

weather report

86°

noon Monday



Today

• Sunset, 8 p.m.
Wednesday
 • Sunrise, 5:26 a.m.
 • Sunset, 8:01 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 72 degrees
 • Humidity 31 percent
 • Sky partly cloudy
 • Winds southeast at 15 mph
 • Barometer 29.96 inches
 and falling
 • Record High today 96° (2000)
 • Record Low today 36° (1930)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 90°
 Low Monday 56°
 Precipitation trace
 This month .91
 Year to date 4.05
 Normal -1.79 of an inch

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, high near 85, low near 52.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Sunny, high near 84, low near 50, breezy. Thursday: Sunny, high near 89, low around 56. Friday: Sunny, high near 90, low near 54. Saturday: Mostly sunny and breezy, high near 92, low near 52. Sunday: Mostly sunny, high near 85.

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

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.66 bushel
 Posted county price — \$4.62
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Corn — \$2.16 bushel
 Posted county price — \$2.25
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Milo — \$1.83 bushel
 Soybeans — \$4.93 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



Two qualify for state track

Junior Kaylee Billinger was fourth in the 400-meter dash at the Class 4A regional in Buhler Friday and earned a trip to Wichita for the state track meet. Kerek Mason also qualified for state. See story, photos on Page 12.

63 cross stage to get diplomas

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland High Class of 2006 crossed the stage, took their diplomas and marched out, together as a group for perhaps the last time.

The 63 seniors graduated in summer-like heat at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Max Jones Fieldhouse. There was cheering and a few tears. The band and the show choir, the X-Pressos, performed.

Nyla Wilson Milleson, a 1980 graduate, talked about her success since she received her own diploma 26 years ago.

Milleson, women's basketball coach at Drury University since 2000, has the most wins of any active Division II coach in the country with 85.6 percent. She built the program from the ground up and made it into a winner.

She was introduced by Shelley Angelos, the new superintendent, who will take over the district in July. Superintendent Marvin Selby had a death in the family.

Milleson said she has had a simple life with many blessings.

"Goodland is still home to me, even if I have been gone 26 years," she said, adding that some of her teachers are still here.

She gave the seniors five keys to success, starting with yourself.

"You must believe in yourself," she said. "Have faith and rely on that. Faith acts as a safety valve."

Her second key was to set goals and have a good work ethic.

"A successful person always sets goals," Milleson said. "Athletics are very goal oriented."

Her third key was commitment. That is what drives a person, she said.

"Are you happy with your efforts?" she asked. "Hard work's constant companion is sacrifice. How do you react to the bad days?"

Milleson's fourth key was perseverance.

"That separates the winners from the losers," she said. "Quitting is not an option. Expect to win."

Her fifth key was to be a good person everyday of your life.

"There are so many more important things than winning," she said. "Hope to make a difference in one person's life."

Student Council president Chelsea Gray introduced the foreign



Graduating Goodland High School band members Matt Rohr and Derek Fenner sat in with Devin Mangus (left) and Chris Irvin (right) as the band performed at graduation Saturday afternoon at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Photos By Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



Milleson



Hall



Leiker



Titus

exchange students, Lise Hangaard Vinge from Denmark and Wanja Runkel from Germany. Gray, Vinge and Runkel exchanged flags.

"Goodland is really an awesome town," said Runkel, who lived with Eric and Marianne Gray.

See SCHOOL, Page 11



Foreign exchange students Wanja Runkel from Germany and Lise Hangaard Vinge from Denmark exchanged national flags with Student Council President Chelsea Gray.

Holiday Inn Express gets city hearing

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

A tax abatement and industrial revenue bonds to finance a Holiday Inn Express moved ahead after a public hearing held at the City Commission meeting.

The hearing is required by the state to give residents a chance to object to the city issuing \$5 million in bonds to Prairiesky Capital for 10 years to build the Holiday Inn Express and to give the firm a property tax abatement.

The hotel is a project of Doug Irvin, Sherman County farmer; his brother, Mike Irvin, a Manhattan lawyer and former Sherman County attorney; with Mike Woofert, a Colby developer who owns two motels.

Mayor Rick Billinger opened the hearing at the beginning of the city meeting on May 15.

Theron Froggatte, investment

banker of Froggatte and Co. of Wichita, said the city had approved a letter of intent for issuing the bonds at a special meeting on March 23.

