

**weather report**

52°

noon  
Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 6:01 p.m.  
Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:44 a.m.  
• Sunset, 6:02 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil temperature 51 degrees
- Humidity 56 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds south at 4 mph
- Barometer 30.01 inches and falling
- Record High today 81° (1967)
- Record Low today -2° (1897)

**Last 24 Hours\***

- High Wednesday 72°
- Low Thursday 32°
- Precipitation —
- This month .28
- Year to date 1.26
- Below Normal .41 of an inch

**The Topside Forecast**

Today: Mostly cloudy, high near 68, low around 41 with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

**Extended Forecast**

Saturday: A 40 percent chance of showers and Thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, high near 59, low around 40. Sunday: Partly cloudy, high near 65, low around 40. Monday: Mostly sunny, high near 67, low around 41. Tuesday: Sunny, high near 71, low around 47. Wednesday: Partly cloudy, high near 66.

(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## Poultry man Ag Person of Year

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The businesses of Sherman County hosted the annual Farm-City banquet Tuesday at the Goodland Elks Lodge where the Agriculture Person of the Year was presented to a former poultry judge and retired worker in the assessor's office.

Carroll Mogge, received a standing ovation from the crowd of about 300, when announced as the Sherman County Agriculture Person of the Year. Dr. Richard Whitmore, last year's Sherman County businessman of the Year, presented the award to Mogge.

Whitmore said Mogge was born and raised in Sherman County, graduated from Goodland High School and spend four and one-half years in the U.S. Navy. He went to Kansas State University where he majored in poultry production, and came back to Sherman County where he farmed and raised livestock with his father.

Mogge was a 4-H project leader, and got into raising sheep in the mid 50s. Whitmore said Mogge raised chickens and judged cats and poultry at the fair for 40 years. He worked in the assessor's office for 40 years.

Mogge has been on the fair board, hospital board, a member of the Masonic Lodge and numerous other community activities, Whitmore said.

Speaker for the banquet was Michelle Walthers, Miss Kansas. Walthers played dinner music on a piano, and sang two songs at the end of her speech, to show the talent she used to help win the pageant.



Carroll Mogge, (center), was given a standing ovation and congratulated by Max Alderman and Etta Mae Kierns as he came forward to accept the Agriculture Person of the Year award at the Farm-City Banquet Tuesday at the Goodland Elks Lodge. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

A program about the Goodland Energy Center was presented by Keith Ray and Brittany Medrano from Connie Livengood's high school Earth Science Class.

The students presented a video about the class researching the benefits of the three different plants being built at the Goodland Energy Center west of town.

Ray and Medrano explained the process of turning coal into electricity, grain into ethanol and the benefits of biodiesel.

The video showed the progress

from the ground up as the coal-fired power plant and the ethanol plant began being built, and the progress being made at both plant sites.

The three plants include Goodland Energy Resources LLC, which is building the coal-fired "cogeneration" power plant and will be providing wholesale electric power to the City of Goodland and steam to other plants in the complex.

E Caruso LLC is a 20-million-gallon-a-year ethanol plant, and will take advantage of the steam from the power plant.

A third firm, Kanza Energy LLC, is ready to start construction of a biodiesel production facility. All the pieces of the plant have been delivered to the site, and this plant will be assembled later this year.

Debbie Reed, real estate agent at Hayden, Inc., was chairman of the committee that organized the annual farm-city banquet, hosted this year by the business community. Other committee members include Rita Billinger, First National Bank, Josh Dechant, Bankwest of Kansas, Liess, Western State Bank, Brooke Lohr, First National Bank, Andi Nelson, Chamber of Commerce, Courtney Warden, Hayden, Inc. and Jon Yost, Yost Farm Supply.

The meal was cooked by Sonya Vandiver, and the Sherman County 4-H Junior Leaders helped with the drinks and clearing the tables. Darren and Jessica Kannady provided the sound system.

Door prizes were donated by First National Bank and Bankwest.

**local markets**

Noon

- Wheat — \$4.38 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.48
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$3.90 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.69
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$3.65 bushel
- Soybeans — \$6.71 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.71
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- NuSun crop — \$16.45 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)

(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

## Miss Kansas entertains farm-city audience

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Miss Kansas brought her message of strengthening the family to the Sherman County farm-city banquet audience Tuesday evening at the Goodland Elks lodge.

Miss Kansas, Michelle Walthers, was the speaker for the farm-city banquet attended by about 300 people and sponsored by the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce.

Walthers entertained the audience by playing the piano during dinner, and at the end of her speech she demonstrated the signing talent she did for the Miss Kansas pageant.

Walthers, a Barton Community College student who is from Tawanda, said she wanted to go to college, and she did everything she could do to raise money for college while in high school.

"Someone suggested I might try the Miss Kansas pageant," Walthers said, "because the top prize is a scholarship."

"I had not thought about a pageant, but decided to give it a try. The first year I came in fourth, and decided to give it one more try last



Miss Kansas Michelle Walthers played music, spoke and sang at the Farm-City Banquet Tuesday

year and won the Miss Kansas title."

She said one of the things each contestant has to have is a platform they would pursue

as the voice of Miss Kansas.

"I researched all the hot topics," she said. "I thought most of the problems being discussed had a common thread, and that is the family."

