

weather report

43°

noon Monday

Today
• Sunset, 5:29 p.m.
Wednesday
• Sunrise, 6:31 a.m.
• Sunset, 5:29 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil temperature 27 degrees
• Humidity 30 percent
• Sky Sunny
• Winds variable at 6 mph
• Barometer 30.02 inches and steady
• Record High today 73° (1972)
• Record Low today -1° (1953)

Last 24 Hours*
High Sunday 28°
Low Monday 0°
Precipitation —
This month .07
Year to date .58

The Topside Forecast
Today: Partly sunny, high around 43, low of 14, wind north switching to west at 5 to 15 mph.

Extended Forecast
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high around 51, low around 14.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, high around 48 with a low of 19.
Friday: Partly cloudy, high around 43 and a low of 17.
Saturday: Partly cloudy with a high near 41 with a low around 15.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon
Wheat — \$4.05 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.74
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.02 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.92
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$1.64 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.21 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.21
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



Cowgirls lose to Hoxie

Senior Justeen Koehler fought Rebecca Farber for the ball during the fourth period of the Cowgirls' 76-65 loss to the Lady Indians on Friday in Hoxie. See story, photo on Page 11a.

Legislators praised for their help

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

A small group gathered in Goodland on Saturday to hear what's happening in Topeka thanked area legislators for their help on the Goodland Energy Center and the proposed sales tax for Sherman County on streets and roads.

The area's two legislators, Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, R-Grinnell, and Rep. Jim Morrison, R-Colby, were at the Sherman County Farm Bureau office, 1610 Main, to talk about what is going on in Topeka.

Harlan House, a Goodland farmer



Morrison



Ostmeyer

and former Republican candidate, thanked Ostmeyer and Morrison for all their help on getting permits for the Goodland Energy Center, and Ostmeyer asked how the public

meeting for the air permits went.

The senator said the hot issue of the year is eminent domain, the power of government to take property from private owners. Since a U.S. Supreme Court decision last year, many people are worried about states and local governments abusing this power.

Sen. Ostmeyer said he supports eminent domain when the property is used for public use, such as roads, rather than for private development. Most of the problems have come when cities took land or homes for redevelopment by private firms.

Morrison said a bill to eliminate the personal property tax on machinery and equipment should encourage business growth in the state. This does not include oil and gas equipment, he noted.

The Senate will vote on a "concealed carry" bill, allowing people to have firearms, Ostmeyer said.

"It is a restoration of our Second Amendment rights," he said, adding he hopes the governor will sign the bill when it passes.

To carry a concealed weapon, he said, a person would have to pay \$150 fee, have eight hours of train-

ing and be at least 21. The permit would be good for three years.

Last year, the bill passed the Legislature, but Gov. Kathleen Sebelius vetoed it, as Gov. Bill Graves had before.

A bill allowing counties and cities to talk about consolidation without having to go to the Legislature should pass, Ostmeyer said.

Pat Thompson, a Goodland elementary school teacher, asked why the government pays for Ritalin, or methylphenidate, for children but

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Student sights set high

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

A Goodland High School junior has his sights set on being national president of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.

Michael Smith, son of Celia Smith and grandson Margaret Diaz, already is state president. He said he and Sarah Short, a teacher at the high school and the sponsor for the club, have put on about 10,000 miles going to the various meetings.

Smith said he has managed to keep up with his classes besides being in Scholar Bowl, Xpressos and the high school musical, "South Pacific".

After he started high school and found out about FCCLA, he said, he thought, "One day I want to be national president."

FCCLA, he said, is the only club that has its focus on family values.

"I love the organization and what it stands for," Smith said.

To apply for a national office, he said, you have to be a state officer. The process includes three days of behavior interviews, a dinner interview and an essay. Behavior interviews focus on how you have been a leader, Smith said. The committee

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Smith

Cowboys second at regionals



Sophomore T.J. Hawkins (on top) pinned Pratt's Jacob Dill in the second period of their semifinal match at 215 pounds on Saturday at the Class 4A regional meet in Russell. See Page 12a for a story and more photos.

Photo by Dennis Saint/The Goodland Star-News

School board hears about special 'bullying' programs

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland School Board heard about programs on bullying planned for the schools at last Monday's meeting.

