

weather
report

48°

noon
Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 5:55 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 5:54 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:56 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 42 degrees
- Humidity 29 percent
- Sky Sunny
- Winds north at 20 mph
- Barometer 30.24 inches and rising
- Record High today 83° (1907)
- Record Low today 1° (1958)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	74°
Low Thursday	33°
Precipitation	.01
This month	.01
Year to date	.59

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, high around 46 with a low of 26. Wind south to south east between 15 and 25 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: A 40 percent chance of rain and snow. Cloudy with a high around 36 and a low of 28. Sunday: Chance of precipitation is 40 percent. Cloudy with a high of 38 and a low around 25. Monday: A chance of snow or rain. High around 39 with a low near 22. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.82 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.77
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$1.92 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.92
Loan deficiency pmt. — 2¢
Milo — \$1.54 bushel
Soybeans — \$4.86 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.08
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$7.10 cwt.
NuSun — \$8.10
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



Cowboy
plans trip

Goodland's Brandon Zelfer hit a line drive against the Colby Eagles in their first game of last year's state Class 4A regional tournament. Zelfer is raising money for a trip to the Netherlands. See story on Page 10a.

Few objections to road program

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The few objections to the joint city-county road rebuilding plan at an open forum Monday centered on paving the mile of County Road 16 past the Sugar Hill Golf Club.

Sherman County citizens will vote on Tuesday, March 28, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall, 824 Main, on the proposal to increase the county sales tax by one cent to pay for the \$12.8 million program to rebuild key Goodland streets and county roads.

More than 40 people attended the forum at the Howard Johnson Hotel sponsored by the Leadership Sherman County class of 2004.

Alan Mills of Goodland brought up the paving of Road 16 when the forum opened for questions. The work would cost just \$321,000, about 2.5 percent of the total project.

"How is spending this money going to help my bank account?" Mills asked. "I agree there are roads in the program that need to be fixed, but I do not see why we should approve paving Road 16."

"I will answer that," said Sherman County Commissioner Kevin Rasure. "That road serves more people than just golfers. The country club does lots of things for the commu-

Timing important in special election

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Holding the vote on a one-cent sales tax to rebuild streets and roads on Tuesday, March 28, will allow Sherman County to take advantage of business from construction activity this summer, officials said at a public forum on Monday.

City Commissioner Josh Dechant said passing the sales tax this month will get it in effect in July, which will be the height of the construction season.

"We need to get this passed to take advantage of all the construction people who will be here," Dechant said. "Those people are going to spend money in our town."

Contractors will be repaving I-70 west of town this summer and rebuilding K-27 from Goodland all the way to the county line, bringing dozens of workers to town. Another firm will be rebuilding downtown brick intersections.

Dechant said the state Legislature helped the pro-

cess with the speedy passage of the bill through both houses, and the bill was signed into law by the governor in record time.

"The state is excited about what we are doing out here," he said. "The is watching us to see what we do with this."

More than 40 people attended the public forum at Howard Johnson Hotel, sponsored by the 2004 Leadership Sherman County.

Sherman County Commissioner Kevin Rasure and Dechant opened the forum with a slide show explaining the joint city-county road improvement program. The special election question will ask citizens to raise the countywide sales tax by one-cent to pay for the estimated \$12 million in street and road projects.

Rasure said the sales tax is one of three options the city and county have to improve the roads.

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nity and helps many groups raise money."

Mills said he felt the county should fix the road as it is.

"Why hasn't the county fixed the part south of the tracks?" he asked.

Rasure said the heavy traffic on the road makes it hard to maintain.

"It doesn't profit me," Mills said.

"I wonder if it helps the little guy in Goodland or the people in the country. I am in favor of all these roads except Road 16."

"We have lots of things that benefit people," Rasure said, "and this project benefits the most people."

City Commissioner Josh Dechant agreed that part of the project might

not directly benefit everyone, but said it is still important.

"When people are checking into jobs," Dechant said, "the first things they look at are the schools if they have kids, and they look to see what entertainment opportunities there are. This golf course brings people here from all around and is a year

round attraction."

Mayor Rick Billinger said he felt paving Road 16 was a safety issue.

"You've seen the ruts," Billinger said. "We have high school kids driving that road, and I think it is a safety issue to improve that road."

Farmer Glenn Burk said he is not a golfer, but he could see that the roads in the plan need to be fixed.

"I ask myself, 'If I am in favor, how can I let this kill the good things we will get from this project?'"

"I can't justify voting against for the 3 percent of the project. A good road is an asset to anything."

City Commissioner Dave Daniels said he had been talking to people at the coffee shops and Road 16 is one issue that comes up.