"If the family doesn't work, society doesn't work."

She said if we think of society as a big tree the family is the root system, and if the roots fail the whole society falls.

Walthers said the family needs to be a strong foundation, and she had six ways to help. She said it was easy to remember the six points because they spell out FAMILY.

Forgiveness was the first point, and she said true forgiveness had to be complete and taken care of quickly.

Appreciation was the second, and she said we need to put this into practice in our daily lives.

Make memories was third. She said this means families need to spend time together.

Initiative was fourth. She said this was like teamwork, but that it goes further and the person needs to take the initiative to help the fam-

ily even if it is not directly their job.

Love was fifth, and she said this is the glue that holds the family and relationships together. She said the three words, "I love you," need to be said even if you think they know it to be true.

You was the sixth, and she said it is important to remember you have control over yourself, and to do things to support the family.

"I challenge you to go home and think of ways to make your family stronger," Walthers said. "Don't be happy with the status quo. "Make it better."

She sang a Liza Minnelli song "Manhattan Lady," and a Nat King Cole song "Orange Colored Sky."

Master of ceremonies Dick Liess thanked Walthers for her program, and her offer to play the dinner music.

Walthers signed autographs and sold copies of her children's book after the program was over.

She said the Miss Kansas pageant this year will be in June in Pratt.

**inside today**

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



### Kansas Kids going to state

Debbie Martin of the Goodland Ambassadors Club handed a goody bag to one of 17 members of the Kansas Kids Wrestling Club who will go to Topeka on Saturday to compete at the state level. See photo, story on Page 12.

## City water system OK, letter overstates problem

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

City residents received a drinking water warning letter on Tuesday because of high levels of nitrate, but city officials say the required letter overstates the situation and the truth is the city water system is OK.

City Manager Wayne Hill told the city commission on Monday the city is required by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to issue the warning letter when any well water sample exceeds the nitrate level.

"The sample was pulled from one well," Hill said, "and is not reflective of the whole city water system."

"The letter makes it sound like the whole system is in danger, but we have a blended system and the sample was only from one well."

Hill said well No. 3, located on the southeast corner of Chambers Park had a nitrate level of 11 milligrams per liter, which is one-part per million above the safe water maximum of 10 milligrams per liter.

"It was OK at 10 parts per million, but not OK at 11 parts per million. As a chemist I know this is not as serious as the state's required letter makes it sound."

Hill said new samples have been pulled and sent off for retesting. He said in the future samples will be pulled from the system to track city-wide levels.

"I am not saying there is no problem," Hill said, "but I am saying it is not the dire situation

the state letter claims."

The city tests all the water wells annually, and the latest test results were received this month. Hill said the city has been watching this well for some time.

"I am told it is not the first city well to show nitrate problems," Hill said, "and at least two have been relocated or shut down."

Rich Simon, public works manager, said in the past a city well at Gulick Park showed high levels of chemicals, and was replaced with a new well on the west side of Kansas Avenue.

Another city well located near the city power plant was shut down because of diesel contamination.

He said the city well in Memory Park at Ninth and Center was shut down because of high nitrates, and relocated to 10th and Caldwell.

Simon agrees the water system is in better condition than the warning letter makes it sound.

Hill said in the future the city might have to look at a central water treatment system where all the water from the wells is collected, blended and treated before being pumped into the distribution system. He said that would be very expensive.

"We have done the wellhead protection survey," Simon said, "and have been trying to find out where the nitrates might be coming from."

Simon said tests on well No. 3, will be required on a quarterly basis, and if the next four tests are below 10 parts per million the city can go back to an annual test.

## County sends Senate at-large election wording

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County submitted language about at-large voting for county commissioners to the Senate Monday with the hopes the bill can be moved out of committee later this week.

The language sets up the at-large election option that will be decided by the Sherman County voters if the bill is passed by the Legislature.

The bill would allow an election to decide whether all voters, rather than just those in one district, should vote in commission races. State law does not allow counties to vote at large, so at the suggestion of some citizens, commissioners are asking for a change to effect Sherman County only.

The bill (HB2307) was introduced in the House in January, and was passed by the House on a 120 to 2 vote on Feb. 19.

The Senate Elections and Local Government committee held a hearing on the bill on March 1, but Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer said there were several questions and he asked the Sherman County commissioners to be sure the bill includes the language they want.

"The bill has been blessed, and I know that Committee Chairman Tim Huleskamp (R-Fowler) is ready to pass

it out ... when the Sherman County commissioners are sure they are ready."

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said she drafted the at-large election language based on what the commissioners had said last week.

Chairman Chuck Thomas came to the courthouse on Monday and consulted with Commissioner Kevin Rasure by phone to review the language and be sure it is what they wanted, Rumpel said.

Thomas and Rasure agreed on the language, and asked Rumpel to fax it to Topeka and to call Ostmeyer to let him know the document was on the way.

Rumpel said Wednesday she had contacted Ostmeyer on Monday and had talked to him again on Wednesday. She said Ostmeyer told her he thought the committee would work the bill on Thursday.

Ostmeyer told her he had taken the language to the reviser of statutes to have an amendment drafted to include the language in the House bill.

Rumpel said she had called Randy Allen, executive director of the Kansas Association of Counties, who had helped with the original bill introduced in the House in January. She said he was