

weather report

47°

noon
Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 5:08 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:51 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:09 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 38 degrees
- Humidity 22 percent
- Sky Sunny
- Winds northwest at 18 mph
- Barometer 29.74 inches and falling

- Record High today 72° (1934)
- Record Low today -13° (1989)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 53°
- Low Thursday 31°
- Precipitation trace
- This month .51
- Year to date .51

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, high near 51 with a low near 21. Breezy, northwest winds at 10 to 15 mph increasing to 25.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 53 with a low near 22. Sunday: Partly cloudy and breezy with a high around 51 with a low near 21. Monday: Partly cloudy and breezy. High around 46 with a low near 18 Tuesday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 45.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

House passes tax bill

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Asking citizens to approve a 1 cent sales tax to rebuild streets and roads in Sherman County is one step closer with the Kansas House approving the bill Tuesday.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said the sales tax bill was moving pretty well, and that House had put it on a fast track to allow the county to hold a special election in April.

"I think it is moving along quickly," Rasure said. "The House passed it Tuesday, and we should know about the Senate in a few days."

Rasure testified Tuesday in front of the House Taxation Committee and the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee.

He said Rep. Jim Morrison of Colby introduced him to the House committee chaired by Rep. Kenny Wilk of Leavenworth.

"I told them about the joint project with the city," Rasure said, "and I told them about the new energy center to be built near Caruso. I explained we would like to have a special election in April to get the approval of the citizens to begin the road and street work."

Rasure said the House members asked about the present tax rate, and asked about the road project we did with the sales tax five years ago.

"I told them we wanted to ask the citizens to approve a sales tax like we did before," he said, "and to have it sunset when the bonds are paid off."

Rasure said City Manager Wayne Hill, Mayor Rick Billinger and Larry McCants of the First National Bank and an investor in the Goodland Energy Center were in Topeka to show support for the bill.

"We wanted to show the city and county are on board and supporting the project," he said.

Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer introduced

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Steakhouse diner arrives

The diner going in behind Taco John's and Goodland Sinclair just off K-27 arrived in five sections and EZ Erectors from Ohio will finish putting the new restaurant on its foundation by today. A large crane lifted the sections and placed them on the foundation. The diner traveled from Atlanta and was built by Diner-Mite Diners. The diner will have a '50s feel, said Tom Blair, Benkelman, Neb., the owner. It will seat 120. Brent Wood (left) took his two sons, David and Andrew to watch the diner being assembled Tuesday. He let them out of their car seats and put them in the front seat to see better he said. There were quite a few people watching from their cars.

Photos by Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$3.69 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.51
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$1.91 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.87
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 7¢
- Milo — \$1.53 bushel
- Soybeans — \$4.98 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.09
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$5.55 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



Mustangs lose, 38-13

Eighth-grader Katie Clancy (with ball above) looked for an opening around two Scott City defenders Tuesday in the second half of the Lady Mustangs' 38-13 loss at Max Jones Fieldhouse. See story, photo on Page 12.

Drug trial begins for Kanorado man

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

A Kanorado garage owner is getting his day in court in a jury trial that started on Wednesday in the district court in the Sherman County Courthouse.

Scott Baumfalk is standing trial on seven drug charges resulting from a search warrant that was executed on July 1, at his residence at 715 Center Ave., Goodland. Law enforcement officers from the Quad County Drug Task Force, Goodland Police Department, Sherman County Sheriff's Department, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, state fire marshal's office and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives participated in the arrest and search.



Baumfalk

The seven counts, as amended, include manufacture of methamphetamine, possession of pseudoephedrine, and possession of a lithium metal, all level 1 drug felonies; possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to distribute or manufacture, a level 4 drug felony; aiding and abetting in the attempt to manufacture methamphetamine, a level 1 drug felony; no drug stamp, a level 10 non person felony; and possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell within 1,000 feet of school property, a level 2 drug felony.

At least 40 people showed up in the courtroom for jury selection on Wednesday morning. The court clerk called off the first 36 names and they took seats in the jury box

and then in several rows in the courtroom.

The names of people for jury duty come from voter registration, tax rolls, and driver's licenses.

Judge Jack Burr told the prospective jurors that the attorneys in the case would ask them several questions in what was called *voir dire* or speak the truth.

Scott Showalter representing the state with Bonnie Selby, Sherman County Attorney asked if anyone had problems or were related to any of the law enforcement officers involved in the case, the defendant or any of the witnesses that would appear in the case. Then the group was asked if anyone had problems with hearing a drug case and if they would be able to be there three days for the trial. One man's son was to have surgery in Hays, another woman had medical appointments

at the hospital and they were excused. Others were excused for having worked with the defendant or other reasons.

They ended up with a list of 36. The next step was the preemptory challenge by attorneys on both sides. Attorney Richard Dinkel, with the help of Etta Walker, represented Baumfalk. Both are from Sharon Springs.

The list was cut down to the 12 needed to sit on the jury.

Burr said trials were a partnership. Jurors determined the facts and the judge determined the law.

The case continued on Thursday with the last prosecution witness, and the defense case. The case was to go to the jury Thursday afternoon after the attorneys and judges agreed on the jury instructions.

Baumfalk has been in the Bastille since his arrest in July.

Broom sale, pancakes Saturday

The Goodland Lions will be collecting used eyeglasses and hearing aids on during their annual pancake breakfast and broom sale from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday at the V.F.W.

"I saw my eyeglasses float away," said a woman in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina hit in August.

The storm waters of Katrina washed away many pairs of eyeglasses. Thanks to the response of three teams of Lions Trained in eyeglass recycling opera-

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Flu season arrives, hospital restricts visits

Flu season is here, and officials at Goodland Regional Medical Center are setting restrictions on visits to contain the virus.

There has been one confirmed case of influenza, said Brenda McCants, director of patient relations, and a lot of pneumonia and upper respiratory infections. Children under 14 are not allowed to visit, she said, and it's better if adults stay away if they can.

"We're encouraging those who

do not need to be there, not to come out to visit," she said Tuesday.

Obviously, there are extenuating circumstances, McCants said, but then visitors should check at the nurses' station first.

The Goodland Family Health Center has pneumonia shots that are good for five years, she said, and flu shots. The Sherman County Health Department also has flu shots.

Air permit hearing Wednesday

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

About 20 letters of support for the coal-fired power plant have been received by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in Topeka in advance of the public hearing to be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th.

The state Department of Health and Environment is holding the hearing to take comments about the plant to be built by Goodland Energy Resources four miles west of Goodland.

Dana Morris, environmental engineer, said no letters have been received in opposition to the air per-

mit. He said the company has asked to make a presentation.

Ron Pickman, chief operating officer for the Goodland Energy Center, the firm that is responsible for developing the industrial park and the power plant, said Tuesday there would be three people from the company speaking at the hearing.

One of the letters of support is from the Sherman County Commissioners. "We are excited about the project that will provide an excellent energy resource and jobs for our area. We are pleased this project is being funded by area investors, who we respect and trust, not an outside corporation. These investors understand our commitment to protecting

our environment and our people."

People wanting to speak in support or opposition at the public hearing should send a request to Sherry Walker at 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 310, Topeka, Kan., or faxed to (785) 291-3953 by noon on Tuesday, Feb. 7.

Morris will be making a presentation at the hearing about the emission limits the company must meet, and said there may be some time for question and answer.

"There will be a sign up sheet at the door," Morris said. "People will be asked to give their name and if they want to speak. This gives us an

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