


weather report

29°

noon Monday



Today
 • Sunset, 5:20 p.m.
Wednesday
 • Sunrise, 6:40 a.m.
 • Sunset, 5:21 p.m.

Midday Conditions
 • Soil temperature 29 degrees
 • Humidity 96 percent
 • Sky snow
 • Winds northeast at 12
 • Barometer 29.91 inches and rising
 • Record High today 77° (1954)
 • Record Low today -11° (1948)

Last 24 Hours*
 High Sunday 30°
 Low Monday 26°
 Precipitation .01
 This month .02
 Year to date .56
 Above Normal .02 of an inch

The Topside Forecast
 Today: Fog and cloudy, high near 20, low around 4. A 20 percent chance of snow.

Extended Forecast
 Wednesday: A 20 percent chance snow, fog, cloudy, high near 20, low around 4. Thursday: Partly cloudy, high near 33, low around 16. Friday: Partly cloudy, high near 43, low around 17. Saturday: Partly cloudy, high near 43, low around 23. Sunday: Mostly sunny, high near 49.
(National Weather Service)
 Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.
 * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon
 Wheat — \$4.31 bushel
 Posted county price — \$4.43
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Corn — \$3.88 bushel
 Posted county price — \$3.76
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Milo — \$3.65 bushel
 Soybeans — \$6.57 bushel
 Posted county price — \$6.65
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 Sunflowers
 NuSun crop — \$15.35
 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

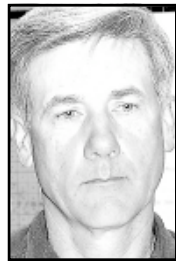


Cowboys beat Oakley

Goodland High wrestling cheerleaders waved their pom poms Friday during a special Senior Night dance. The Cowboys defeated Oakley, 42-31 in their final home match. See story, photo on Page 10a, cheerleader photo on Page 9a.

At-large election bill gets hearing

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
 A bill rooted in suggestions by Sherman County citizens who want to vote in all county commission races was set for a hearing before a committee in the state House of Representatives on Monday afternoon.



Thomas

The bill would allow an election to decide whether all voters, rather than just those in one district, should vote in county commission races.

County Commissioner Chuck Thomas and state Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer were expected to testify on be-

half of the bill, and possibly a couple of others from Sherman County were planning to attend and speak.

Thomas said Sunday he knew Jeff Deeds, a farmer and member of the state Fair Board, was going to go, and that he thought there might be one more.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said Friday the bill was sent to the Election and Governmental Organization committee Jan. 31 and set for a hearing at 2:30 p.m. (Mountain Time) Monday in Topeka.

Rep. Mike Burgess of Topeka is the committee chair, and Rasure

said Randy Allen of the Kansas Association of Counties had helped draft the bill.

"I think there will be some modifications to the bill," Rasure said, "but we hope it will pass the Legislature and give the citizens of Sherman County a chance to decide if they want to vote on the county commissioners at large."

State law gives cities and school districts the option of electing their members from districts or at large but, Rasure said, the state does not offer the citizens of a county the same right.

"The only option counties have is to change the number of commissioners from three to five or seven,"

Rasure said. "We had a lot of people ask about this during the election last year, and all three commissioners agreed we should ask the Legislature to give us the option to decide on a county vote."

Commissioners passed a resolution last fall asking the association to consider supporting a change. Rasure said commissioners from other counties were not sure about making the change statewide, and that is why at this point Sherman County is the only one mentioned in the bill.

"We know that several counties back east, including Johnson, Wyandotte and Sedgwick, have special laws giving them power to

change their county government," Rasure said. "We want to give our people a chance to decide how they want to elect their commissioners."

Under the bill Rasure said the county could have the commissioners elected at-large without districts, or have the commissioners to come from district and be voted on county-wide.

If the House committee OK's the bill (HB2307), it will go to the floor, and then to the Senate, where Rasure said it may have another hearing.

Rasure said Rep. Jim Morrison also supports the bill, but had a conflict on Monday. He told Rasure he would help once the bill gets out of committee.

Friends raise money for police family

About 500 friends turned out for a chili supper at the Northwest Kansas Technical College Student Union on Thursday to raise money for the family of Donna R. Kroskey, who died Feb. 2.

Kroskey, wife of Gregory J. Kroskey, an officer with the Goodland Police Department, was events coordinator and admissions representative at the college.

The couple has three boys, Zachary and Leroy Prine and Duncan Kroskey.

Police Chief Ray Smee said Friday the supper had raised over \$5,000 to help pay her medical expenses.

Smee said that 463 people signed in at the supper, and volunteers delivered about 20 meals.

"I know Greg and his sons will appreciate the outpouring of support," Smee said.

A memorial service for Donna Kroskey is planned for later this month in Goodland. She was buried in Hannah, Mich., where her family lives, on Friday.

Smee said the plans for the chili supper were well underway before Donna died, and volunteers from the police department and the college felt it was important to go ahead.

She had struggled with breast cancer for two years, and a brain tumor turned up in January.

