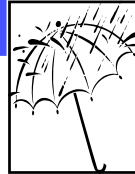


weather report

42°

noon Monday



Today

- Sunset, 6:51 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 6:52 a.m.
- Sunset, 6:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 57 degrees
- Humidity 89 percent
- Sky light rain
- Winds northeast at 10 mph
- Barometer 30.34 inches and steady
- Record High today 90° (1920)
- Record Low today 25° (1958)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Sunday 67°
- Low Monday 39°
- Precipitation .61
- This month .61
- Year to date 19.84
- Above normal 2.07 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Occasional rain and snow before 10 a.m., then chance of rain. High near 46, low around 33. North winds switching to west at 5 to 15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of rain before noon, high near 53, low around 27. Thursday: Partly cloudy, high near 48, low around 29. Friday: Mostly sunny, high near 64, low near 34. Saturday: High near 65, low near 34. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$4.61 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.89
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
- Corn — \$2.68 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.36
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
- Milo — \$2.68 bushel
- Soybeans — \$4.92 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.80
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
- Millet — \$6.50 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- NuSun crop — \$12
- Pinto beans — \$19 (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



Cowboys lose at home

Travis Angelos (11) faked a handoff to running back Casey Henderson (3), then dropped back to pass in the second half of the homecoming game Friday. The Cowboys lost to state-ranked Oakley, 35-12. See photo, story on Page 10.

Hotel's second floor going up

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Workers are pouring parts of the parking lot and putting up the frame walls for the second floor of a Holiday Inn Express being built on the site of the old Apple Trail truck stop south of I-70.

Meanwhile, the Goodland City Commission agreed last Monday to allow bond lawyers from Gilmore and Bell of Wichita to help complete an industrial revenue bond issue to finance the hotel.

Woofter Construction of Colby is building the hotel, which will have

73 rooms and 14 family suites, plus an indoor pool and exercise room. Work began in June on the foundations, and the facility should open in the spring.

Co-owner Doug Irvin said Friday he has talked to the Holiday Inn people and they are beginning to take reservations for the hotel for the middle of April.

"I think things are moving along pretty well," Irvin said. "I think the plan is to have the outside done by December and the interior work would be completed, hopefully, in mid-March.

"We are trying to do it right, and I think it will be great inside as well."

Philip C. Lacey, a lawyer from Gilmore and Bell, sent a letter to Mayor Rick Billinger saying the firm would be bond counsel to the city to issue the industrial revenue bonds. The owners want to use the city financing to get a lower interest rate, but taxpayers would not be responsible for paying off the loan.

Lacey's letter said the bonds would not exceed \$5 million for building and equipping the hotel, and the bonds will be paid back from money from operations. The cost to

issue the bonds will be paid by Prairiesky Capital, the corporation owned by Doug Irvin, a Goodland area farmer; his brother Mike Irvin, a lawyer in Manhattan; and Mike Woofter of Colby.

The First National Bank of Goodland will buy the bonds in a negotiated sale, Lacey's letter said.

