

weather
report

84°

noon
Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 7:56 p.m.
- **Saturday**
- Sunrise, 5:29 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:57 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 62 degrees
- Humidity 14 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds calm
- Barometer 29.98 inches and falling

- Record High today 95° (1934)
- Record Low today 30° (1915)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	83°
Low Thursday	39°
Precipitation	—
This month	.91
Year to date	4.05
Below normal	1.31 of an inch

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, high around 92, low near 55.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Mostly sunny, high near 94, low near 52. Sunday: Partly cloudy, high around 86, low near 52. Monday: Mostly sunny, high around 87, low near 50. Tuesday - Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high near 89, low near 49.

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

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.74 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.62
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.24 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.25
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$1.91 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.05 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.21
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$8.60 cwt.
NuSun crop — \$9.60
Confection — Call
Pinto beans — \$15.50 (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'
season ends

Freshman Danielle Pettibone pitched the first four innings Monday against Pratt at Centennial Park to earn the win, striking out four Lady Greenbacks as the Cowgirls won 3-2. See photos, story on Page 10a.

County splits road-project design

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Faced with a two-year delay on a key road, the Sherman County commissioners Tuesday switched gears and split the design engineering contract for projects to be paid for by a special 1-cent sales tax that begins in July.

The decision gave a firm with a Goodland office, which promised to do the work this year, a piece of the county's project, and accelerated the county's share of the road work from a three- or four-year project to one or two.

At a special meeting on April 25, Commissioners Chuck Thomas and Mitch Tiede had

voted to award the design contract for all the county projects to Penco Engineering of Plainville. Chairman Kevin Rasure favored giving all the projects to Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, which has an office in Goodland.

County roads in the joint city-county program are old U.S. 24 across the county, five miles of Eighth Street west of K-27 to County Road 14, Road 14 from old U.S. 24 to Eighth Street and County Road 16 from old U.S. 24 to Eighth Street.

The commissioners decided Tuesday — after two hours of discussion — to split the

county projects, giving the asphalt work to Penco and the concrete work on County Road 14 to Evans, Bierly. All would be ready for bids by next spring.

The commissioners were discussing the details of the bond issue with Todd Loescher of D.A. Davidson and Co. of Wichita, who is acting as the county's financial advisor. He said there is a two-year limit on spending the money from a bond issue while collecting full interest on any money invested during construction. Letting the project drag beyond that could cost the county as much as \$150,000, he warned.

In the middle of the discussion with Loescher, Commissioner Rasure asked Jerry DeBoer of Penco to come up and talk about the design and construction schedule for the county projects.

DeBoer, an owner and engineer for Penco, said he had brought in the design contract for old U.S. 24, adding he hopes to get this ready for bid sometime this winter.

"We haven't decided anything on County Road 14 or anything else," he said, adding there really are two projects on Road 14, north

See **ROADS**, Page 7a

Wheat dying in heat

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

Continued dry weather threatens the coming wheat harvest, experts say. Some are asking whether there will be a harvest, but everyone wants to know how much wheat there will be and in what shape.

With the dry spell, though, prices have jumped.

The forecast is for below-normal participation through at last Monday, the National Weather Service office in Goodland says. Temperatures are expected to be above normal.

The area is below normal in rainfall by 1.31 inches, said Al Pietrycka, a forecaster at the office. The rain two weekends ago was spotty, varying from nothing to a full inch, he said. The area has been in drought for the last few years, he said, starting in 2000.

Wednesday's wheat price was \$4.60, said Lynn Hoelting of Mueller Grain. Prices are up because of weather, a 12 percent reduction in the number of acres planted to wheat and strong demand, he said.

Hoelting said he thought the reason for the reduction in acres was due to the \$3-per-bushel price around planting time.

"We need a rain," Hoelting said. "The crop seems to be a week to 10 days ahead of normal."

Some of the wheat is getting ready to go into the bloom stage and hot weather is not good for it, he said.

