

weather report



12°
 noon
 Monday

Today

• Sunset, 4:54 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 7:02 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:55 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 27 degrees
- Humidity 77 percent
- Sky cloudy with light snow
- Winds northwest 14 mph
- Barometer 30.05 inches and steady

- Record High today 73° (1967)
- Record Low today -10° (1966)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Sunday 33°
- Low Sunday 8°
- Precipitation trace
- This month .12
- Year to date .12
- Below normal .19 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 27, winds out of the west at 10 mph and a low around 9.
 Wednesday: Partly sunny with a high near 26, blustery with winds out of the north at 10 to 30 mph and a low around 10.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny with a high near 32 and a low around 13.
 Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 35 and a low around 14.
 (National Weather Service)
 Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
 * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



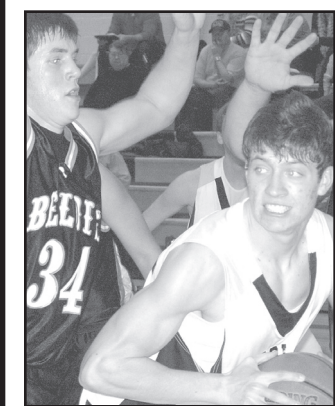
Noon

- Wheat — \$9.46 bushel
- Posted county price — \$9.09
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
- Corn — \$4.56 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.63
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
- Milo — \$4.35 bushel
- Soybeans — \$11.09 bushel
- Posted county price — \$11.44
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
- Confection — \$30/\$20 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scouler Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today



More local news, views from Goodland Star-News



Cowboys lose three

Cowboys senior Forrest Trachsel tried to find a teammate to pass the ball to as he was trapped by senior Anthony Pingel of the Beloit Trojans during the game on Friday at Colby High School. See photo, story on Page 12.

Power plant works to 'go green'

By Tom Betz

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The Goodland Energy Center is trying to "go green" by finding a way to burn stuff other than coal and reduce the power plant's carbon emissions to be more environmentally friendly, one of the backers said during a tour Friday afternoon.

Norman House, an area farmer and businessman, is president of Goodland Energy Resources, the partnership building the coal-fired plant. House said the efficiency of the generator and the technology being used in the 25-megawatt plant is such that reducing the use of coal by burning other materials could reduce carbon emission to a "neutral" level.

House said an application to modify the existing air quality construction permit would expand the types of fuel to be burned at the plant, now under construction five miles west of Goodland. He said the current permit already includes a provision for burning sunflower waste from the nearby Northern Sun plant.

House said the modification will allow the plant to burn other types of material including tire chips, cardboard, bio wastes and possibly municipal trash in the future.

"We want to help take care of the solid waste problems in our area," House said. "We believe there is enough material generated in a 60-mile radius to allow us to reduce the amount of coal and reduce the carbon emissions to a neutral level."

"With a reduction in carbon emissions, we believe the plant can receive a green certification, meaning we are carbon neutral to the environment."

"I believe there is a perception out there that this plant will harm the environment and uses a lot of water. Those are sort of half truths that people do not have all the facts. Not only will the efficiency of the generator allow us to reduce the emissions, but with the condensers and water cooling system we are installing, it will not take more than what you get out of a normal garden hose to operate this plant."

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment plans a public comment period for 30 days beginning Thursday to allow people to comment on the proposed modification, and has scheduled a hearing for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 26, in the city commission chamber on the second floor of the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th Street.

Comments may be submitted in writing to Dana S. Morris, Bureau of Air and Radiation, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 310, Topeka, Kan. 66612-1366 or at the hearing.

Requests to speak should be sent to the attention of Christie Thurman at the same address or faxed to (785) 291-3953 by noon on Monday, Feb. 25.

A copy of the proposed permit and all information can be viewed during normal business hours at the Health Department office in Topeka. A second copy will be available at the Goodland city manager's office, and there is one at the department's Northwest District Office, 2301 E. 13th Street, Hays.

To review the proposed permit or to get a copy, contact Morris (785) 296-1578 in Topeka or to review the permit only, call Rick Robinson at (785) 625-5663 at the Hays office.



Norman House, president of Goodland Energy Resources, the partnership building a power plant five miles west of Goodland pointed out the rows of the hundreds of new boiler tubes that have been installed and inspected as part of the construction during a tour of the plant on Friday.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

School board OK's one-way street plan

By Tom Betz

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Agreeing it would make things safer for students, the Goodland School Board agreed Monday to support a city plan to open and pave 11th Street behind the school, from Wyoming east to Texas

The street on the north side of the school, would become a one-way eastbound, and be the place to unload school buses, taking them off busy 12th Street. Parents could continue to use the area in front of the school on 12th to unload kids from their cars.

City Manager Wayne Hill and engineer Darin Neufeld of Evans, Bierly, Hutchinson and Associates, were at the school meeting to explain the street plan and to ask the board for support.

