

weather report

22°

noon
Thursday
Today
Saturday

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.
• Sunrise, 6:48 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 34 degrees
• Humidity 54 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds northwest at 14 mph
• Barometer 30.20 inches and falling
• Record High today 73° (1917)
• Record Low today -5° (1985)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 19°
Low Thursday 12°
Precipitation .05
(1.5 inches of snow)
This month .06
Year to date 22.02
Above normal 2.68 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, high near 40, low around 14. Northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: partly cloudy, high near 31, low near 14. Sunday: Mostly Sunny, high near 35, low near 16. Monday: Mostly sunny, high near 50, low near 19. Tuesday: Partly cloudy, high near 42, low near 22. Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high near 46.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.70 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.91
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$3.72 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.39
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$3.37 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.99 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.02
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$7 hundredweight
Sunflowers
NuSun crop — \$12.75
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



Cowgirls play tonight

Senior Emily Murray rebounded the ball at Tuesday's soap scrimmage at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Action for the Cowgirls starts at 5:30 tonight at the fieldhouse facing Imperial, Neb. See story, photo on Page 9a.

Food pickup Saturday

Holiday activities this weekend include food pickup for the Genesis Food Bank starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

To donate food, put it in a sack by your front door or on the front porch. The food bank needs canned goods and nonperishable items such as cereal, macaroni, Jell-o or peanut butter, said Jeff Mason. They'd like to have things that can be used for a holiday meal such as cranberry sauce, pumpkin or stuffing mix, but can't take home-canned products or anything with an expired date.

The Sherman Theatre will have its Genesis movie at 1:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, with admission being an item of food, a toy or \$1 to go to Genesis. The movie is "Over the Hedge." The theater has done the Genesis movie for 16 years.

Children can let Santa know what they want for Christmas from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday at the Goodland Chamber of Commerce Office, 104 E. 10.

Carriage rides will be available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. starting at Pioneer Health, 910 Main. The carriage owned by Jack and Janna Eisenbart came from New York, where it was used in Central Park for 23-24 years. The carriage was built in England in 1948 and brought to New York, said Eisenbart.

Cost is \$5 per person, and riders sign a waiver before climbing into the carriage.

The Chamber of Commerce is having a dinner and dance on Saturday at the Goodland Elks Lodge. Chamber Executive Director Andi Nelson said the dance will be at 8 p.m., and tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10 each.

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The one thing everyone who gathered for an open house on ferrets and prairie dogs Tuesday in Oakley could agree on was that things would be better if there was more rain.

The open house, sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was to take comments and answer questions on a proposed experimental reintroduction of the endangered black-footed ferret on private land in Logan County.

Over 100 people attended the all-afternoon session, asking questions and getting a firsthand look at a ferret on its way to the Hutchison Zoo.

One farmer asked Mike LeValley, field supervisor for the service office in Manhattan, if the federal agency could proceed with the project over the protests of neighboring farmers.

"How many NO's will it take to

Storm drops snow, temperatures to zero



A couple got into their car during the snow on Wednesday afternoon in the 1200 block of Main. Goodland received 1 1/2 inches of snow on Wednesday for .05 inches of moisture. The

wind blew from the north from 16 to 31 m.p.h. with temperatures that went from a high of 19 degrees to zero. Snow fell from 3:50 a.m. to 3 p.m. and ended at midnight.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Vision retreat to develop 10-year goals

The "vision retreat" planned for Monday — the next step in the "Shine on Sherman County" strategic planning process — will develop a vision statement, 10-year goals and create action teams to accomplish the goals.

From the 190 people who attended the "community conversation" on Oct. 17, 55 have been nominated to attend the retreat at the Goodland Elks Lodge.

"A total of 128 people were nominated," said Tiffani McMinn, county economic development director. "The retreat will be an all-day process, beginning at 8 a.m. and ending about 4 p.m. The people who attend the retreat are to develop a 10-year vision for the county and action plans to carry out the goals."

Those nominated received a post card this week asking them to call the Economic Development office

if they could not attend.

Helen Dobbs, economic development office receptionist, said Wednesday there had not been any calls. She said the ones she had talked to had put the date on their calendar.

Consultant Terry Woodbury from Kansas Communities LLC will open the retreat, McMinn said, and then the group will split up to discuss goals based on ideas that were gath-

ered at the "community conversation" on Oct. 17.

Members attending the retreat were nominated from the four sides of what Woodbury calls "the public square," business, education, health and human services and government.

Business nominees include Brian Freeman, Goodland Grind and Gal-

See RETREAT, Page 7a

Ferrets may be OK, get rid of prairie dogs



This black-footed ferret was on display at the open house in Oakley on Tuesday. The ferret had been part of a captive breeding program in Wyoming and was on its way to the Hutchison Zoo. Black-footed ferrets are 20 to 24 inches long and weigh up to two and one-half pounds. They are best recognized by their black face mask and black feet. Few black-footed ferrets live beyond three years of age in the wild.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

stop this?" the farmer asked. "Or can you come in and do the project even if we were all against it?"