"Wheat in northwest Kansas is in the flag leaf to late boot stage and could still benefit from rain," said Jeanne Falk, area crop production

See **WHEAT**, Page 7a

Wind blades, towers arrive



Generator blades for a wind farm southwest of town began to show up at the Goodland Energy Center site Thursday morning. Chuck Lutters, vice-president of ReNewable Energy Resources, said seven more loads of blades and tower sections were to arrive from Texas during the day. Lutters said the blades

are about 75 feet long, and the towers will be about 120 feet in the air when erected. He said a final decision on the location would be made soon, but he felt it will be within about a mile of the energy center.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Task force to research merger, office options

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The Sherman County Economic Development Council decided Tuesday to form a task force from three promotion groups to study how they can work together, asking it to bring back a recommendation in September.

The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce had proposed a merger with the council at a special meeting on May 2, and council Chairman Shelly Thompson, from Bankwest, put the item on the agenda for the

meeting Tuesday.

The Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau has offered to share office space downtown with the other groups, but both seem to be resisting any type of formal merger with the struggling Chamber.

All three promote business development in the county, but in different ways. Until the development council was formed by the county in May 2002 and the visitors bureau separated in December 2002, all three shared a director.

The Chamber is a private group,

run with dues from individual and business members. The development council gets city and county money, with a budget of \$100,000 a year, and the bureau get money from the county hotel "bed" tax, about \$95,000 a year.

Council member Dwane Timm, of the First National Bank, said Tuesday he felt it would take more than a short discussion to examine the options and come up with the best solution.

"We need to set up a task force with three representatives from the

three organizations to look at this in depth," Timm said. "I will chair the task force and report back by September."

Member Harlan House, a farmer and rancher, seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Development Director Tiffani Kirk told the council she had met with the county and city commissioners to introduce herself, and neither seemed favorable to a possible merger.

See **MERGER**, Page 7a

X-pressos say farewell to four seniors



The last concert of the season for the X-Pressos was Saturday at the Goodland High School auditorium. Members of the show choir include (from left) Sandy Johnson, Kerek Mason, Samantha Philbrick, Josh Cech, Leah Shores and Jon Beeson.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland High School show choir, the X-Pressos, said farewell to four of its own at the group's last concert of the school year Saturday night.

At the high school auditorium, parents and friends watched the choir and guests Jessica Vignery, Christina Beeson, Chelsie Sheldon and Josef Felver, who added comic touches to the evening's performance.

The senior members of the choir, Jordan Frazier, Andrea Grieve, Samantha Philbrick and Jon Beeson, performed solos in their last appearance with the group.

The concert included music ranging from rock 'n' roll hits from the 1960s to theme songs from television shows and songs from musicals.

Sheldon, wearing roller skates, pulled Vignery in costume as Minnie Mouse, complete with

tail, on a child's peddle car in between the choir all the while making bubbles during the song "Car Wash."

Christina Beeson sang "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" with her brother Jon.

Vignery was Lucy from "I Love Lucy" and Felver was Ricky Ricardo, singing the theme song from that show.

The Goodland Music Boosters had a reception for the choir and audience in the cafeteria following the show.

Sopranos with the group are Grieve, Sandy Johnson, Jillian Parker, Samantha Philbrick and Lea Shores. Altos are Kerri Bellamy, Ashley Cebula, Vanessa Crotinger, Frazier and Jena McCall. Tenors are Beeson, Nathan Linin, Kerek Mason, Andrew Philbrick and Forrest Traschel. Basses are Josh Cech, Jake Kling, John Mosbarger, Ren Scherling and Michael Smith.

Graduation at 2 p.m. Saturday

Sixty-six seniors will march out of Max Jones Fieldhouse on Saturday as graduates of Goodland High School.

Commencement for the Class of 2006 will begin at 2 p.m. Saturday. The grads will get a pep talk from Nyla (Wilson) Milleson, a 1980 Goodland graduate who coaches the Drury University Lady Panther basketball team. Milleson has become one of the most successful young women's coaches in the country.

The Outstanding Educator Award will be

give out, foreign exchange students honored, scholarship winners announced and the valedictorian and salutatorian will address their classmates, parents and community.

Milleson, the 1980 valedictorian, helped win a state championship for Goodland High. She began coaching at Junction City High School in 1989, and in 2000 was hired to start the Drury women's basketball program. The team has been to the Division II round of 16 four times and was the runner-up in 2004.