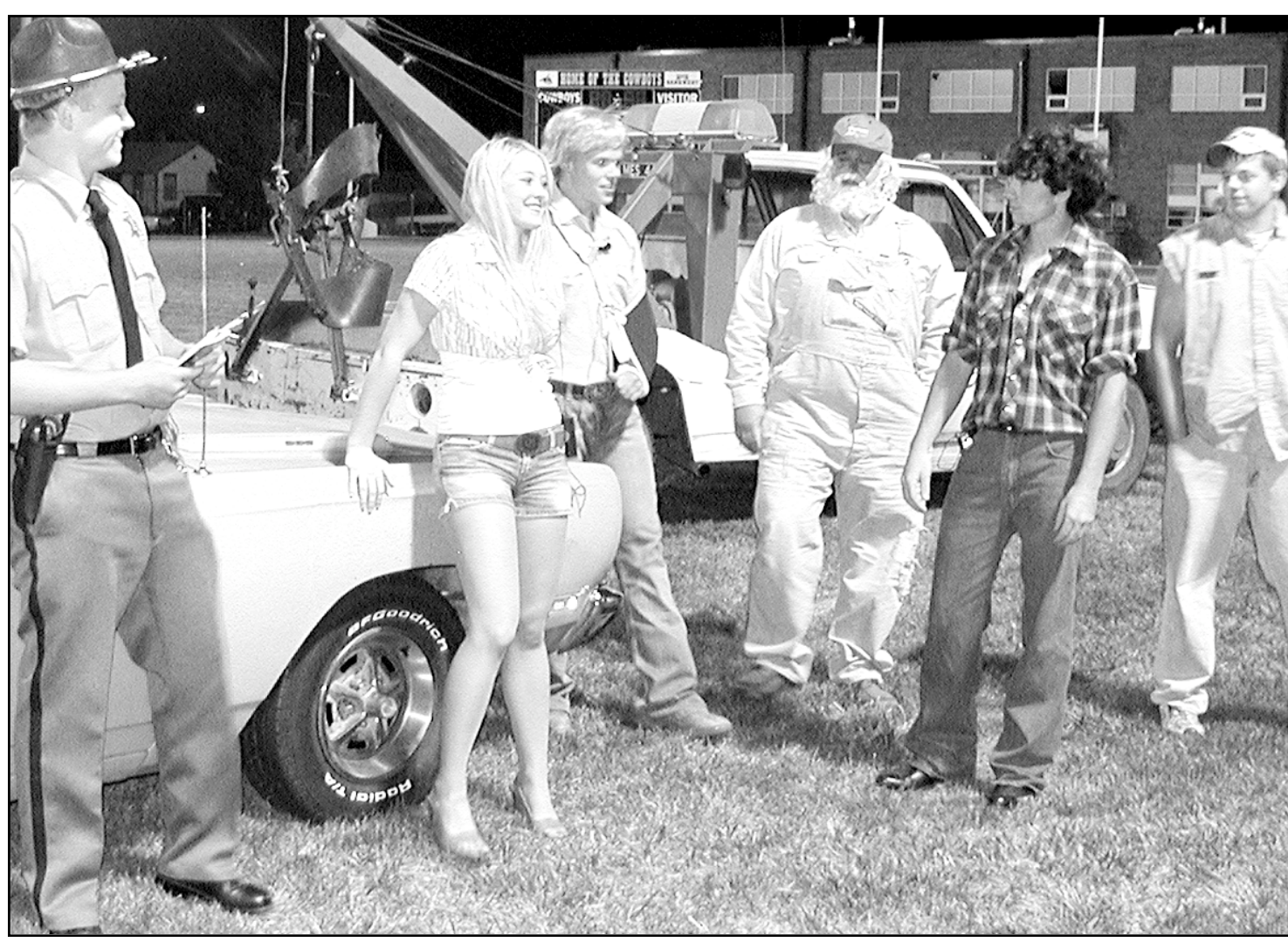
A request to have the city issue the bonds was brought to the commission on March 21 by Theron L. Froggatte, an investment banker from Wichita, who said he had been asked by Woofter to request the bonds. Froggatte met with the com-

mission again on April 24 to review a cost-benefit analysis for the hotel.

At the April meeting, Woofter and Doug Irvin agreed to set the revenue bonds up for 90 percent tax abatement, which is similar to the abatement program approved by the city, county and school board last year for other projects. That means the hotel will pay only 10 percent of its property taxes for the first 10 years after it's built.

