the town's founding in 1887, under the name of Rule, to the country school consolidation in 1927 and construction of the brick building in '28 to the tornado in 1941 and beyond, the people, events and tales from the school yard have

been laid out in print.

The book, called "Ruleton and Its School," has sparked interest among those who attended the school, those whose family did, history buffs and people who have just heard about it, she said.

The book has been available since mid-December, and Topliff has sold 16 copies and has 20 more ordered, many of which are already spoken for. At \$25 a copy, the book has already found homes in California, Nebraska and Arizona, besides Sherman County.

It's been selling like hotcakes, Topliff said.

At four pounds and about 215 pages, the book is in a loose-leaf notebook, allowing the owners to take things out if they want and to add pages later, when more information is discovered. They can even add their own Ruleton pictures and memorabilia, Topliff said.

While talking about Ruleton, the book, the school and old times, Sieck and Topliff came across a few questions about Ruleton history they would like to have answers to and possibilities for gathering more information to add to the book. There could be some more pages in the future, they said, adding that people should contact them with any information about Ruleton.

Their tales from school include an outbreak of lice, Halloween parties, the best lunches at a great price and Ruleton beating Goodland at basketball.

"One of the worst things I remember," Sieck said, "was that all the girls used the same comb in the bathroom. There was an outbreak of lice that got so bad they had to close the school. And then they had inspection lines out front to get back in."

Sieck had a lighter tale, which Topliff was able to add to along the way.

"We used to have Halloween parties at school," she said, "and whole families would come. It was a big deal."

See RULETON, Page 8

Goodland man pleads guilty to sex crime

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

A Goodland man has accepted a plea agreement for sex crimes committed against teenagers in Thomas and Sherman counties, and faces prison time after guilty pleas in both counties.

Terry L. Sapp Jr., 38, appeared in Thomas County District Court Friday to enter a guilty plea to one count of lewd and lascivious behavior in the presence of a 14-year-old child between Jan. 31 and Feb. 7, 2004.

"I exposed myself to a victim," Sapp told District Judge Glenn Schiffner during Friday's arraignment.

As part of the dual-jurisdiction agreement, Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick dismissed one count of sexual exploitation of a child for Sapp's alleged asking the same child to engage in sexually explicit conduct during the same time.

The plea agreement was filed in both Thomas and Sherman County district courts. The one in Sherman County was filed on Dec. 12.

On that same day, Sapp entered a guilty plea in Sherman County to one count of exploitation of a 16-year-old child in mid-February of 2004. The incident took place while Sapp and the child were

in a vehicle driving between Brewster and Goodland on Highway 24. According to court records, Sapp offered the teen "\$20 or more if he would engage in illegal, sexual conduct."

Sapp also pleaded guilty to one count of lewd and lascivious behavior in the presence of a 14-year-old child on several occasions from Jan. 31 through Dec. 31, 2001.

According to court records, the incidents took place "while watching and looking at pornographic material." Dismissed were one count of rape and one count of aggravated indecent liberties of a third child in 2005.

Sapp's attorney, Scott Beims of Atwood, has advised him that depending on a presentence investigation

in Thomas County, Sapp faces between five and 17 months in prison and a fine of \$100,000.

In Sherman County, he faces the identical sentence for the charge of lewd and lascivious behavior and 31 to 136 months in prison for the exploitation charge, and fines of \$100,000 and \$300,000 respectively. That same agreement was to have been filed Friday in Thomas County.

Sapp will be sentenced in Thomas County by District Judge Glenn Schiffner and in Sherman County by District Judge Jack Burr. Both Wyrick and Sherman County Attorney Bonnie Selby will ask that Sapp's sentence be in the mid-range as outlined by state sentencing guideline. They have agreed to ask

that no fines be imposed. Sentencing dates in both counties have yet to be set, but Sapp has agreed not to appeal the convictions.

Selby said Thursday Sapp was released on a supervised bond after entering his plea in Sherman County District Court last month.

Having pleaded guilty to sex crimes, he will be required to file with the state's sex offender registry.

There are 16 sex offenders living in Sherman County and five in Thomas County, according to the KBI web page.

To see photos and last known addresses of these offenders, log on to the state's Web site of www.access.kansas.org/ssrv-registered-offender/searchCounty.

Radio station's van found in middle of road — twice

The white van advertising KGCR radio has been a landmark east of Edson along old U.S. 24 for a decade, but twice in recent weeks someone has pulled it out into the middle of the highway.

Maybe they thought it was a prank, but the people who have to deal with it don't think it's so funny.

"Anytime someone puts something in the roadway it is a dangerous situation," said Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts. "People who drive that road all the time could hit the van without realizing it is on the road."

Sheriff Butts said Monday that Deputy Jason Showalter was sent to the location, near County Road 33, about 3 a.m. Sunday and found the van in the driving lanes. A wrecker was called and the van was returned to the field where it advertises the Lord's airways.

Alex West of Alex's Radiator and Repair said Sunday he had been called to the same location about 10 p.m. on

Friday, Dec. 30, because the van was sitting across both lanes.

That night, Lt. Kevin Winston of the Kansas Highway Patrol was the first on the scene, and Undersheriff Roger Studer arrived later.

West said he pulled the van back to the field, adding that it wasn't easy because the tires are hard and flat.

"We are disappointed people are finding it necessary to pull it out on the road," said James Claassen, KGCR station manager. "We have permission to have it out there."

"It is to bad that people are making our officers waste their time having to deal with this type of vandalism."

"We will be pulling it in to repaint it, but it will be put back in the field. We may look at options to make it less mobile."

Claassen said the van has been in the field for about 10 years.

Sheriff Butts said there were no tracks showing what might have been used to pull the van onto the road.



A white van painted to advertise KGCR radio sits in a field near County Road 33 west of Brewster. It has been found in the middle of old U.S. 24 twice over the last two weekends. Photo by Tom Betz/ The Goodland Star-News