

**weather  
report****55°**noon  
**Thursday****Today**

• Sunset, 6:04 p.m.

**Saturday**

• Sunrise, 7:02 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:02 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil temperature 43 degrees
- Humidity 39 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds northwest at 20 mph
- Barometer 30.02 inches and rising

- Record High today 89° (1947)
- Record Low today 16° (1916)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High Wednesday	45°
Low Thursday	27°
Precipitation	—
This month	1.52
Year to date	20.75
Above normal	2.67 inches

**The Topside Forecast**

Today: Partly cloudy, high 66, low near 35. A 30 percent chance of rain tonight.

**Extended Forecast**

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of rain. Partly cloudy, high 47, low 28. Sunday: Partly cloudy, high near 49, low around 28. Monday: Mostly sunny, high near 58, low around 31. Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high near 62, low around 33. Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high near 61.

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

**local  
markets****Noon**

Wheat — \$4.65 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.75
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$3.06 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.76
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2.66 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.50 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.17
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$7 hundredweight
Sunflowers
NuSun crop — \$12
Pinto beans — \$19 (new crop)

(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigo 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

**Young Guns  
play in Hays**

Brooke Bahe got ready to throw a pass at the fifth-grade Young Guns game against the Hays Gamblers Saturday. Goodland will face Smoky Valley at 1:30 p.m. Mountain Time on Saturday at Lewis Field in Hays. See photo on Page 12.

## Citizens gather to plan future



Sophomore Taylor McLemore was the third member of the Goodland High Family Careers and Community Leadership of America class to speak at the Shine on Sherman County "community conversation" Tuesday evening at the Goodland Elks Lodge.

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

About 190 people gathered at the Goodland Elks Lodge on Tuesday for the first of several meetings to develop a countywide strategic plan, developing a list of 60 ideas for a follow-up retreat next month.

The evening started with a free chili supper, and the people at each of the 23 tables spent about two hours talking about how to build on Sherman County's strengths and weaknesses. The ideas, gathered on sticky notes, will be the basis for the next step, a "vision retreat" in November.

At the end of the meeting, each person was asked to nominate four people for the retreat, one from each side of what consultant Terry Woodbury of Kansas Communities LLC calls "the public square:" government, education, business and health care.

Tiffani McMinn, Sherman County Economic Development director, said the nominations will be counted and about 40 people will be selected to attend the retreat after the steering committee meeting

the first week of November. The committee named the process "Shine on Sherman County."

Woodbury, who lives in Leoti and Kansas City, opened the meeting by saying, "The purpose is to engage in positive conversation to create energy for the future."

"We start with food," Woodbury said, "because it is a great way to help get the community together."

Woodbury said the early part of the process is "citizen driven" from the bottom up, including those who put up seed money for the program. "We have human energy," he said, "through the people on the steering committee. They are the ones who served you, and that is what leadership looks like — service, helping your neighbors."

He said there was a single theme for all those attending to remember: "Positive conversation changes the world."

Woodbury said as a young man living in Leoti, he remembered the busy main intersection where K-25 and Highway 96 cross. He said the energy he remembers is gone, and

part of his effort is to rebuild that energy in rural Kansas, one city and county at a time.

"We face a growing problem from what I call the cancer of the coffee shop," he said. "I find today that there is more negative energy in the coffee shops. That is where you start a rumor and everyone knows it in 30 minutes."

