

**weather report**

**35°**  
noon  
Thursday



**Today**

Sunset, 4:59 p.m.  
**Friday**  
Sunrise, 6:59 a.m.  
Sunset, 5:00 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

• Soil temperature 26 degrees  
• Humidity 42 percent  
• Sky clear and sunny  
• Winds south 22 to 35 mph  
• Barometer 30.05 inches and falling  
• Record High today 70° (1935)  
• Record Low today -11° (1957)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High Wednesday 30°  
Low Wednesday 3°  
Precipitation none  
This month 0.12  
Year to date 0.12  
Below normal 0.23 inches

**The Topside Forecast**

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 47, a low around 22 and a winds out of west at 10 mph. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 51, a low around 25 and the winds out of the west at 5 to 10 mph.

**Extended Forecast**

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 56 and a low around 26. Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 43 and a low around 17.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## Grain bins going up at E-Caruso

Workers were putting the finishing touches on the top of one of two large grain bins, being constructed at the ethanol plant at the Goodland Energy Center five miles west of town. The bins will store the grain before it is moved into the plant. Alan Townsend, Chairman of E-Caruso, the partnership building the ethanol plant, said the bin top would be moved over the already poured concrete pit and be lifted using hydraulic jacks to actually assemble the bin. The two bins will hold 100,000 bushels of grain each Townsend said. Townsend said he feels the ethanol plant is moving ahead and could be operational in the spring.

Photos by Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News



**local markets**

**Noon**

Wheat — \$8.84 bushel  
Posted county price — \$8.82  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Corn — \$4.41 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.33  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Milo — \$4.20 bushel  
Soybeans — \$10.69 bushel  
Posted county price — \$10.62  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Millet — \$7 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Confection — \$30/\$20 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)  
(Markets by Scoular Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

**inside today**

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



## Republican caucus planned at Colby site

Republicans from Sherman, Sheridan, Rawlins, Decatur, Cheyenne, Wallace and Thomas counties will gather at the Colby Community Building, 285 E 5th, (Little Theater) at 9 a.m. Mountain Time on Saturday, Feb. 9, to participate in the Kansas Republican Presidential Primary Caucus.

Seven national candidates will be on the Kansas Republican Caucus ballot to be voted on at caucus sites around the state with the names including Rudy Giuliani was the first to file with the state party, John McCain was the second candidate, Ron Paul was the third candidate to file, Mitt Romney was the fourth to file, Mike Huckabee was the fifth to file, Fred Thompson was the sixth to file and Alan Keyes was the seventh to file.

Sherman County Republican Chair Roxie Yonkey will be at the caucus and said she will be helping the credential committee by working with Sherman County people coming to participate.

She said to participate a person must have registered as a Republican by today, and be prepared to show a state issued identification such as a driver's license to register at the caucus.

Yonkey said the voter registration rolls from Thomas, Sherman, Rawlins, Decatur, Sheridan, Cheyenne and Wallace counties will be used to verify that the person is registered. She said the name and address on the driver's license must match what is listed on the registration rolls. If they do not match, that person will vote provisionally. The state Republican party will decide on and count the provisional ballots.

Check-in starts at 8 a.m. Mountain Time and the caucus will begin at 9 a.m. she said.

The caucus is open to any registered Republican in the First District Yonkey said. It is not limited to precinct committee members. Electioneering is encouraged. You may openly support your candidate with signs/buttons/whatever.

Voters may check in until time the caucus starts. Between check-in and voting, the caucus will hear from the candidates or representatives of those who have entered the state caucus Yonkey said.

After the speeches, voting will begin she said. She said the voting will be by secret ballot and results from the individual counties will be tracked. Thomas County Clerk Shelly

Harms and her deputy are in charge of tallying the votes Yonkey said.

The chair of the caucus can announce the results of the voting once all of the ballots have been cast and have been counted. The overall statewide total will be announced around 5 p.m. Mountain Time.

"Kansas may be important in the race this year," Yonkey said, "especially if the party races remain tight after Super Tuesday on Feb. 5. Please come to vote."

The results of the caucuses will dictate which Presidential candidate the delegates from Kansas will support at the Republican National Convention in September said Republican State Chairman Kris Kobach. In order to win the Kansas convention delegates, a candidate has to win the majority vote in two of the four Congressional Districts he said.

