

weather report

60°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 7:30 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:59 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:31 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 47 degrees
• Humidity 36 percent
• Sky partly cloudy
• Winds south 12 m.p.h.
• Barometer 30.19 inches
and falling

• Record High 96° (1989)

• Record Low 22° (1982)

Last 24 Hours*

High 63°

Low 34°

Precipitation none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: cloudy with 20 percent chance of isolated showers and thunderstorms late, windy with winds from south 10-40, high upper 60s, low mid 40s. Wednesday: 60 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high upper 60s, low lower 40s.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: mostly cloudy with chance of showers in the morning, high mid 60s. Friday: partly cloudy, high near 70, low upper 30s. Saturday: partly cloudy and breezy.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.04 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.01

New Crop — \$2.75 bushel

Corn — \$2.44 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.27

Milo — \$2.21 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.70 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.63

Millet — \$7 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$9.40 cwt.

Oil new crop — \$10.05 cwt.

NuSun — \$10.05 cwt.

NuSun new crop — \$10.75 cwt.

Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt.

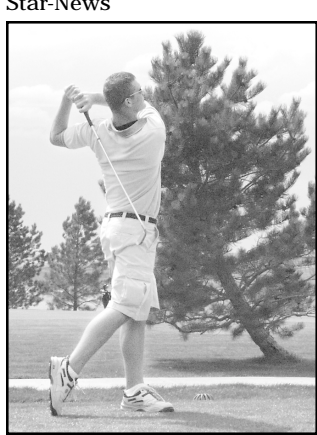
New crop — \$17/\$10 cwt.

Pinto beans — withdrawn

(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



Sports whirl back on pace

The Goodland High Cowboys and Cowgirls are back in action this week.

The girls softball team was to play Liberal at home on Monday and be at Hays High School today for a 3 p.m. start. The golf team was to be on the links at Hays High on Monday. See Sports, Page 8.

Study lab may move downtown

By Steve Haynes

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland School Board hear a proposal last week to turn its STEPLab, an interactive program for dropouts and at-risk students, over to an educational co-operative which would expand and re-equip it and move it downtown.

The proposal came from a Hutchinson-based group known as ESSDACK, the Educational Services and Staff Development Association of Central Kansas. Representative Larry Walker said the agency runs 14 of the

“learning centers,” including one in Colby.

He said the program could save the district money and pull in more students, especially those who because of their age are reluctant to go to classes at the high school.

High School Principal Harvey Swager told the board it was time to update the existing lab, which the district equipped at a cost of about \$111,000 for software and computers.

Since then, he said, the lab has served 302 students, including 170 “true dropout recoveries” studying full and part time. Another 130 were students from the high school who

were behind and considered at risk, Swager said. And there were two junior high students.

Through fees for classes, he added, the program has paid for itself and made a little money. Now, though, the software needs to be updated and some of the equipment replaced.

He said the program has helped with English as a Second Language students and with summer school. It’s important to have an alternative to classrooms, he said, because not all kids learn the same way. It’ll be even more important when the district has to deal with the new No Child Left Behind Act.

A long-term goal is to move the program away from the school, but the cost for a building and software might be \$203,000 or more. He recommended running the program as it is for now.

Walker said his agency has 40 member districts. It started seven years ago with a dropout recovery program in Lyons. A critical element is having the program downtown, not at the school, he said.

“Some students just won’t go to a school,”

See SCHOOL, Page 3



Happy, hippity hoppers

Erica Fenner (as the Easter Bunny), Catina Gittinger and Carlene Fenner helped younger children find eggs Friday at the Fenner Daycare egg hunt at Chambers Park. Bobbie Jo Lee helped her son Aaron at the Topside Lions Easter egg hunt Saturday. Aaron seemed more interested in chewing that hunting, though.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran
and Bill Wagoner
The Goodland Star-News

Leaders back program to get kids, their parents to vote

By Steve Haynes

The Goodland Star-News

Secretary of State Ron Thornburg was in town last week, pushing a plan to have kids vote — and get their parents vote.

Thornburg asked community leaders to resurrect Sherman County’s Kids Voting Kansas program, which sets up a parallel election for school students whenever their parents vote.

Families go to the polls together, with the kids vote being counted separately, of course.

The secretary said the program costs next to nothing, just 25 cents per student in a town, or about \$250 a year for Sherman County. But the benefits are legion:

- Kids from kindergarten to high school learn about voting, elections, government and the political process.

- Families come closer as the get together to study the candidates and issues.

- Parents tend to vote more, with turnout from 5-10 percent higher in Kids Voting communities.

- Teens and twenty-something voters turn out in far greater num-



Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburg flew into Goodland last week to talk with community leaders about the Kids Vote Kansas program. The group (from left), Larry McCants of First National Bank,

because they’re already familiar with elections and politics.

“One of the great benefits of this is that 45 percent of the parents say they are better educated,” Thornburg said. “I believe that this is the program that will turn around the

decline in voter turnout in this country.”

He said the program provides a complete school curriculum for all grades that teacher can just plug into their plans. He emphasized that there is no cost to the schools what-

furniture dealer John Garcia, lawyer Jeff Mason and radio station owner Marty Melia, agreed to get it moving.

Photo by Steve Haynes/The Goodland Star-News.

soever.

The local committee will need to raise the 25 cents per student, but no one at the meeting thought that was much of a problem. Banker Larry McCants said he and the others would take the program to the Ro-

tary, Kiwanis and Lions clubs, for starters.

Lawyer Jeff Mason said he would contact the school district about the idea. Also at the meeting were John

See KIDS, Page 8