LeValley said the service will take all the comments into account, but that it is possible they could continue with plans to place about 20 to 30 pair of ferrets on the property of the five landowners in Logan County who volunteered about a year ago. In other words, "yes."

Dan Mulhern, a biologist with the service, said it was hard to separate the question of controlling the black-tail prairie dog from the reintroduction of the black-footed ferret.

Ricki Ashcroft of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Zoo in Washington, and Rachel Santymire of the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago brought a display showing the breeding program for the ferrets — at one point the population dipped as low as 18 animals — and the process of reintroducing them into the wild.

They handed out information

about the effort to breed enough ferrets and reintroduce them back to nature to take the animal off the endangered species list. Santymire said the goal is to get 1,500 ferrets successfully back into the wild, with about 700 living in the wild today. Until about 25 years ago, the tiny black-masked creatures had been thought to be extinct.

Everywhere at the open house, farmers and ranchers talked about how to eradicate prairie dogs. They worried that the ferret program might stop them from poisoning the ground squirrels.

Cameron Edwards, a neighbor of Larry Haverfield, one of the landowners who has volunteered to take the ferrets, said he is against the program because he wants to see the prairie dogs eradicated.

"I am against it for economic reasons," Edwards said. "I think the cost of the poison is making it ex-

See FERRET, Page 8a

Electric rates, parking top city agenda Monday

Ordinances raising electric rates by 9 percent, and allowing recreational vehicles to park on city streets for five days are the top items on the city commission agenda for 5 p.m. on Monday.

Home electric bill would go up about \$6.20 a month in January based on recommendations the city commission approved on No. 20.

The change will hike the monthly residential meter charge from \$2 to \$3.75, and raise the kilowatt-hour rate from 10.5 cents to 11.2 cents, a 6.6 percent increase.

The average residential customers use around 638 kilowatt hours per month, city officials said. Based on the average usage and the increase in the meter

charge the new monthly bill would be \$75.20, an increase of 9 percent.

Commercial meter rates will go from \$15 to \$19.73 per month and the kilowatt-hour rate from 9.5 cents to 9.86 cents, about 9.6 percent.

Electric rates were raised in January by about \$12.76 a month for the average customer. The city increased the kilowatt-hour charge by 2 cents, from 8.5 to 10.5, almost 24 percent. There was no increase on the meter charge.

Next time a friend or relative pulls their recreational vehicle in front of your house, a quick call to the Goodland Police Depart-

See CITY, Page 8a

First winner collects \$50 prize

With 10 lucky numbers in the ads for Christmas on Us sponsors on Page 3b of Tuesday's Goodland Star-News, Darlene Schilling of Goodland was the first to claim \$50 in scrip to spend at participating merchants.

Schilling claimed her prize on Tuesday; her winning ticket had been drawn from McClung's Appliance and Furniture. She said she was not sure where she would spend her money. Participating merchants have been handing out tickets in the ninth annual "Christmas on Us" promotion that will spread a total of \$2,500 around to 12 lucky shoppers over the next two weeks.

The contest will end on Saturday, Dec. 16, when the grand prize of \$1,500 and second prize of \$500 will be given away downtown. Shoppers will have plenty of

chances to win the nine remaining \$50 "instant prizes" along the way.

Participating businesses will hand out one ticket for every \$10 a customer spends, with a limit of 250 tickets per transaction. If you ask at The Star-News office, we'll give you one free ticket each week, so no purchase is required to win.

The customer takes half of each ticket and the other half is dropped into tins, which are emptied once a week into a large barrel. The Star-News staff will pick tickets each week and tuck the winning numbers in "Christmas on Us" advertisements, which will run every Tuesday.

Winners have four days, until 5 p.m. each Friday, to bring their tickets to The Star-News office, 1205 Main, and collect \$50 in scrip, which can be spent at any participat-

ing business.

Ten \$50 instant prizes will be given out over four weeks, for a total of \$500. Winning numbers appear in the Christmas on Us ads on Tuesday, which means shoppers have a chance to win up to \$400 in the next week. Numbers will appear on Tuesday, Dec. 5 and Dec. 12.

All of the \$50 instant winners will be given out during the month.

Participating businesses are Garcia's Home Furnishings and Appliance, Elliott's, American Communications, Mann's Jewelry, Shores Brothers Auto Supply, Sherman County Farm Bureau, Klip 'n Kurl Salon, McClung's Appliance and Furniture, High Plains Office Supply and The Star-News.

It's simple enough, but there are a few rules.

- You must be 18 to participate.
- Employees of participating

See PRIZE, Page 8a