Hill had come to a meeting Dec. 10 with the suggestion to extend 11th as a one-way street behind the school from the current turnaround. He said the street paving could be paid

for from a bond package being issued by the city, but the off-street parking could not.

The manager said the city would be paying for the extension of 11th Street at a cost of \$85,000. He said it would be up to the school board if the members wanted to do something about parking.

Neufeld said if the school district did not want to go ahead with the extension, the city would pave an area in front of the school on 12th with a strip of concrete about eight to 10 feet wide to handle the school busses.

"The money just covers the street addition?" asked Dick Short, school board president.

Hill said the money covers everything to the east of the existing street.

Superintendent Shelly Angelos asked if the project would solve or improve a drainage problem behind the school.

"The ice buildup is what our problem is," Neufeld said. "With the plan to change the

whole street, it would help the drainage and allow the city to clean the area."

Short, saying that he thought the parking area on the north side of 11th is on city property, asked why the school district should pay for parking on city right of way.

Neufeld said all off street parking is on city right of way. Hill asked if the school district paid for the off street parking around the other schools and the high school.

Short said he knew the district had paid to replace the parking and sidewalk around the high school in the past few years.

Board member Andrew House asked if moving the bus unloading to the back would change building security. West Principal Verna Milnes later said it wouldn't.

Neufeld said the parking area is gravel now, and is not in bad shape. He said the alternative is to leave it as is, and it could be resurfaced later.

Short asked Milnes her opinion. She said

it would be nice to have the street there. She said drainage is terrible now, and it sounds like this might help that.

Neufeld said by taking the turnaround circle out and extending the street, the city would be able to shove ice and snow all the way to the pond and get rid of the dam the circle creates.

"If we choose to go with concrete or asphalt (on the parking), would the city put it in and let the school district pay later?" Short asked.

Neufeld said that would have to be answered by the city or district lawyers.

City Commissioner Josh Dechant said he thought the district could pay its share and the city can pay its share.

"To get the best price we could put the parking in as an add item in the bid package," Neufeld said. "We could bring the price back

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Council learns about following county policies

By Sharon Corcoran

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How long do you have to work for Sherman County before you can take a vacation day? Do you need a purchase order to buy a couple of stamps?

Organized as a "quasi-governmental entity," the Sherman County Economic Development Council is subject to county policies, but the director and board members have been unaware of those and other policies, causing some ruffled feathers at the county clerk's office.

Mitch Tiede, chairman of the county commission, talked to the director and board about county policies and gave them each a handbook at a regular meeting Tuesday.

Issues that came up were the director charging breakfast on the county's credit card, purchasing, the director setting up his own cell

phone and sending in the bill instead of going on the county's plan and vacation days.

"The main concern," Tiede said, "is the ladies in the clerk's office. Since you're organized under the county, when you do things, it has to be done according to county policy."

"Get a purchase order. You don't have to know the exact amount, but then it won't be a surprise."

His second week on the job, Director Jeremy Jennings had put his breakfast on the county credit card while out-of-town for work but found out the county only pays for meals on a trip that involves an overnight stay.

When he accidentally checked vacation day on his time sheet instead of personal day, he found out he wasn't allowed to use his vacation time until he was on the job at least

six months. A cell phone contract brought up a question of conflict of interest with his board's chair, and Jennings found out that buying a few stamps at the post office instead of using the county's postage meter didn't sit well at the courthouse.

The breakfast is such old news, it's hard to believe it's being brought up now, the director said, adding that it was on a trip for a Kansas Department of Transportation meeting in Russell the second week of October.

Jennings said he bought breakfast at Hays on the way and saved his receipt. When he got back about 2 p.m. and gave the receipt to his assistant, Helen Dobbs, to turn in to the county, she told him they wouldn't pay for his meals since he didn't stay overnight.

Since the breakfast was already charged on the county's card, Jen-

nings said, he asked County Clerk Janet Rumpel to take the money for it out of his first paycheck.

Jennings said his board had told him to get bids on cell phones for himself and Dobbs. He said his predecessor, Tiffany McMinn, had used her own cell phone and had the council reimburse her for work calls, and the board said it was a hassle to go through the bill each month to decide what was personal and what was work and how many minutes they had to pay for, so they wanted him and Dobbs to have separate phones for work.

He got bids from S&T Communications and Eagle Communications, and since S&T's was lowest, they took it. Then someone said it was a conflict of interest with S&T's branch manager, Don Newell, being the council's board chair, Jennings noted, even though they had

gone through the normal bidding process.

It took two months to get the phones, he said, adding that then he was informed that he would have to cancel the phones and go on the county's plan with shared minutes. With 700 minutes shared among seven phones, he said, they would have blown right through those minutes, and they really need a separate plan.

S&T was the cheapest on the cell phone, Jennings told the board, adding that he was surprised when he turned in the bill to the county and was told his cell phone needed to be on the county's plan.

"There's no way you could know," Tiede said. "It was an oversight."

Jennings said he had accrued 18 hours of vacation time before taking

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