Froggatte gathered information and prepared a cost-benefit analysis with the help of the Kansas Department of Commerce. That was presented at a special commission meeting on April 24.

At that meeting, city commissioners voted unanimously to go forward with the bonds and the tax break.

Froggatte said the hearing was to air objections to the program, but no action would be taken. He said he would be back at the next commission meeting with the documents to issue the bonds.

Dave Walker, who said he runs an Internet business out of his home, questioned the bond issue.

"How do the bonds get retired?" Walker asked.

"The owners make all the payments," Billinger said.

"I am having some problems with this," Walker said. "I think we are facing serious increases in property taxes. Those who thought passing the sales tax was the last are wrong."

"We have the sewage treatment plant and new power lines that have to be built. People are wondering how they are going to pay their electric bills and for their drugs."

"I know of one real estate sale that fell through for the sales tax rates."

"Adronics did not bring new jobs. All the motels will be competing against the Holiday Inn Express. I don't think we need another hotel, based on the low occupancy levels of the others already."

"It is not up to the commission to decide if we need another business or not," Billinger said. "These plans are available for anyone."

"The city and county worked on a program last year to give a 90 percent property tax break."

"We are not getting (any taxes) now. With the new hotel, we will sell electricity, water and they will pay sewer fees."

Walker asked if it would be fair to ask the citizens to allow him to be exempted for the business he is running out of his home.

"What if I said I don't want to pay property taxes?" he asked. "From each according to his ability and to each according to his need is not capitalism."

"It is going to make it harder to get people to come here."

City Commissioner Josh Dechant said he did not see how it would make it harder.

"I think it will make it easier," Dechant said.

"This will help," Billinger said.

Yes, they will have a break, but with a \$5 million project, we are better off...."

Billinger said the industrial revenue bond program is used statewide.

"It is being used around the state for new construction," he said. "I pay full taxes on everything I have. I don't want to pay higher taxes."

Daniels said he felt it would be great if there were five or 10 more projects like this to bring people to town.

"I am hoping for success," Walker said. "I have a home for sale. I want it to succeed."

Billinger said the city doesn't have to do anything except issue the bonds.

"The owners have to go to a bank and get the money," he said. "It is not an easy process, but it is open for

See HOTEL, Page 11

County, hospital join to pay for schooling

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Finding doctors and key medical workers for the Goodland Regional Medical Center is always tough, and the county is stepping up to help with education costs for a new nurse anesthetist.

The Sherman County commissioners agreed Tuesday to spend up to \$20,000 a year for three years to help Eric Gray go to the University of Kansas School of Allied Health at the Medical Center in Kansas City. He would end up with a master's degree in anesthesiology.

Jim Precht, financial officer for the hospital, and Dale Shields, representing the Northwest Kansas Medical Foundation, came asked

commissioners for the county's help.

Precht said Gray had planned to be there but was working at a Denver hospital.

Shields said surgery is critical for the hospital, and they need an anesthetist to replace Leon Nielsen, who hopes to retire in about three years.

Precht said Gray graduated from the nursing program at Colby Community College and has been working in trauma at a Denver hospital. His wife Marianne teaches at West School.

He has been accepted to attend KU, and classes will begin at the end of May. He would graduate in three years.

In return for financial help from the county, the hospital and the foundation, they said, Gray has agreed to come back to Goodland

to work for at least five years.

Shields said the anticipated expenses to live and attend classes in Kansas City are about \$34,000 per year, \$9,000 for tuition and \$23,000 for living expenses.

"Gray feels this is pretty bare bones to attend KU," Shields added. "He needs some financial aid."

"What I can tell you is the hospital and foundation have agreed to help, up to about \$12,000 per year. We would like to involve the county and the quarter-cent sales tax to help recruit medical personnel."

"He is a young man who has the talent and ability to complete the work and come back here to work."

"The hospital board discussed it and felt

good about it," Precht added. "I think we have done four loans, and been fairly successful with the program. That was part of the reason to pass the sales tax."

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said it seemed like the hospital and foundation were taking care of about two-thirds of the cost.

"Do you want each to do \$12,000?" Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked.

Shields said the foundation and hospital could do the \$12,000 each.

Thomas asked what the county has done in the past. County Clerk Janet Rumpel said it has been different each time. She said there is \$214,000 set aside for the program.

See COUNTY, Page 11