

## weather report

**46°**

noon  
Thursday



### Today

• Sunset, 5:41 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
• Sunrise, 6:15 a.m.  
• Sunset, 5:40 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 41 degrees  
• Humidity 34 percent  
• Sky Partly Sunny  
• Winds south at 8 mph  
• Barometer 30.28 inches  
and falling  
• Record High today 74° (1936)  
• Record Low today -20° (1960)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday 65°  
Low Thursday 26°  
Precipitation —  
This month 0  
Year to date .58

### The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, high near 58 with a low near 35. Breezy with a south wind of 15 to 25 mph with gusts of 35 mph.

### Extended Forecast

Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high of 56 and a low around 27.  
Sunday: Mostly sunny, high around 57 and a low around 26.  
Monday: Sunny with a high near 60 and a low near 28.  
Tuesday: Partly cloudy with a high near 61 and a low near 29.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.



## Cruelty case charges filed

By Pat Schiefen

*The Goodland Star-News*

A Sherman County man and his wife are charged with 14 counts of animal cruelty for neglecting their horses after the sheriff followed up a report Tuesday.

Derek Nichols, who works for Mueller Grain, from Kanorado, reported the possible case of animal cruelty to the sheriff's office.

Deputy Jason Showalter and Undersheriff Roger Studer investigated the report at the residence of Tim and Shaunna Armknecht, 6975 K-27, about five miles north of Goodland.

Showalter found 10 horses with no food and water and he said from their appearance the horses had no water or food for several weeks. He also found four other horses dead including a mare and her foal.

He saw four corrals with different number of horses in each with no food and water. The horses had eaten the weeds and grass to the ground outside the pens as far as they could reach. Live horses were in with the dead ones. One particularly bony horse just paced the fence line.

Some of the horses just milled around and a few had energy enough to try to escape the men who were trying to load them in a horse trailer.

See HORSES, Page 5a



Burton Pianalto (above), Sherman County Deputy Sheriff, gives hay to some very hungry horses found at Tim Armknechts, 6975 K-27. The officers found 10 very hungry horses and four dead ones. Two of the dead are pictured (above left). Ryan Hill, (below) who works for Charley Herl, helped round up the horses so they could be loaded into a trailer and taken to the Prairieland Veterinary Clinic for treatment.

Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News



## Road projects, sales tax election explained

By Pat Schiefen

*The Goodland Star-News*

Member sof Kiwanis heard from city commissioners Tuesday noon at the Northwest Kansas Technical College meeting room about the proposed one percent sales tax increase for road improvements to be voted on Tuesday, March 28.

City Manager Wayne Hill and city commissioners Josh Dechant and Annette Fairbanks were at the meeting promoting the road-work. Dechant said we should have been working on the roads 10 years ago.

Dechant said bringing the sales tax up for Sherman County citizens to vote on would be the "fairest way." In order to have the sales tax go on a ballot it had to go through the Kansas Legislature and be signed by the governor. That was done in the record time of 10 days he said.

Dechant said the sales tax increase will go for fixing the street and roads including Highway 24

from county border to border excluding the business section which is the state's responsibility, Caldwell from Eighth Street to the bridge north, D'Lao to Cattletrail, Eighth Street to Caruso, County Road 16, and Cherry Avenue from the railroad on 17th to Main.

The sales tax would raise \$11.8 million to repair the roads. \$3.2 would go for city streets and \$8.2 for county roads. It will cost \$200,000 to issue the bonds.

The sales tax in Sherman County would go from 6.55 percent to 7.55 percent Dechant said. The one percent hike is a sunset sales tax that ends when the roads are paid for.

Dechant said Hill had gathered figures from cities of similar size. The sales tax in Phillipsburg is 6.8 percent, Hays 7.05 percent, Oakley 6.55 percent and Colby 6.55 percent.

Dechant said the sales tax money will be administered by the county but it is a joint city and county tax.

Amy Thorson, utility computer systems operator for the City of Goodland, prepared a display that Dechant used during the talk. There would be a display up at City Hall, 204 W. 11 and at the Sherman County Courthouse, 813 Broadway.

It was suggested by Gene Tromble to put similar displays at Goodland Activities Center, 808 Main and the Goodland Public Library, 812 Broadway.

Dale Schields, Director of Resource Development at Goodland Regional Medical Center, said those in favor of the project need to speak up in support of this and not be complacent. He said the supporters cannot stop working because they think it will pass easily. He said from experience with a couple of bond issues in the past nothing can be taken for granted.

Mary Volk's Leadership Sherman County class is planning a public forum on Tuesday, March 14.



Bob Boyle, member of Kiwanis and retiree from National Weather Service, studies a map of streets to be worked on if the sales tax is approved by voters. The one percent increase goes to the poll March 28.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

## Paperwork approved for March 28 sales tax election

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

The sales tax election will be Tuesday, March 28, and Tuesday the Sherman County commissioners approved the resolution and information documents to hold the special election.

The commissioners talked to Kevin Cowan, bond attorney from Gilmore and Bell of Wichita, by phone and asked him about the cop-

ies of the resolution and election information which has to be published before the election.

Rasure asked Cowan if he thought the figures being used were more conservative than they could be?

Cowan said he was being very conservative and using only a one percent growth rate for the expected sales tax income.

"We could use a higher growth rate," Cowan said.

"What you are using is the most pessimistic rate of repayment," Rasure asked.

Cowan said yes it is the most conservative to show there would not be a problem paying the bonds off.

"It may cost less than is actually listed," Cowan said. "The bonds could be AAA rated, and that will probably mean a lower interest rate. Last Friday general obligation bonds with a 20-year maturity,

which is longer than we have, would be 4.3 percent at the high end. Ten-year bonds would be less than or right at 4 percent.

"We can be more aggressive because the interest rate is the most conservative. We could lower that to 4 percent, and have no difficulty justifying that."

Rasure asked what lowering the interest rate would do to the estimated time for repayment.

Cowan said it would certainly drop it to less than 15 years.

"Half a percent on average saves more than \$1 million in interest," Cowan said.

Rasure said the conservative figures for the sales tax do not reflect the impact of the potential growth this year from the Goodland Energy Center and other expansions.

See ELECTION, Page 5a

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$3.97 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.85  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Corn — \$1.98 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.97  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Milo — \$1.61 bushel  
Soybeans — \$4.95 bushel  
Posted county price — \$5.07  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Millet — \$5.55 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$6.75 cwt.  
NuSun crop — \$7.75  
Confection — Call  
Pinto beans — \$00 (new crop)  
(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

## inside today

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## Cowgirls beat Beavers

Cowgirl Junior Whitney Archer (right) challenged Scott City's Lauren Robinson for control of the opening tipoff in the substate matchup on Monday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Story, photos on Page 9a.