"We know it has been hard on the family," Smee said. "We will continue to help as much as possible."

Smee said the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans members helped with the benefit and the insurance group matched up to \$2,000 of the money raised.

Smee said items donated by area business were given away to help raise money. Prizes included:

- A meat bundle from Bubba's Meat Block that went to Steve Goodman.
- A hat and sport saws from Gun Runner Trading Post of Burlington that went to Barb Disney.
- An outdoor bench donated by Joe and Threse Armstrong that went



Sophomore Kade Sheldon, Cowboy wrestler at 103 pounds, showed off the Orange County Chopper bike given away at the Donna Kroskey chili supper at Northwest Kansas Technical College on Thursday.
 Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

to Sherida Schoff.

- A gift basket from the Goodland Arts Center that went to Tammy Hayes.
- Folding knives from the Pirates Den of Colby that went to Gene Geist and Angel Lazo.

• An "Orange County Chopper" bike from NAPPA Auto Parts went to Josh David.

A special donation of a 20-gauge over-and-under shotgun will be given away on Monday, Feb. 26.

Smee said all the money raised

will go to the Kroskey Medical Fund. Anyone who wants more information or to make a donation can call him at (785) 890-4570.

A full obituary for Donna Kroskey can be found on Page 5a of today's *Goodland Star-News*.

Ag Expo, beef rally Thursday

The fourth annual "Rally for Beef" hamburger feed will highlight the 16th annual High Plains Ag Expo starting at 8 a.m. Thursday at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The expo is sponsored by KLOE, KKCI and KWGB Radio in Goodland, the National Sunflower Association and the Goodland Energy Center.

Station manager Marty Melia said the expo this year will feature speakers from Kansas State University talking about the changing farm market and how to make the business more profitable.

The doors open at 8 a.m. Melia said, and activities will end about 4 p.m. The first speaker begins at 9 a.m. Melia said Friday he is trying to get a couple of more speakers from the livestock industry lined up for the afternoon.

Terry Kastens, extension agricultural economist from Kansas State University, will open the session talking about "Land values and land buying principals."

Kevin Dhuyvetter, another K-State agricultural economist, will follow with "Energy: Biofuels and agriculture."

Dan O'Brien, an associate professor at K-State from the Northwest Agriculture Research Center at Colby, will talk about "Grain marketing and revenue protection opportunities on 2007 crops."

The Rally for Beef, a free hamburger lunch sponsored by area stockmen, will be at noon on the exhibit floor.

Melia said more than 30 exhibitors will show off new products and equipment for the farmer and rancher.

Operation plans ready for new museum

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
 Goodland's High Plains Museum is out of room, but plans have been drawn up for a new two-story building to be built without tax money, the City Commission heard last Monday.

Linda Holton, museum curator, and Tiffani McMinn, county economic development director, showed a video about the museum to be used to raise the \$3.5 million needed for the new facility.

McMinn said the video would be used to solicit grants, but she needs to have a letter of assurance saying that the city will increase its support for the museum. City Commissioners discussed the plan, and a consensus agreed to support the plan depending on the county support.

She said she would be asking the county to pay half the annual operating costs of the museum, which now is supported by donations and the city budget.

"We cannot ask foundations to come up with the money to build the museum unless they are sure it will



Architect rendering of new High Plains Museum to be built south of I-70 and east of K-27.

stay open once built," she said.

She said the estimated annual operating cost is \$203,000, compared to the \$80,000 budget today. She said they hope to have the city and county split the operating cost.

"We expect to find the money to build the museum," McMinn said, "but without the support for the operating costs, we will not be able to convince people we are serious about keeping the museum."

Holton said the city presently

spends about \$80,000 a year on the museum, and it would have to come up with about \$20,000 more per year for the new building.

She said the location has been moved to the land being offered by the Irvin family, who are building the Holiday Inn Express on the east side of K-27 south of the west I-70 interchange. The original site at the east I-70 exit would cost more for utilities, Holton said.

"The museum is strictly under the

city," City Manager Wayne Hill said. "There is a lot of county history. We talked about doing cooperative efforts with the county, and maybe we can work together to help finance the operation of this jointly."

"We did not give the county any figures last time," McMinn said. "I think they were interested in doing this. Our next appointment with the county is Tuesday, Feb. 13."

City Commissioner Dave Daniels asked about the cost of the utilities

at the east exit. Darin Neufeld, an engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates who is working on the project, said he had estimated the cost of the utilities to get across Business U.S. 24 would add more than \$300,000 to the project cost.

Mayor Rick Billinger asked if there were any plans to charge people to visit the new museum.

McMinn said that was one of the things they are looking at. With more room, she said, the museum could attract some traveling exhibits.

"We would have a lot of opportunities with a new museum," Holton said. "One possibility is we could work with K-State about building an operating mini-flour mill."

"We would be committing an additional \$20,000," Commissioner John Garcia noted.

Fairbanks said she thought a new museum could be a draw for economic development.

"I think we can look at the people it would bring in," she said.