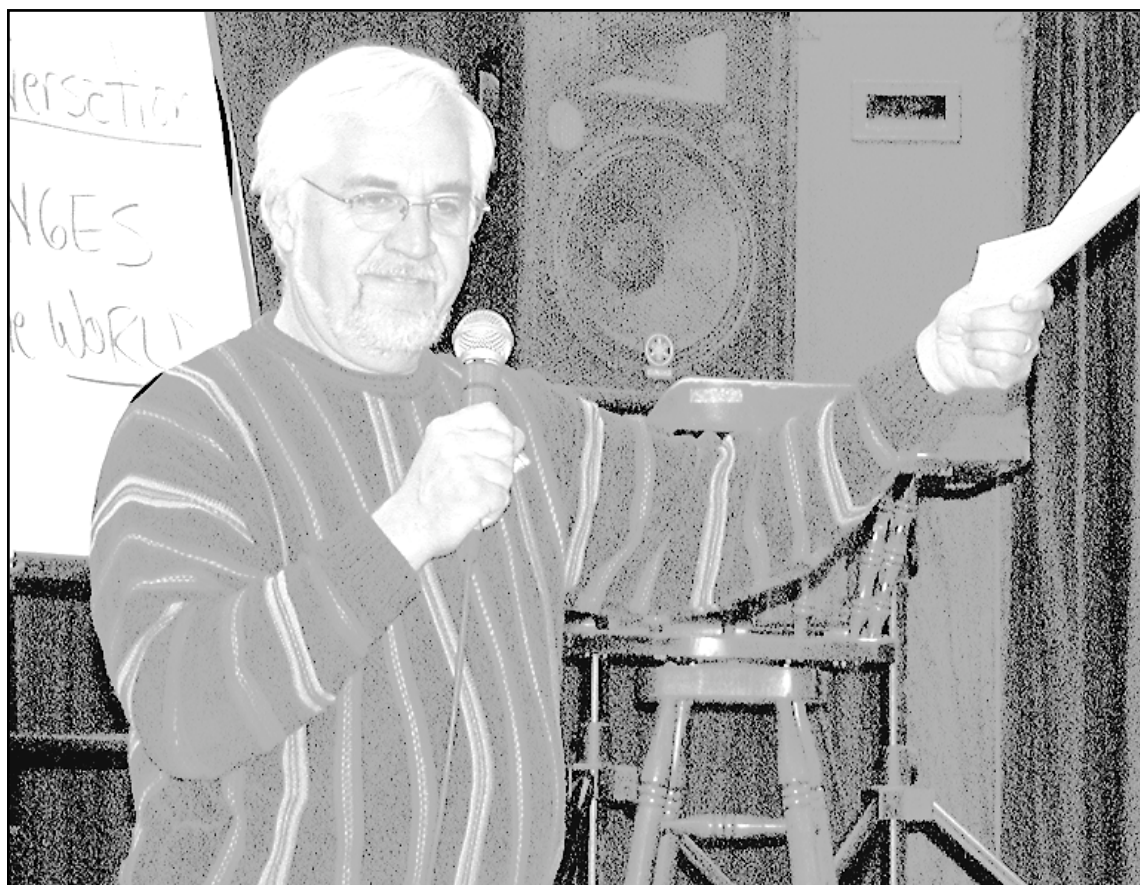
"A positive idea is drowned in the coffee."

He said there were three observations he could offer from the interviews and meeting he has had in the past few months.

"This is the first community I have been in where people tell me they have done something like this before," he said.

He asked how many in the audience had been involved in the strategic planning effort about 14 years ago. Eight raised their hands.

"That plan unfolded over time," he said. "I heard about it several times. That it has been done and that the goals were met is a tremendous

**See PLAN, Page 11**

Consultant Terry Woodbury opened the Shine on Sherman County "community conversation" by saying "positive conversation changes the world." Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

## Students agree they want change

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

Goodland High School students highlighted each of the three sections of the community conversation Tuesday at the Elks Lodge.

Consultant Terry Woodbury of Kansas Communities LLC told the audience of about 190 people that the ideas they developed would be the basis for a new strategic plan for the county.

He had a student from the Family Career and Community Leadership of America class speak at the beginning of each discussion topic, including the quality of life for kids, citizen engagement and community assets.

Woodbury said in the interviews done over the last couple of months, people were asked to rate the five things kids need to succeed. He said

72 percent felt there a healthy start available in Goodland, and 69 percent agreed there are caring adults to work with the youth. Only 34 percent felt there are safe places for kids after school, though, just 13 percent felt the schools were developing marketable skills and only 9 percent felt youths were involved in volunteer service.

Brennen Clouse, a high school sophomore, said he saw three things around town he felt needed to be improved. The first was the entrance from the east exit into the city, which he felt needs to be cleaned up. The second was a place for young teens to go to at night and on weekends. The third was to increase involvement of teenagers.

Woodbury said he wanted half of

**See IDEAS, Page 11**

## High school students plan city clean-up

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

Goodland High School students plan to help people clean up their yards on Wednesday, and Sherman County commissioners promised Tuesday to help by waiving dumping fees for the junk and trash they collect.

People who need help cleaning up their property can call the school today to get on the list.

