

**weather  
report****62°****noon  
Thursday****Today**

- Sunset, 7:50 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 5:35 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:51 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil temperature 62 degrees
- Humidity 29 percent
- Sky Sunny
- Winds North at 20 mph
- Barometer 30.20 inches and falling
- Record High today 99° (1962)
- Record Low today 27° (1953)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High Wednesday	65°
Low Thursday	36°
Precipitation	—
This month	.91
Year to date	4.05
Below normal	.5 of an inch

**The Topside Forecast**

Today: Mostly sunny, high near 80, low near 42.

**Extended Forecast**

Saturday: Mostly sunny, high near 79, low near 42. Sunday: Partly cloudy, high near 71, low around 44. Monday: Partly cloudy, high near 71, low near 43. Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high near 73, low near 43. Wednesday: Partly cloudy, high near 74.

(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\*Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## Center celebrates first step

**By Tom Betz***The Goodland Star-News*

Support pilings are being put down for the a coal-fired power plant, and Tuesday the Goodland Energy Center held a ground-breaking ceremony.

With the pile driving rig in the background and the sun shining, Norman House, chairman of Goodland Energy Resources, and Ron Pickman, chief operating officer; Larry McCants, president of E Caruso, the partnership building an ethanol plant; and Doug Sederstrom, chairman of Kanza Energy building a biodiesel plant, all put shovels in the ground to mark the start of construction.

About 170 people, including many of the investors in the three partnerships, gathered for the ceremony and a lunch served by the Goodland Ambassadors.

House said the ceremony was a great way to show the progress of the project and to show that work is beginning on a process to make this area energy independent.

"It is said the first step is the hardest," he said, "and I hope that is true. I want to thank all those who have helped with this project. We need to be energy independent. That is a goal that we cannot fail."

Pickman said company officials recently went to the Kansas Corporation Commission in Topeka and took their attorney, expecting a pile of paperwork and red tape.



Linda Franklin held one of the wind tower centerpieces that decorated the tables at the Goodland Energy Center groundbreaking held Tuesday. The centerpieces were made by the Northwest Kansas Technical College welding class.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

"They are very interested in what we are doing here," he said. "They said we are doing the right things and there were no problems."

"They asked us to give them an update report as the project moves ahead."

Mark Justus, president of Renewable Energy Resources, which is doing the engineering for the energy center, said the center is a

unique project and probably the best he has ever been involved in.

"This is probably the culmination of my career," Justus said. "I don't think there will be another project like this again."

"We are leading the nation in developing energy technology. There is a lot of interest in the biodiesel plant. Our people bring over 30 years of worldwide experience to

this project."

Pickman said it was the people of northwest Kansas who made the project possible.

"A year ago this was just a conversation between two people," he said.

"Today, we are seeing the project beginning to move forward."

"We are thankful to the investors,"

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## North to get new kids

**By Pat Schiefen***The Goodland Star-News*

Faced with a couple of big classes, the Goodland School Board voted Monday to move kindergarten classes from West Elementary School to North next year.

West was completely full this year, said Superintendent Marvin Selby, between starting all-day kindergarten and having 90 kids enrolled. With 90 students going to first grade this fall, he said, they will need a fifth section of first grade to keep class sizes between 15 and 18.

West does not have enough room to add another first grade, he said, and the district is also short on room for special education classes.

The fall kindergarten class is expected to have 66 students, Selby said. These are bigger classes than they have had for awhile.

The district wants to keep first and second grades together in

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## Kindergarteners regale family, friends

**By Pat Schiefen***The Goodland Star-News*

Kindergarten students regaled family and friends with music Tuesday night at the Goodland High School auditorium.

The group gave an energetic concert, showing off their alphabet, their manners and skill in skipping rope, riding the bus, tying shoes, crossing the street and being aware of strangers. They called their program "May...We Sing."

Kennedy Shelley welcomed everyone to the program.

Jumping rope were Josselin Hernandez, Chase Johnson, Drake Buchanan, Eunice Branidor, Jaylin Abeyla, Christopher Gamboa, Alexis Franklin and Parker Nemechek.

Holding up posters with magic words, like please and thank you, on them were Wence Hendrich, Shaina Smith, Cade McLean and Elizabeth Muller.

The fans did their part by taking lots of pictures and clapping.

Karen Stone's class includes Abeyla, John Armstrong, Caleb Bowers, Katie Brighton, Reyes Bustillos, Katlynn Chen, Iven Diez, Gamboa, Shawna Goodman, Molly Hernandez, Brooke Keirn, Luis Ledesma, Rafael MacLas, Jaymee McCutchen, Hunter Ray, Teresa Schaffer, Darby Seeger, Peyton

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Kindergarteners entertained the audience with song and motion on Tuesday at the Goodland High School auditorium. Students are (back left) Ellee McDaniel, Renae Hageman, Wence Hendrich, Evin Bergquist, (middle left) Lucas Wood, Devinee

Borgemann, Kassidy White, Zane Shores, (front left) Brooke Keim, Dawson Raymer, Austin Neufeld and Bobby Morris.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

## Road engineer decision remains unchanged

**By Tom Betz***The Goodland Star-News*

County road projects may take a year or two longer because the Plainville engineering firm hired to design them does not have the staff to get them all ready by this winter, but Sherman County commissioners decided Tuesday to stay with the firm.

Commissioners voted 2-1 on April 25 to hire the Plainville firm, though a firm with a Goodland office had offered to do the work all in one year.

The commissioners met with Jerol DeBoer, an engineer and owner from Penco Engineering of Plainville, about planning for the county road projects to be paid for by the one-cent sales tax the county will begin collecting in July.

Commission Chairman Kevin Rasure asked DeBoer to lay out what he sees as the best way to approach the county projects, which includes resurfacing old U.S. 24 across the county, rebuilding five

## Hotel incentive impact explained

**By Tom Betz***The Goodland Star-News*

The county assessor suggested some changes Tuesday in a plan to use industrial revenue bonds to finance a Holiday Inn Express on K-27 south of I-70 in a report to the Sherman County commissioners.

The Goodland City Commission will hold a public hearing on the bond question at 5 p.m. on Monday to give people a chance to speak in favor or against a tax break for the hotel project.

Assessor Terry Ballard sent a memo to county commissioners on Friday breaking down the proposed 90 percent tax abatement for the hotel agreed to at a special city commission meeting on April 25.

He told the commissioners he was not opposed to the property tax incentives for the hotel but felt it would be better if there was a change in how the program is being proposed.

In his memo, Ballard said he feels the abatement

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miles on Eighth Street west of K-27, a mile of County Road 16 and the mile of County Road 14 that runs in front of the Northern Sun plant and the new Goodland Energy Center.

"We are planning on doing highway 24 first," DeBoer said. "We would complete the design this winter and put out for bids this winter.

Work would probably start in the spring. We'd give the contractors a window to get the project done."

Rasure asked what the plans were for Eighth Street.

DeBoer said they would like to wait until the concrete paving is done on County Road 14. He said the thinking was to wait on Eighth

Street until the construction was completed at the energy center.

"That would be about three years down the road," he said. "That can be changed if you feel that is more important."

"I am not sure Eighth Street is going to last three years," Rasure replied.

## Cowgirls win two

Senior Jordan Frazier sent a pitch across the plate in the top of the fifth inning in the first game of the Cowgirls' doubleheader they won against Scott Community High on Tuesday at Centennial Park. See story, photo on Page 12.

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