

The Goodland Star-News

MIDWEEK

Tuesday, Feb. 14
2006

75¢

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Sixteen Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather report

57°

noon Monday

Today

- Sunset, 5:20 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 6:40 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:21 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 18 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds north at 15 mph gusts 23
- Barometer 30.03 inches and rising
- Record High today 77° (1954)
- Record Low today -11° (1948)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	45°
Low Monday	20°
Precipitation	—
This month	.05
Year to date	1.56

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 52, north wind between 5 and 15 mph. Scattered flurries after midnight, partly cloudy with a low near 19.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy, high near 34, low around 15. Thursday: Scattered flurries before noon. Mostly cloudy, high near 24, low around 10. Friday: Periods of flurries, mostly cloudy, high 19, low of 7. Saturday: Periods of flurries, cloudy high near 17, low around 4

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.84
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$1.96 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.91
Loan deficiency pmt. — 3¢
Milo — \$1.58 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.02 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.14
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



Cowboys beat Oakley

Senior Derek Fenner scored on a layup early in the first period of the Cowboys' 62-55 win over the Plainsmen on Friday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. See photo, story on Page 10a.



Kids display happy hearts at Arts Center

Zachary Hunter (left), 4, son of Bruce and Wendy Hunter of Goodland, contemplated which source of chocolate to go for at the Carnegie Arts Center's gallery opening Monday, Feb. 6. Painted aluminum foil hearts by preschoolers at West Elementary were among the works for which the opening was held. The elementary art exhibit will be up until Tuesday, Feb. 28.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/
The Goodland Star-News

Profitability key for 15th Ag Expo

The third annual "Rally for Beef" will highlight the 15th annual High Plains Ag Expo starting at 9 a.m. Thursday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The expo is sponsored by KLOE, KKCI and KWGB Radio in Goodland, the National Sunflower Association and the Goodland Energy Center.

Station manager Marty Melia said the expo this year will feature the Kansas State University Ag Profitability Conference, with speakers from the university talking about changes in farming and how

to make the business more profitable. The conference begins at 9 a.m.

The Rally for Beef is a free hamburger lunch sponsored by cattlemen and businesses from northwest Kansas and eastern Colorado at noon on the exhibit floor. There will be a special presentation during the rally by "The Cowguy," Ron Schilling of Edson.

Melia said there would be over 20 exhibitors, including Shay Realty, Goodland Greenline, Triumph Seeds, Mueller Grain, Western State

Bank, Sigco-Sun, Sherman County Farm Bureau, Sherman County Soil Conservation, K-State Extension, Northern Sun, the Kansas Wheat Commission, People's State Bank, Northwest Kansas Technical College, the Kansas Cattlemen's Association, Cochran Farm Supply, NC Plus Seeds, BW Sales, Pioneer Hybrid Sales, Hitchcock, Agri-Specialists.com, Goodland Machine and Mycogen Seeds.

Sponsors of the Rally for Beef are Harlan and Cora House, T-Bone Feeders, Gene Trompeter, Short &

Son, Gary and Charlene Wickwar, Century Feeders, John and Marcia Golden, Brandon and Denise White, Farm Credit of Western Kansas, First National Bank, Zanzibar Ranch, Warren and Carol Sweat, Mosier Limousin, Western State Bank, Ag Sun and Andrew and Gennifer House.

Gold Level sponsors are Bankwest, S&T Communications, Fontanelle Seeds and Farm Credit of Western Kansas.

Melia said there are a few other exhibitors who may be added.

Child safety high priority for Kansas troopers

Troopers will tell you one of the hardest parts of their job is arriving on an accident scene and seeing kids who are hurt because they were not in safety seats or not buckled up.

Lt. Kevin Winston of Goodland said the Kansas Highway Patrol troopers here will be keeping an eye out for child-safety violations this week, which is National Child Passenger Safety Week. He said the

troopers will be out spot checking cars at schools.

While they hope they find all kids securely belted in, he added, troopers will write tickets for any driver with unrestrained or improperly restrained children. State, county and city officers will be looking for violations all week.

To help parents be sure their kids are safe, the patrol will hold a special

child seat safety and installation clinic Saturday at Lonny's Quality Auto Body.

Winston said he and his troopers will be going to schools in Goodland, Brewster and Colby during the week to present special safety programs. The lieutenant will be at North Elementary on Friday morning, and troopers will be doing special pre-school programs in Good-

land and Colby.

"Kansas drivers have increased their seat belt usage 11 percent over the past seven years," Winston said. "While this is an improvement, we as citizens must continue to emphasize the use of seat belts and child restraints to ensure maximum safety for our fellow Kansans and our most

See TROOPERS, Page 8a

Senate passes tax bill

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

In a surprise move Thursday, the Kansas Senate brought Sherman County's request to allow citizens to vote on a one-cent sales tax to fix city streets and county roads up for approval and passed the bill unanimously, 40-0.

With the governor's signature expected this week, citizens of Sherman County could have a special election by the middle of April to approve the tax.

Sherman County Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he was surprised the Senate had moved so quickly.

"We were told the bill would come up on Wednesday for approval," Rasure said. "I was surprised and pleased that they took action earlier. I have never seen things move through Topeka this quickly."

Rep. Jim Morrison of Colby, who sponsored the House bill, was as surprised as Rasure that it has moved on such a fast track.

"It is very unusual for a bill to move through the system with this speed," Morrison said, "especially a tax bill. Tax bills often serve as vehicles for amendments concerning tax and spending issues for other people."

"Generally, the minimum time for a bill to work through the system without controversy is about 45 days. To accomplish this in eight ... is remarkable."

See SALES TAX, Page 12a

Center excites Topeka

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The request from Sherman County to allow citizens to approve a sales tax to fix streets and roads got some attention when legislators heard that part the project would rebuild a road to be used by trucks at the new energy center.

The center will be getting even more attention in Topeka soon.

Rep. Jim Morrison, who introduced and helped shepherd the bill through the process, said there is excitement in Topeka about the development of the center.

"The lightning-speed passage of this legislation has created a lot of attention on Sherman County and the Goodland Energy Center," Morrison said.

See TOPEKA, Page 12a

Farm-city banquet next week

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

It is farmers' and ranchers' turn to treat business people to a meal and entertainment at the annual Farm-City Celebration at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at the Goodland Elks Lodge.

This is the 18th year for the event, which the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce bills as a chance for one sector of the community to thank the other. Agriculture is treating business this year.

"Board members from several agriculture-related boards in the

See BANQUET, Page 8a