Sonya Vandiver, administrative assistant to High School Principal Harvey Swager, told commissioners the school hopes to get students involved in community work. She asks the county to waive fees for

dumping trash at the transfer station.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said Connie Livengood from the high school had called and asked about waiving the fees and he suggested someone come explain the program.

Vandiver said the clean up is set for Wednesday, and all the high school students will be going out to clean up yards and remove unwanted items.

She said the idea is to get the students involved with the community and let them see they can make a difference by helping other people.

The program is for anyone who is unable to clean their own yard and who needs help with unwanted

items, she said. People can call the high school by today at 890-5656.

"We have not had the response we expected," Vandiver said. "We are doing it for free to help the community and want the kids to do some volunteer work and get them more involved in the community."

She said the students would be going out from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and that the city is going to help with hauling the larger items

"We are getting a list of lots of stuff," Vandiver said, "tree limbs, old washer and dryers, old lawnmowers, mattresses and a futon."

Curt Way, county public works

manager, said the trash needs to be separated before being taken to the transfer station.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas suggested the students have a central place to gather the different materials and separate it, similar to what the volunteers at the citywide clean up do in April. Rasure said the parking lot at Max Jones Fieldhouse would be a good place to take the stuff to be separated.

Vandiver asked the commissioners if there is anything the landfill would not accept, like tires. Way said the county could take a few tires or pieces of tires.

He said the Northwest Kansas

Technical College has a program to remove coolant from old refrigerators at no cost, and then they can be put in the metal pile at the transfer station. He said the tree limbs have to be separated from yard waste.

"We plan to have the bigger boys pick up the heavier items," Vandiver said, "and then bring them to where the city can help haul it away."

The commissioners approved waiving the fees for construction and demolition debris.

"We want to try to beautify the town," Vandiver said. "...We want to change attitudes about having pride in the town."

## Youth Skills Day chance for kids to learn to hunt, trap

**By Sharon Corcoran***The Goodland Star-News*

Kids have a chance to learn hunting and trapping skills, and volunteers get the chance to pass on their love of hunting and the outdoors. That is what organizers say Youth Skills Day is all about.

The event has been held in Colby for the past six years and in Goodland the past two, with kids getting so excited each year that they ask when the next one will be.

Troy Mannis of Goodland has helped with the event in both towns and says the reward comes from watching the kids' reactions.

"Every one of those kids, you see the excitement in their faces," he said. "That's what makes it all worthwhile."

Kids get to have fun while learning archery, how to handle shotguns and muzzle loaders, trapping, calling game and basic first aid, Mannis said.

This year in Goodland, he said, they also got to use a laser shot simulator from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.



Fall hunting guide inside today's edition of *The Goodland Star-News*

The kids had a blast with that, he said. It was something different, Mannis said, and the kids had a lot of different things to shoot at

with it.

There are pictures of pheasants, he said, bobcats, elk and so forth. The laser hits them, he said, and it tells the kids whether it's a good shot and a safe shot, or if they should have waited.

It helps them to see what to work on with their shooting and what to look for when they are hunting, he said; sometimes they get groups of animals, so the kids can learn how to shoot and get only the one they want.

Girls seem to enjoyed the laser more than anything, he added, since those guns don't kick.

The kids also enjoy working with the shotguns, Mannis said; you especially see the excitement in their faces when they hit a blue rock, or clay pigeon. Their first time, he said, the volunteers give them the shell as a souvenir. You see some kids filling their pockets with shells, he said. They're doing so well, and they get excited.

There were five stations with shotguns, Mannis said, and some guys from the Good-

land Gun Club came out and helped the kids.

Kids can benefit from the training even if they don't hunt, Mannis said.

"We're not pushing the issue of hunting," he said. "We're teaching them to handle guns safely."

When you hear about all the school shootings, he said, it's scary. This teaches kids that a gun is not a toy, but a tool.

The kids seemed enthusiastic and had a good time, said Scott Gilmer of Goodland, who did demonstrations on fur trapping.

"I gave them demonstrations on fur-handling tools," he said, "on all different kinds of traps and how to set them, different furs and how they look when they're ready to go to market."

He talked to the kids about different kinds of animals, which kinds can be trapped in our area.

It was amazing they had a group of girls, he said, and they seemed even more inter-

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