

**weather
report****30°**

noon Tuesday

**Wednesday**

• Sunset, 4:36 p.m.

Thursday

• Sunrise, 7:06 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:37 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 63 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds southwest at 8 mph
- Barometer 30.14 inches and falling
- Record High today 71° (1997)
- Record Low today -13° (1919)

Last 24 Hours*

High Monday	27°
Low Tuesday	7°
Precipitation	—
Last month	2.79
Last year to date	24.81
Above normal last year	5.06 inches

The Topside Forecast

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, high near 36, low near 19.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly cloudy, high near 39, low near 18. Friday: Mostly cloudy, high near 36, low near 18, 20 percent chance snow. Saturday: Partly cloudy, high near 39, low around 16. Sunday: Mostly sunny, high near 38, low around 13. Monday: Mostly sunny, high near 38.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.



A city road grader managed to plow down Main Avenue on Friday afternoon during the heaviest snow. City streets were closed to all but four-wheel-drive traffic from Friday through Sunday. The storm dropped 17.7 inches on Goodland and 1.48 inches of moisture. Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Area digs out from year-end storm

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

People began shoveling out of their homes after a year-end storm dropped 17.7 inches of snow on Goodland and deeper amounts to the east and south, with snow totals as deep as 32 inches in Sharon Springs.

The three-day storm brought most of the plains of eastern Colorado and western Kansas to a standstill, with roads and city streets in Goodland and Colby restricted to four-wheel vehicles or front-wheel-drive with chains.

Snow began falling Thursday evening, and by Friday afternoon all the roads in and out of Goodland had been closed. Snow was coming down so fast the plows could not keep up. By 3 p.m., the city closed the streets to traffic, and urged people to stay in their homes.

The city streets were reopened to all traffic on Monday, but many remained snow packed Tuesday and difficult to drive without four-wheel drive.

Schools were on holiday until Wednesday, and the funeral of former President Gerald Ford kept

federal offices and the post office closed an extra day on Tuesday. City mail carriers delivered what they could on Friday, but with the roads closed, there was no mail service on Saturday.

City, county and state crews worked through the weekend to clear the main streets, roads and highways. City police abandoned their patrol cars and used four-wheel drive trucks to get around town to handle emergency calls.

The crew was running out of room to dump the tons of snow, and City Clerk Mary Volk said Tuesday people were calling the city office to volunteer vacant areas where the city could haul more.

When people managed to get dug out on Monday, many headed for stores to restock and find things for snowbound kids to do. Many of the grocery shelves at Wal-Mart — especially the bread and eggs — were empty because the supply trucks were snowbound.

One man with his two children heading into the store on Monday

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An unidentified driver had his snow shovel handy to dig his van out of the snow at Clark and 10th Friday afternoon. Within a few hours, the city had closed the streets to all but four-wheel-drive and emergency traffic

Sales tax for road project leads Top 10 list

Sherman County citizens decided their roads needed work, approving a special sales tax by a 3-1 margin in March, and that was Goodland's top story of 2006.

The new intersections at Eighth and Caldwell and Armory Road and Caldwell are the first pieces of construction as part of the \$12 million joint city-county road project.

Each year, the staff of *The Goodland Star-News* takes a look back at the top stories of the past year and votes on the top 10. This is not a complete list, but rather a selection of the many stories — both good and bad — that happened during the year.

The year ended with one of the stories trying to make a push for the top spot as the record back-to-back snow storms of December closed roads and stranded people in their homes over the Christmas and New Year's weekends.

• The top story went to the quick passage in Topeka and Sherman County citizens' approval of the one-cent sales tax to pay for the \$12 million road project.

• In second place was the related story about the fight among the Sherman County commissioners over an engineer to design the county projects. The fight ended in a split of the contracts, and spawned a political fight that had four candidates run for the Republican nomination for commissioner, and a write-in campaign in the general

City-county project top story

1 Everything lined up perfectly for Sherman County citizens to approve a special one-cent sales tax in March to raise \$12 million to fix city streets and county roads

New concrete intersections at Eighth and Caldwell and Armory Road and Caldwell — poured and opened before Christmas — are the first pieces of the joint road program to be done, but other parts are ready to go out to bid.

The city and county commissions began working on the project in May 2005, planning to use a one-cent citywide sales tax. When they discovered in October that a city tax would take too long to pay off the project, the county had to ask the Legislature for permission to go to the citizens for the special sales tax.

A bill was introduced on Jan. 24 in the House by Rep. Jim Morrison of Colby and in the Senate by Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, and referred to the taxation committees.

"I have never seen things move through Topeka this quickly," said Sherman County Commissioner Kevin Rasure as the bill passed through the legislature Feb. 9.

The special tax question was the third bill of the session to be signed by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, and

the county commissioners were quick to set the special election for Tuesday, March 28.

Before the vote, city and county commissioners spoke at civic clubs and held an open forum to explain the projects and answer questions.

Holding the election in March allowed the state time to get the sales tax collection process in place to begin in July. Rasure said waiting would have meant collection would not start until October.

Sherman County voters voted 3-1 in favor of the tax on March 28. Every section of the county and all four wards in the city voted in favor of the sales tax, with the total vote 1,030 yes and 301 no.

Sherman County Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he was surprised with the wide margin.

"I was very pleased," Rasure said. "I want to say a big thank-you to the voters for realizing there was a problem and supporting the solution."

Collection of the tax began in July and through November \$353,814 has been received by the Sherman County treasurer.

Bonds to pay for the roads were sold in an Internet auction Sept. 12, drawing 11 bids posed on the web site of D.A. Davidson, the firm from Wichita

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election. Commissioner Chuck Thomas withstood the efforts and narrowly won re-election.

• Third was a horse cruelty case filed against a couple at the end of February. The Sherman County sheriff found four dead horses and

10 with no food and water in a pasture north of town. Tim Armknecht pleaded guilty to three counts of cruelty on Nov. 6. His wife was expected to reach a similar agreement with the county attorney.

• Fourth was the continued con-

struction and steel erection at the Goodland Energy Center north of Caruso about five miles west of town.

• Fifth on the list was the election of Goodland High School senior Michael Smith as the national presi-

dent of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America at their convention in July in Nashville, Tenn.

• Sixth is the fate of the historic barrel hangar at the Goodland airport, which had been scheduled to be demolished in August. Efforts to save the 72-year-old hangar have put the demolition on hold, but a final determination is yet to be made.

• Seventh was the bomb threat at the Northwest Kansas Technical College at the end of November that brought bomb-sniffing dogs from the Kansas Highway Patrol and from Fort Riley to search all 24 buildings on the campus. No evidence of a bomb or bomb-making material was found.

• Eighth was the death of a young man and another injured while trying to "surf" on the hood of a moving car near Kanorado on July 4.

• Ninth on the list — when the staff voted — was the weather, and the year had about anything you could expect, including a spring blizzard in March that dumped over 10 inches of snow, a record deluge in May that flooded many city streets, a tornado and more rain in June, and two record breaking-back-to-back snow storms in December.

• Tenth on the list was the special impromptu parade in November to welcome home a Goodland National Guardsman who had been injured by a mortar attack in Iraq

**local
markets****Noon**

Wheat — \$4.38 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.23
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
Corn — \$3.72 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.54
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
Milo — \$3.37 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.99 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.10
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
Millet — \$7 hundredweight
Sunflowers
NuSun crop — \$13.40
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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Digging out for new year

Monday afternoon, Gary Slough used a snow blower to open his driveway. A figure next to his mailbox was buried neck deep in the snow, which measured about 17 inches. See photo on Page 3.