The program is being paid for by a grant from Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect that Sharon Gregory, principal at Central Elementary, applied for last spring.

The program for Central Elementary was last Tuesday and West's was Wednesday. Both were given by Roxy Cabral of the Northwest Kansas Regional Prevention Center.

After the fourth grade, said Gregory, programs are divided by gender because the bullying is different between the sexes. Joe Coles from the southwest region will talk to the boys.

Cabral and Coles will give a program for the teachers next Tuesday. School will start one hour later than normal for all students, said Superintendent Marvin Selby.

Cabral and Coles will then give programs at the high school, Grant Junior High and North Elementary School that day.

Gary Winter, a Kanorado farmer, asked to speak to the board about the softball coaching job. He said he didn't get the job last year and reapplied this year. Winter asked why Steve Raymer, activities director at the high school, hadn't visited with three students who wanted to talk with him about softball. Raymer said he thought that he had.

Student drop of 25 may cost district

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

Superintendent Marvin Selby reported that the Goodland School District's student population is down 25 from the official count taken in October, which could cost the district as much as \$170,900 in coming budgets.

The biggest hit, he said, came at the high school, where they had 16 to 18 students drop out.

Those students who are under 16 have been turned in to the county attorney as required by state law, Selby said, and some of them will return to school. When a student drops out of high school, the superintendent said, he or she can not go to the Learning Center right away. Students can go there and make up credits, too, he said.

"What concerns me more is the loss of seven elementary students," said Selby.

The district gets an average of \$6,436 per student, Selby said, and if those students aren't replaced by

next year it could cost the district as much as \$170,900. The district gets additional money for each student who is at risk, rides the bus or is bilingual, for example, but the state finance formula may change before next year.

Selby said the district is spending a lot for fuel and utilities, but still is within the budget. The schools have spent \$67,000 for natural gas so far this year and had budgeted \$74,000. For electricity, he said, the district had spent \$69,000 and budgeted \$129,000. The district had spent \$31,000 on fuel by the end of January, a big jump. It spent \$18,000 for fuel at the same time last school year and has budgeted \$65,000 for this year.

Selby asked the board on what date they wanted to republish the budget and have a public meeting on changes. The board decided to wait until the first meeting in March. The school got \$20,000 more from the state after its audit and needs to republish to be able to spend the money, he said.

Later, after a closed session for personnel, the board hired Tess Smith, substitute teacher who played softball in college and coached, as the softball coach for the high school. There was no comment on Winter's application.

Selby handed out policy manuals for the district on CD to each of the board members which Karla Murray, district technology coordinator, had made. The district will have three hard copies on hand and the manual will be on the web site, he said.

Gregory reported that Zack Miller won Central's Spelling Bee with Fionna Cruz in second place and Michelle Zupko as runner up. Miller and Cruz will participate in the district bee next Wednesday.

The last after-school session run by Big Brothers Big Sisters started last week with 24 students, she said.

Raymer reported for high school principal Harvey Swager, who was ill. He said the site council has been working on raising academic standards for next year.

Raymer said that the Kansas State High School Activities Association is concerned about a bill passed in Kansas House of Representative that allows swimmers to compete at the same time in high school sports and swim clubs. They are concerned that it will spread to other sports, he said. They wonder if students will wait to go out for a sport the last two weeks of the season.

Shelly Angelos, principal at West, reported that 100 parents came to their opening for the art projects

done with the Carnegie Arts Center on Picasso. About 40 parents helped with the art projects. The second grade had their music program, "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing," directed by Linda Lucas, the music teacher.

Angelos invited the board to have their meeting at West on Monday.

Murray reported on E-Rate, a reimbursement for Internet and communications the district gets from the federal government. Last year, the district got \$120,000 with the service only costing about \$15,000, she said. There are going to be changes in the rules this year, she said. The program will only pay two out of five years for internal connections. The amount of reimbursement will depend on the percentage of "at-risk" students, which for Goodland is 69.

With the changes in the rules for internal connections, she said, Goodland may qualify for some money. To apply, Murray said, she has to submit a request for proposal, including new student e-mail and system racks that hold networking machines. She also had to take bids. If she doesn't get the money, she said those improvements will not be done.

In other business, the board:

• Heard that the district got a check from the state for capital outlay for the purchase of Cobblestone property at the end of January. This is the first time the district has got-

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