Froggatte told the commissioners the cost-benefit analysis, done

See HOTEL, Page 9



Homecoming skit features king, queen

During the senior skit at Goodland High's Homecoming pep rally Thursday, Deputy Cletus Hogg (Josiah Goodley, above left) waited for an explanation about some jewels found in the General Lee from Daisy Duke (Stephanie Sheldon), Bo Duke (John Mosbarger), Uncle Jesse Duke (Brad Cowan), Luke Duke (Tyler Hillmer) and Cooter Davenport (Ryan Gausman). Seniors Hillmer and Sheldon were crowned Homecoming king and queen at halftime of the Goodland-Oakley football game Friday. Court attendants for the queen were Lindsay Schields and Emily Murray and for king were Mosbarger and Goodley.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



Museum director to ask county for money to support new building

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The High Plains Museum is at a critical point, city commissioners hear Monday, and probably needs help from the county to build and operate a new facility.

The board has plans to build a new museum, said Curator Linda Holton, including a floor plan and conceptual design.

Two sites are under consideration, she said, adding that over the years the museum board had looked for an existing building, but found none that would be suitable. The Sandy Trust has offered to donate 14 acres near the east I-70 exit, Holton said, and the Irvin family offered a location near the new hotel south of the

west Goodland exit.

"We are ready to start fund raising for a new museum," said Tiffani McMinn, county economic development director, "but for the grant proposals, we will have to show how we are going to sustain the project after it is completed.

"We have to know the doors are going to stay open. It will take more commitment than what the city is now doing. We are asking for permission to approach the county to share the cost of the new museum.

"The city is the bread and butter for the museum. We will report back with a full report."

Holton said that after 47 years of collecting artifacts, there is no place to put up new exhibits, and there is

no storage space to take any large donations. She said off-site storage the museum has been renting for several years is filling up.

She said the museum board likes the east I-70 site, but it has no utilities and it might cost \$200,000 to extend the sewer and power lines to the location. She said the utilities are in place at the west I-70 site.

"We are planning for the future of the museum," Holton said. "From our visitor comments, we know the museum is a great place and a good showcase for our community and Sherman County.

"We estimate the museum has an impact of about \$300,000 (a year) on the community. Our museum is not city history, it is Sherman

County history, and we want to ask other folks to help support the project."

City Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she thought it was a great project, adding, "We need a new project to work on with the county."

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he did not see a problem with Holton and McMinn approaching the county commissioners. He suggested another avenue would be through the Sherman County Community Foundation.

"Once we have our basic plan in place, there are lots of things we can take advantage of," McMinn said. McMinn is working with the museum as part of the economic development effort.

Leader in capital for session

A Goodland High senior was to be at a White House conference today on school safety.

A reception for Michael Smith, national president of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, planned for today had to be put off because Smith went to Washington for the conference.



Smith

Federal officials, school workers, parents, law enforcement officials and other experts were gathering in Chevy Chase, Md., a Washington suburb, to talk about violence in schools and steps to improve school safety.

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and Education Secretary Margaret Spellings are hosts for the national conference. President George Bush and his wife Laura, a former school librarian, are expected to attend.

"Our goal is clear: Children and teachers should never fear for their safety when they enter a classroom," the president said in his weekly radio address on Saturday.

In the past two weeks, deadly attacks hit three schools in three states and others faced threats.

Citizens invited to plan future

City commissioners and citizens are invited to the "community conversation" next Tuesday to help plan Sherman County's future, economic development Director Tiffani McMinn said at a city meeting last Monday.

McMinn said the special "Shine on, Sherman County" gathering will begin with a free dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the Goodland Elks Lodge, 1523 Arcade. She said after dinner, consultant Terry Woodbury, of Kansas Communities LLC would lead a discussion among representatives of what he calls "the public square" — business, education, health and human services and government — on the needs of the community.

McMinn said the steering committee and Woodbury have completed about 80 interviews and received over 300 surveys that will be part of the discussion.

McMinn told the commissioners the new Goodland brochure, developed by her office and the Convention and Visitors bureau, is done. She wrote a grant application to the Kansas Department of Commerce office of Travel and Tourism to pay for 40 percent of the printing cost.

She said a new Sherman County guide is being put together and she should have a proof of the cover soon. The guide is supposed to be completed by the end of the year, in time for tourism trade shows in January.