

**weather report**

40°



noon Tuesday

**Today**  
 • Sunset, 4:30 p.m.

**Thursday**  
 • Sunrise, 7:06 a.m.  
 • Sunset, 4:31 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**  
 • Soil temperature 32 degrees  
 • Humidity 62 percent  
 • Sky cloudy  
 • Winds west at 7 mph  
 • Barometer 30.10 inches and steady

• Record High today 74° (1980)  
 • Record Low today -11° (1916)

**Last 24 Hours\***  
 High Monday 31°  
 Low Tuesday 22°  
 Precipitation —  
 This month 1.33  
 Year to date 23.35  
 Above normal 3.65 inches

**The Topside Forecast**  
 Today: Partly cloudy, high near 41, low around 20. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south, then northeast.

**Extended Forecast**  
 Thursday: A 40 percent chance of snow after 11 a.m. Cloudy with high near 34, northwest wind around 10 mph. A 50 percent chance of snow overnight, low around 22. Friday: A 50 percent chance of snow, cloudy with high near 30, low around 16. Saturday: partly cloudy, high near 30, low around 13. Sunday: Mostly sunny, high near 34. Overnight mostly clear, low around 16. New Year's Day: Mostly sunny, high near 34. (National Weather Service)  
 Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
 \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## Steel rising at energy center plants



A section of the collar for the coal bunker for the Goodland Energy Resources power plant was lifted into place at the site north of Caruso as Goodland High School students watched.

By Tom Betz  
*The Goodland Star-News*

The steel framework for the coal-fired power plant is reaching skyward at the Goodland Energy Center at Caruso, five miles west of town.

Roger Marsh, project manager for JMC Engineering, showed the progress to members of Connie Livengood's earth science class on Wednesday, Dec. 13, as they toured the Goodland Energy Resources power plant and the E-Caruso ethanol plant, both under construction.

Marsh met a school bus with the students at the security gate and guided the bus around the site to see work being done on the power plant and ethanol plant.

He told the students the two plants are on target for completion by the end of next year.

At the power plant site, Marsh explained that the steel framework, which reaches about 100 feet high, is being sand blasted, painted and reassembled from the parts that began arriving from Moorhead, Minn., earlier this year. He showed the students a huge coal bunker which will be installed in the steel framework.

One student asked if the cranes now at the site would be used to lift the bunker, but Marsh said that would require a 300-ton crane while the ones being used to lift the steel pieces are 90-ton cranes.

While the students watched, a crane lifted a section of the collar that is being assembled to hold the coal bunker. He said the other section that will be lifted into place is the steam turbine, which has been rebuilt in Houston.

The students saw Dillon Warden, an assistant football coach, and asked what Warden's job was.

Marsh said that Warden is the safety manager for the site. He watches to be sure things are being done in a safe manner and that people are wearing the proper gear.

Marsh pointed that parts of the two plants are painted yellow for safety purposes, including stairs, ladders and working platforms that will be installed as the plant is reassembled.

He said when he arrived in July, there was nothing to see above ground. He said the 88 concrete pilings for the power plant had been finished and site preparation was being completed for the ethanol plant.

Today, Marsh said, a different panorama greets a visitor.

"Being built on the firm foundation, the steel of the power plant building rises 100 feet into the sky," he said.

The coal bunker, turbine and coal-fired boiler are to be installed in the spring.

On the way to the ethanol plant, Marsh had the bus stop so the students could see welding being done on the coal bunker to get it ready to fit into the collar in the steel framework.

The students asked about how the coal would be delivered, and Marsh said there are plans to bring in a rail spur to deliver the coal from the west. He did say that when the plant is first operational, the coal probably would be delivered by truck until the spur can be completed.

Marsh said the power from the coal comes from burning the carbon it contains. There is a large market for the fly ash left after the coal is burned. He said this is mixed in with concrete and dirt on many highway projects.

At the ethanol plant, Marsh said the foundation work is nearing completion and the students watched as pieces of the steel building frame were being lifted by crane and bolted into place. Some tanks have been placed into position, Marsh said, and more are ready to be installed once the concrete stem walls are done.

