

weather report



57°
noon
Thursday

Today

Sunset, 5:39 p.m.

Saturday

Sunrise, 6:19 a.m.

Sunset, 5:40 p.m.

Midday Conditions

Soil temperature 42 degrees

Humidity 35 percent

Sky mostly sunny

Winds north 20-28 mph

Barometer 29.91 inches

and rising

Record High today 80° (1972)

Record Low today -17° (1960)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 55°

Low Wednesday 23°

Precipitation none

This month 0.49

Year to date 0.61

Below normal 0.31 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high

near 56, winds out of the south at

5 to 10 mph and a low around 32.

Saturday: Sunny with a high near

73, winds southwest 5 to 10 mph

and a low around 32.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with a 30

percent chance of rain or snow with

a high near 45 and a low around

22. Monday: Mostly sunny with a

20 percent chance of snow or rain

at night and a high near 44

(National Weather Service)

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

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$11.59 bushel

Posted county price — \$12.56

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$5.06 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.97

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$4.80 bushel

Soybeans — \$13.37 bushel

Posted county price — \$13.47

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)

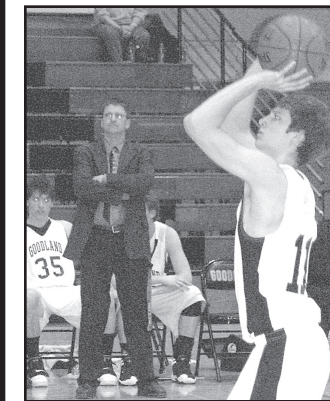
(Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta,

Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean.

These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowboys beat Tigers

Grant Wilkens shot a free throw in the final minutes of the game against Ulysses Tuesday. Free throws clinched the game for the Cowboys, 37-27. The Cowboys play Nickerson at 5 p.m. tonight in Russell. See photos, story on Page 10a

Plane runs out of gas, lands safely

The radio crackled and a voice said he was declaring an emergency because his plane was running out of fuel east of Goodland about 8 a.m. on Wednesday.

The pilot notified the Denver air control center of his problem, and was talking to the people at Butterfly Aviation at the Goodland airport.

The pilot of the out of fuel plane was also talking to a pilot of a UPS plane flying nearby who did some relaying with the Denver center.

The radio crackled again and the controller reported the plane was on the ground about five miles east of the airport. The report said the plane and passengers were OK, but out of fuel.

"The pilot called on the unicom radio and said he was on a blacktop road without a stripe," John Collett of Butterfly Aviation said. "We knew he was down safely on old U.S. 24, and I took him out some gas."

A call from *The Goodland Star-News* to Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts about 8:15 a.m. had him curious because no one had notified him or central dispatch about a downed plane on a county road.

Butts called the airport and asked about the situation.

A few minutes later Sheriff Butts called the *Star-News* back to say the



Pilot Guy Zitting (middle) talked to Undersheriff Roger Studer (right) about his landing on old U.S. 24 when he ran out of fuel on Wednesday morning. John Collett of Butterfly Aviation brought him enough fuel to fly to Renner Field. Zitting and his passenger were getting ready to continue their flight to Denver. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

plane had landed on old U.S. 24 just west of Helena Chemical at County Road 25, and that Collett was on his way with a fuel truck.

The Sheriff, Undersheriff Roger Studer and a state trooper drove out to the area to provide traffic control.

After being refueled, the pilot taxied east on the highway until he was clear of all power lines and then took off heading to the airport about 8:30 a.m.

After landing at the airport, the plane was fueled and continued on to Denver.

The pilot, Guy Zitting, president of Southern Trades LLC of Stockton, Mo., said he was on his way to Denver and was glad he was able to land safely.

"I think we have had a few others land in places, but that is the first I can remember on old U.S. 24," Collett said. "We had one land on K-27 years ago that ran out of gas. We have had a couple run out of gas as they were landing, and a couple who have landed on county dirt roads out of gas. It is something that should not have happened, but it did. We got him fueled and he headed on to Denver."

The plane was a single-engine Grumman Tiger or Cheetah Collett said.



The city commission room was packed as 57 people gathered Tuesday evening for a Kansas Department of Health and Environment public hearing on an air permit modification for the Goodland Energy Resources power plant being built at Caruso five miles west of town. The hearing lasted about 19 minutes as only two people testified in favor of the permit. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Permit hearing short; two speak in favor

By Tom Betz

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A Kansas Department of Health and Environment hearing Tuesday night on changes to the air quality permit to allow the Goodland Energy Resources power plant west of town to burn tires and trash lasted about 19 minutes, with two supporters testifying in favor.