"It is like the airport," Daniels said. "It doesn't put money in the pocket, but it is one of the best assets we have."

"I wonder if it is not just that it is a golf course. What if it was a church or the Veterans of Foreign Wars? Would we feel the same way?"

Farmer Larry Ihrig said when he was on the golf club board, they did a count and there were an average of 70 vehicles a day going down that road.

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Site work begins at Energy Center



Dirt movers were busy Wednesday at the Goodland Energy Center site north of Caruso, about five miles west of Goodland. Mitch Tiede, owner of Tiede Excavation and a Sherman County commissioner, was working on the holding pond to collect any runoff from the plants. Ron Pickman, chief operating officer for Goodland Energy Resources, said Wednesday

morning plans to begin staking out the foundation for the turbine and boiler were delayed by high winds. He said the survey work and digging for the foundation should begin in the next few days. Tuesday, the county commissioners approved the \$18.7 million co-generation coal-fired power plant for the county's the tax rebate program.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

See BURN, Page 8a

School district gets more state money

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland School Board republished its budget Monday and had a hearing so it could get more money from the state.

The board held a brief budget hearing. The budget had to be republished when the district learned it was able to get \$23,483 more from the state because of the state audit, said Marvin Selby, superintendent. There were no comments.

The board gave certificates to students who participated at state piano competition, including Samantha

Philbrick, daughter of Brady and Jane Philbrick, for her I rating, and Jessica Lu, daughter of Andy and Anna Lu; Nathan Brady, son of Scott and Mary Brady; Jillian Parker, daughter of Lauren and Geralyn Parker; Heidi Yonkey, daughter of Mirriam and Gary Yonkey; and Renae Reasoner, daughter of Mark and Mary Reasoner, for II ratings.

The board next honored the wrestlers who place at state. Josiah Goodley, son of Bonnie Thompson, was recognized for his sixth-place finish at 189 pounds and Brett Bahe,

son of Randy and Kathy Bahe, for his state championship at 119 pounds.

Students were recognized for state DECA results, including Lu for election to state office as Western Region Vice President and a II in an Entrepreneurship Promotion Project. Jonathan McClung, son of Gary and Laura McClung, for election as state reporter; Andrew Philbrick, son of Brady and Jane Philbrick, for his II in the Entrepreneurship Promotion Project; and Lauren Abernathy, daughter of Paul and Gina Abernathy, for her II in the

Entrepreneurship Promotion Project.

The Entrepreneurship Promotion Project was to encourage people to start businesses, sell quality products at reasonable rates and get people to buy locally.

The board also recognized student teacher, Joseph Sramek, from Fort Hays State University for Dennis Stone and Richard Schwasinger who helped with DECA.

Jena McCall, daughter of Susan and Steve McCall, got the Medal of Achievement in Math and Science as a junior from Colorado School of

Mines. There is also a \$1,000 scholarship with the medal.

In the public forum with Randy Bahe, Kathy Bahe and Jeff Mason spoke about the high school wrestling program. (Story to follow.)

The board approved bills for \$85,572 and transferred \$15,000 from the general fund to bilingual.

Selby said he will attend a school finance meeting Wednesday in Topeka. He said the Senate school finance plan should go to the full Senate for debate. It would increase

See SCHOOL, Page 8a

Spring is time to get ready for citywide clean-up

Spring is in the air and it's time for Goodland's annual spring cleaning.

The citywide clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 8, sponsored by the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's Beautification Committee — Christie Rasure, Dave Branda, Rich Whitmore, Gary Gregory, Larry Keims,

Arlo Hansen, Chuck Redlin, Wayne Hill, Rich Simon, Tom Betz and Ken Clouse — is planning the effort.

The clean up will include construction debris, limbs and metal. Tires will not be picked up, Clouse said.

Highway entrances to town will be clean up on Saturday, April 22, he

said. Volunteers need to be at least 14 for the highway cleanup and 12 for the citywide effort.

The committee is encouraging people to form teams to help pick up trash, said Clouse. Volunteers will meet at the Northwest Kansas Technical College student union at 8:30 a.m. both days.

Last year, workers gathered 17,260 pounds of construction debris, 4,840 pounds of metal, 4,580 pounds of furniture and trash and an estimated 15,000 pounds of tree limbs.

People are encouraged to haul their own trash those days, Clouse said. There will be no fee at the trans-

fer station. If they cannot haul their trash, he said, they need to have it at the curb by 9 a.m. on April 8. If they need help, they can call 890-3641, 890-7149 or 890-6692.

"We hope all residents will get involved," said Clouse, committee chair and president of the college