For further information Yonkey suggests checking the caucus website: [www.ksgopcaucus.org](http://www.ksgopcaucus.org).

"If your question isn't answered there, let me know and I'll do my best to find the answer," she said.

Yonkey said she can be contacted at (785) 890-5500 or by Fax at (785) 890-6260.

Delegate selection for the Republican National Convention is not part of the caucus process and is handled on a separate basis. The state Republican party has adopted a plan that will have each Congressional District committee elect 3 delegates and 3 alternate delegates. (The Congressional District committee is composed of those people elected by their county precinct people to serve at the district level.)

The district level delegates and alternate delegates are required to vote for the winner of the overall total of their Congressional District caucus. This meeting will be held prior to March 31.

The state committee will elect 24 at-large delegates and 24 at-large alternates during the summer meeting to be announced. Each Congressional District is required to have equal representation from the at-large selections.

In order to be eligible to be a delegate or alternate delegate, a person must be a registered Republican and submit a self-nomination form to the state party. These forms are available from the state party, and can be found online at [www.ksgopcaucus.org](http://www.ksgopcaucus.org).

## Woman storyteller brings Kansas history to life

By Pat Schiefen

[pjschiefen@nwkansas.com](mailto:pjschiefen@nwkansas.com)

Whip cracking stagecoach driver Mary Fields is just one of Angela Bates-Tompkins' many roles in life. She portrayed Fields at the Goodland Public Library on Sunday. Tompkins also talked about the history of Nicodemus, the only remaining all African American pioneer town.

Tompkins uses her characterization of Fields to tell people about the life of African Americans after the Civil War. Fields was born a slave on the Dunn Plantation in Tennessee. She played with owner's daughter, Dolly.

After the civil war Fields stayed on the plantation for 10 years. Fields heard that she could see a river boat if she went to the river. She did and was watching from a landing when the boat pulled in and she was asked if she wanted a job. She said yes and she spent the next 10 years working as a chamber maid emptying chamber pots on the river boat. While she was doing that she got a letter from Dolly who was in Cascade, Mont., and wanted Fields to nurse her back to health.

When Fields arrived Dolly was now Mother Amadeus at St. Peter's Mission. It took her six months to nurse Dolly back to health. After



Angela Bates-Tompkins in her role of whip cracking stage coach Mary Fields entertained her audience at the Goodland Public Library on Sunday afternoon. Tompkins talked about the history of Nicodemus.  
Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

## Nicodemus was black township

By Pat Schiefen

[pjschiefen@nwkansas.com](mailto:pjschiefen@nwkansas.com)

Nicodemus was one of 12 black towns in Kansas with Dunlap the most famous, said Angela Bates-Tompkins at a program at the Goodland Public Library on Sunday.

Dunlap is south of Manhattan and near Council Grove. Only Nicodemus is remaining. There were 26 towns in Oklahoma with towns also in Colorado and California.

One of the reasons the park system made it a National Historic Site is that Nicodemus is the only remaining all black town west of the Mississippi River founded in the Reconstruction Era after the Civil War.

Black slaves before the Civil War were

not allowed to have paper, learn to read and write, do any traveling or to even legally marry, she said. When they were emancipated none of them knew anything about anything other than the plantation they were on. Some left but many stayed and became sharecroppers.

Tompkins said that the time was filled with a great deal of fear and violence. The whites were as uncertain about the future as the blacks.

With the advent of homesteading after the Civil War, land developers convinced some of the former slaves to go West where they could own their own property, she said.

See TOWNSHIP, Page 9

that, the Bishop wanted to give her a job and asked her if she could drive a wagon, pick up supplies and supervise a building crew. Fields said she could do the job.

Later Fields was in the saloon getting a drink when a man, Randy Levitt, called her big, black and ugly. Fields had no problems

with the black as she was and big as she was six foot tall and weighed 250 pounds but she took offense to ugly. She challenged him to a duel. It went back and forth as to who would draw first. Finally Levitt did and missed but

See SYORYTELLER, Page 9

## Goodland finishes sixth

Senior A.J. Stephens won his match 9-2 over Colby Eagles junior Heath Stephens at 140 during the team dual on Jan. 3 at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Goodland is in Colby Saturday for league wrestling. See story, photo on Page 12.