He said the sections of the biodiesel plant have arrived and are in position to be assembled next year.

Marsh pointed out wind generator and tower sections that are being stored on site. Asked when those would be erected, Marsh said they are not part of the project he is handling.

He said about 50 workers are on site today, but that the number varies as parts of the project are completed and contractors change. He said the crew should swell to about 200 by spring and summer.

Three separate yet interrelated businesses are constructing facilities in the complex. When the plants are in operation, officials expect 70-100 jobs will be added in Sherman County.

Goodland Energy Resources LLC is constructing the coal-fired

**local markets**

**Noon**

Wheat — \$4.46 bushel  
 Posted county price — \$4.79  
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$3.66 bushel  
 Posted county price — \$3.41  
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$3.31 bushel  
 Soybeans — \$5.75 bushel  
 Posted county price — \$5.88  
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$7 hundredweight  
 Sunflowers  
 NuSun crop — \$13.20  
 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**

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### Foundation footer ready

Lowell Lambert and Raul Hernandez stretched lines to make sure the footings were square for a new storage and repair building for the home-owned carnival going up south of the main fairgrounds. See photo on Page 3



Roger Marsh (right), project manager for JMC Engineering, explained the work being done on the ethanol plant at the Goodland Energy Center to students and teacher Connie Livengood. Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

### City, energy center unit promise power pact

By Tom Betz  
*The Goodland Star-News*

With completion of the new coal-fired power plant west of town about a year away, City Commission and officials from Goodland Energy Resources agreed to negotiate a fair price for the power.

The new agreement replaces a contract signed by the city in July of last year. Attorney Jerry Fairbanks, legal counsel for the energy center and First National Bank, said last Monday the company discovered later that the prior contract violated a state law prohibiting public bodies from entering into long-term contracts.

The contract offered by Mark Justus and accepted by the city was for 10 years with a renewal option for 10 more years. The contract set the power price at 47 cents per kilowatt-hour for the

first five years and 49 cents for the second five. The agreement says the only cost increases would be for fuel and fuel transportation.

"I would like to emphasize that this is a beneficial relationship between the city and the power plant," said Norman House, president of Goodland Energy Resources. "It must be equitable and fair or it might not last very long."

"We do not have the expertise to set a price that would be binding. We would say we will do our best to set a good rate for the citizens."

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked House if he could give the city an estimate of what the power rate was going to be.

House said he did not have the expertise to estimate a rate, and

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## Veterans urged to call, help hospital here get clinic

By Tom Betz  
*The Goodland Star-News*

Area veterans are being encouraged to get on the phone and tell the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver they want a new outreach clinic opened in Goodland.

Three High Plains communities are in the running for one new clinic that will be opened next year to serve a nine-county area, the department's Rocky Mountain Region said last Monday: Yuma and Burlington in Colorado or Goodland.

Veterans are being urged to call the regional office in Denver at (866) 301-9626 to register their support for the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

"I'd like to see them get 5,000 calls from Sherman County," said Jay Jolly, Goodland hospital administrator. "We are very much behind it and would like to see Goodland get the clinic."

A message being circulated by e-mail to American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars veterans in the area says:

"You can help promote the Goodland hospital by calling the Rocky Mountain Region for Veterans Affairs. The only thing you have to do is call an 800 number and let them know you are in support of the clinic to

be located in Goodland. "You can speak with one of the ladies that answer or leave a message saying you are in support of the clinic in Goodland."

"They will tell you that a location has not been determined, but they are tracking the number of calls they get for each town."

The announcement came from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson in Washington. In Goodland, veterans say they hope their town is the chosen one.

Ken Baum, former American Legion post commander, alerted *The Star-News* to the announcement last Monday. He said he was one of the first veterans to call the regional office and put in a few good words for Goodland.

The agency said 4,000 veterans in the nine-county area the new clinic will serve are more than an hour's drive from government health care. Because 44 percent of the area's population is 65 or older, it is difficult for many to visit a distant facility, especially in the winter, Nicholson said.

The Denver office has said the clinic is to be opened

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