About 57 people squeezed into the city commission room to hear the testimony. As the room began to fill, the state team of four

people gathered additional support from a nearby conference room.

The crowd sat quietly through a presentation from Dana S. Morris of the state Bureau of Air and Radiation, and then comments in support of the modification from John McCullough, an engineer from JMC Engineering, the company supervising construction of the plants at the Goodland Energy Center, and Fred P. Osman of Osman Environmental Solutions of Harrisburg, Pa., who wrote the

original air permit applications.

No one else had registered to speak, and no one accepted an offer to testify before the hearing closed.

Dan Wells, district environmental administrator from Hays, opened the hearing at 7:03 p.m. saying the procedure would be to have a summary about the proposed modification from a staff person and then open the hearing for comment.

Wells said those who had submitted written

requests to speak would be given priority, and then he would call on people for oral testimony or to hand in written testimony. He said the hearing was being recorded and a transcript will be part of the file on the permit.

"All comments will be reviewed by the department staff and a recommendation will be forwarded to Rod Bremby, department secretary, for his decision," Wells said.

See HEARING, Page 6a

'Fire team' created to find common ground

By Tom Betz

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City and county officials formed a 10-member fire team Monday night during a joint meeting of the city and county commissions and the county rural fire board held to talk about possible ways to work more

closely together.

At the end of a 90-minute meeting, the three groups agreed on a list of people who will meet and brainstorm about areas of common ground and ways the city and rural fire departments could work together.

Members include Tom Rohr, chairman of rural fire board; County Commissioner Mitch Tiede; Alan David, Goodland rural fire chief; Chris Bauman, assistant Goodland rural fire chief; Brian James, city fire chief; James Miller, assistant city fire chief; Mayor Rick Billinger;

City Attorney Jeff Mason; Brewster fire chief or his assistant; and the Kanorado chief or his assistant.

County Commissioners Tiede, Chuck Thomas and Kevin Rasure came to the meeting, along with city commissioners Dave Daniels, Josh Dechant, Annette Fairbanks,

John Garcia and Billinger, and rural fire board members Rohr, Ken Palmgren and Darrel Cloyd.

The city commission room was packed with members of both city and rural fire departments, members

See TEAM, Page 6a

People asked to take precautions against flu at hospital

By Sharon Corcoran

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If you have been at the hospital recently, you may have noticed bottles of antiseptic hand gel everywhere you went. Or you may have heard that everyone visiting the hospital has to wear a mask.

Goodland Regional Medical Center staff are doing all they can to protect patients from influenza and other sicknesses going around, said Tina Goodwin, director of marketing and volunteer services. The hand gel at the entrances is more than a hint, but the masks are not a requirement.

There has been quite an outbreak of flu in the community, Goodwin said, adding the hospital is trying

to protect patients and encouraging people who are sick to stay home.

"We're trying to limit the exposure of patients ...," she said.

A basic measure, she said, is to encourage people to wash their hands and use the antiseptic rub. Wash your hands when you come in and

when you leave, she said, and keep your hands and fingers away from your nose, ears and eyes. People often don't think about how many things they touch that pass through many hands, she added.

Goodwin said they tried to get the antibacterial rub everywhere. You

don't have to look too hard to find it, she said.

If you know you're sick, Goodwin said, the hospital asks that you wear a breathing mask. It's not required, she said, and the hospital doesn't have masks waiting for everyone, but people should wear

one if they're sick or to protect themselves from sickness. If a visitor needs one, she said, the hospital can provide it.

Goodwin said the hospital recommends that people keep their children home when they're sick, so they won't be exposed to something else and to avoid exposing others to what they have.

"It seems like we've gone through a lot of illnesses," she said. "A couple of weeks ago, we saw a lot of RSV (respiratory syncytial virus)."

The hospital will re-evaluate the measures in a week, she said, and may continue the limitations if it seems advisable.

Schools report 14 percent of kids sick

At the Goodland School Board meeting on Monday night Superintendent Shelly Angelos said that North Elementary School had 40 students out that day due to illness.

"We had 14 percent of the district sick, most of them

from North," said Superintendent Angelos.

She said fewer kids have been sick everyday with the number being 30 on Tuesday.

"The districts around us are having the same problem," said Angelos.