

## weather report

**72°**

noon Monday



### Today

• Sunset, 5:36 p.m.

### Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:21 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:37 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 35 degrees

• Humidity 6 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds north at 12 mph

• Barometer 29.87 inches

and rising

• Record High today 72° (1950)

• Record Low today -9° (1962)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Sunday 66°

Low Monday 24°

Precipitation —

This month .07

Year to date .58

### The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, high near 76 and a low of 37. Wind changing from the south to the north at 10 to 15 mph.

### Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Partly cloudy with a high of 62 and a low of 29. Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 57 and a low of 27. Friday: Partly cloudy with a high of 56 and a low of 25. Saturday: Partly cloudy with a high near 54 and a low around 27.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$4.04 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.91

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.03 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.00

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$1.65 bushel

Soybeans — \$4.97 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.06

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



## Brewster wins regional

Brewster freshman Jeff Reid grabbed a rebound away from a pair of Weskan players during the second half of the Bulldogs 82-45 win over the Coyotes Thursday at Max Jones. Brewster won the regional tournament. See story, photo on Page 12.

# Rural people need to speak up

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

The speaker for the Farm-City Banquet on Thursday urged rural America to speak up for itself.

Farmers are only a small slice of America, said Trent Loos of "Loos Tales," a radio commentator and agricultural activist. The rest of the nation is losing touch with them.

Dr. Richard Whitmore, a retired veterinarian, was named Agriculture and Business Person of the Year at the dinner, held at Goodland Elks Club. About 200 farmers and ranchers and business persons from the "city" side attended.

Farmer Bill Gattshall said Whitmore retired in 1999 after 37 years of service to the community. He spent eight years on the hospital board, been active in the Kiwanis Club and Carnegie Arts Council board and is a deacon at the First Baptist Church.

Whitmore graduated from Scott Community High School in 1948 and farmed and ranched in Kansas and Colorado until he joined the Navy in 1952. After he got out of the Navy he went to Kansas State University and received his doctor of veterinary medicine in 1962 and moved to Goodland.

Loos said the relationship between farmer and consumer in this country has become distant.

"Twenty-five percent of elected officials think it's better to import food than to grow it," said Loos.

People don't think about food production being an important part of our national security, that it is important to grow our own food, he said.

Loos, a sixth-generation farmer and rancher in Sherman County, Neb., said he has spoken in 14 states since January.

"The ranch is as big as my wife can handle," he joked.

He said Americans are losing touch with the farm. People think of animals as children and have no idea what the livestock industry is all about, much less rural America.

"Fifty-five percent of adult Americans sleep with their pets," Loos said. "They stop seeing them as animals."

Most people in this country do not understand the cycle of life, he said. Things are born, live and die. The agricultural sector of the country is such a small percentage that many do not have any idea what farming and ranching is all about. Some think that ranching is cruel.

He talked about the Humanist Movement, which, he said, thinks the earth would be better off without humans. Several colleges and universities teach courses on the subject, he said.

Loos said he expects the next gold rush to be water, because the nation's population is outstripping the supply, especially in the West. He said there are lots of misconceptions out there about how much water it takes to grow crops and livestock.

The Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation paid to have Loos speak at the banquet. He spoke earlier in the day at Colby Community College. The agricultural and business sides take turns hosting the dinner. This year was agriculture's turn and the 18th year of the banquet.

Later, Troy Harrison and Amber Walz from Connie Livengood's earth science class at Goodland High School showed a computer presentation the class made about the Goodland Energy Center.

The dinner was cooked by Steve Evert and his crew and served by the 4-H Junior Leaders.



"Doc" Whitmore (top) said, "I'm speechless," as he was named Agriculture and Business Person of 2006 at the Farm-City Banquet on Thursday at the Elks club. Troy Harrison and Amber Walls of Connie Livengood's earth science class at Goodland High School gave a computer presentation on the Goodland Energy Center.

Photos by Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News



# Development council backs road sales tax

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The March 27 sales-tax election to improve roads and streets in Sherman County is vital, members of the Sherman County Economic Development Council agreed at their meeting last Tuesday.

"We should send a thank you to Rep. Jim Morrison and Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer for their help," said Dwane Timm, council member from

First National Bank. "We need to come out in support of the sales tax."

Chairman Shelly Thompson suggested the council talk about the tax at the next meeting.

Officials plan a public forum on the sales tax issue, and Timm said someone from the council should speak in favor.

Kay Younger, council program coordinator, said County Attorney Bonnie Selby has sent letters to two

or three companies that are behind on their microloan payments.

She said the office is helping with a survey from the Small Business Development Center at Fort Hays State University asking what services area businesses need. She said she has the letters and survey and will be sending them out soon.

She said the Business Retention and Expansion surveys are coming in, and appear to be getting some

good responses. She said some of the businesses are asking to have qualified applicants referred to be hired.

Timm asked how the Business Retention and Expansion program was going.

"Where are we?" Timm said. "We only have done one out of six face-to-face interviews."

Younger said the deadline was to have them done by Feb. 20, but it could take a few weeks longer. Mem-

ber Steve West said his volunteers have only got three surveys to do.

Younger said there should have been at least five. She said some of the teams are about done with their surveys.

Thompson said she had checked one the Enterprise Zone, and that the county is part of one, but the city is not.

She brought up the Chamber

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## Chamber balance in black

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland Chamber of Commerce has a better balance, and the annual meeting was a success, the Sherman County Economic Development Council heard at their meeting last Tuesday.

Ken Clouse, Chamber vice president, said the organization is working on several projects, including putting together a committee to sponsor the annual Fourth of July Freedom Fest. He said Trevor Linton of First National Bank is chairing this effort.

Clouse, president of the Northwest Kansas Technical College, said Linton will be sending letters to people who might be interested in helping with Freedom Fest.

"We want it to be something like the Flatlander Committee," Clouse said, referring to the group which took over the annual fall festival.

He said the Chamber's annual meeting drew about 126 people attending, and he said it was nice to see the strong representation from the development council.

Clouse said the Chamber's beau-

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## Cowboy a champion at 119 pounds



Junior Brett Bahe (on top) won a 7-3 decision over Concordia's Dustin Dooley in the championship quarterfinals Friday at the Bicentennial Center in Salina. Bahe went on to win his next

two matches to earn the state Class 4A title at 119 pounds. See story and more photos on page 11.

Photo by Dennis Saint/The Goodland Star-News