

weather report

36°
noon
Thursday



Today

- Sunset, 5:31 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 6:29 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:32 p.m.
- Midday Conditions**
- Soil temperature 30 degrees
- Humidity 44 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds northeast 9 mph
- Barometer 29.88 inches and steady
- Record High today 77° (1982)
- Record Low today -4° (1911)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 28°
- Low Wednesday 16°
- Precipitation Trace
- This month .41
- Year to date .53
- Below Normal .15 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, high in 40s, light winds. Tonight: Mostly cloudy, lows mid 20s. South winds 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Mostly cloudy, slight chance of light snow turning to light rain in afternoon. High in upper 40s. Saturday night: Mostly cloudy. Low upper 20s. Sunday: Partly cloudy, high upper 50s, low upper 20s. Monday: Mostly sunny, 20 percent chance of light rain, snow in afternoon. High mid 40s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

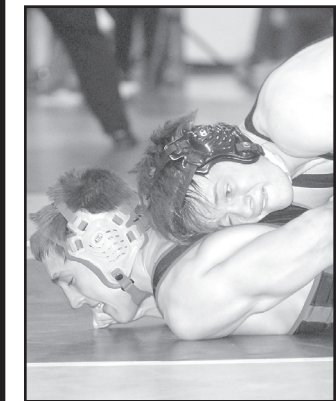
local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$10.16 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$9.49
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Corn — \$4.89 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.94
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Milo — \$4.64 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$12.48 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$12.80
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Millet — \$7.00 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, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



State tourney starts today

Senior Aaron Deeds beat Clint Janzen of Hesston 7-1 at regional wrestling to advance to a match for third place, which he won. Deeds faces Corey Yingling of Spring Hill in the opening round of state wrestling today. See photo, story on Page 12.

Students study impact of plants

Goodland High School earth science students visited the Goodland Energy Center in December and have been interviewing Goodland businessmen about the project in recent weeks.

Teacher Connie Livengood said the students of her Earth Science II Class toured the center at Caruso, five miles west of town, on Dec. 19, getting a look at progress on the coal-fired power plant and the ethanol plant being built there.

She said the students studied the different types of electrical generating plants, including coal-fired, nuclear, wind power and hydroelectric, or water power.

"They had done some research on the different types of plants before the tour," she said, "and then did some additional after they got back after Christmas break."

Livengood said the students heard about a plan to burn tire chips in the plant to reduce the amount of coal it uses while on the tour, and have researched the benefits. Student research showed a benefit from a higher amount of energy from burning the tire chips (15,550 BTUs per ton) compared to coal (about 12,000 BTUs, depending on type).

"I have learned through researching that tire chips will be better to burn for the environment and they will cost a lot less than coal," wrote Kala Sharp. "The community needs the energy center, because it brings people here to Goodland. The people will buy things from the community businesses."

"This year I have learned a lot about the Goodland Energy Center through research in my Earth Science II Class," wrote Michael Johnson, "and touring the center and through interviews with business owners in the community. I have learned the energy center will help the community's economy and housing market due to the people moving here to run the center. I learned the grain market will be positively affected by the energy. The energy center will help everybody in the community in some way."

Livengood said the students still have a few interviews to finish.

"The kids did some research after the tour, and then they compiled questions together and came up with a simple survey," she said. "They asked the questions and wrote the answers down as they interviewed



Mike Campbell (above left), Farm Service Agency regional manager, was interviewed about the Goodland Energy Center by Goodland High School students (left to right) Tiffany Skinner, Freda Barber, Jessica Lake, and A.J. Stephens. Students from the Earth Science class toured the Goodland Energy Center (photo below) in December and John McCullouch (right) of JMC Engineering was the guide.

Photos by Earth Science students

people. The business people were absolutely fantastic in answering the students' questions and took time out of their day to help the students."

Livengood said the students should complete the interviews this week and will compile the results. She said the consensus she has seen so far is that the business people feel the center is going to help everyone in the community by creating more business.

"All of the businesses have been very positive," she said. "The students have interviewed 12 businesses, and all of them have been supportive...."

"The businesses are looking forward to the energy center to be completed so we can see some of the benefits. They have expressed to the students that the benefits will not be felt right away, because it is going to take some time to generate all of the benefits that the center will bring."

"Some felt the electricity would be very good for the community and the ethanol will benefit the farmer's markets. Nearly all of the businesses think the cattle industry and all the agricultural business, farmers included, will benefit a great deal from the energy center."

"I have learned from the interviews how the energy center has

See STUDENTS, Page 8



State schedules hearing on permit changes

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkans.com

State officials will be in town at 7 p.m. Tuesday for a hearing at the City Administration Building on plans to burn trash, tire chips and other waste materials at the Goodland Energy Resources power plant being built west of town at Caruso.

Dana S. Morris, with the Air Permitting Section of the state Bureau of Air and Radiation, will be one of the Department of Health

and Environment people at the hearing to gather public comments on the proposed changes to an air-quality construction permit granted two years ago.

Morris said Monday the bureau had scheduled the hearing here because of public interest in the project over the past two years.

He said Goodland Energy Resources, the partnership building the power plant, had contacted his office on several proposed changes, and the agency decided to combine

them for one hearing.

In August, he said, the power plant people had asked about a problem with retrofitting nitrous oxide controls, asking for permission to use similar technology without specifying a particular vendor.

He said a request to expanding the types of material that could be burned in the plant came in November.

"We felt it should be put up for public comment," Morris said. "We scheduled the

hearing because of the interest shown at the first hearing two years ago."

The state opened a comment period on the permit modifications in January. Morris said he has received requests for the copies of the draft permit and a couple of support letters from are businesses.

City Clerk Mary Volk said one person had called to look at a copy of the permit applica-

See HEARING, Page 8

Ag Expo draws crowds



Rodney Shay of Shay Realty of St. Francis was one of about 30 exhibitors at the 17th annual Ag Expo held Thursday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. At noon people lined up for the free beef lunch. The event included several speakers on agriculture related subjects. The Expo is sponsored by KLOE and the National Sunflower Association.

Photo by Jessica Corbin/The Goodland Star-News

Goodland woman testifies on tourism budget bill

By Sharon Corcoran

slcorcoran@nwkans.com

A Goodland woman was among 11 proponents to testify before a Senate committee on a Kansas Senate bill that would separate state travel and tourism budgets and promotion efforts from the Department of Commerce.

Donna Price, director of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau and immediate past president of the Northwest Kansas Travel Council, testified Wednesday, Jan. 30, before a joint hearing of the Senate

Commerce and House Economic Development and Tourism committees. The bill was expected to come out of committee and go to the Senate Thursday morning.

Price said she testified for Senate Bill 501, called the Kansas Tourism Initiative, which would create a Kansas Tourism Corp., pulling money raised for tourism out of the Department of Commerce budget and having it

See TOURISM, Page 8

State legislators plan meeting Saturday morning at Hanks

If you have questions about issues facing the Kansas Legislature this session, you can get answers at a "town hall" meeting at 7 a.m. Saturday at Hank's Cafe.

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeier and Rep. Jim Morrison will begin a series of mid-session meetings in Goodland to talk about what is happening in Topeka and answer questions.

From Goodland, they will travel to Colby for a meeting at 8:45 a.m. (Mountain Time) at the Quality Inn.

From Colby, they will go to Hoxie for a meeting at 10:30 a.m. at Trish's Steak House and Lounge. They will be in Hill City at 12:30 p.m. at the Schweitzer Hotel, and in Plainville at 2:15 p.m. at the senior center.