

weather report



61°

noon
Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 6:47 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:46 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:01 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 42 degrees

• Humidity 25 percent

• Sky mostly clear

• Winds variable at 5 mph

• Barometer 29.87 inches

and falling

• Record High today 84° (1907)

• Record Low today 0° (1913)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 68°

Low Wednesday 26°

Precipitation none

This month 0.27

Year to date 0.88

Below normal 0.71 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of rain and snow showers after midnight, a high near 57, winds breezy out of the north 15 to 35 mph and a low around 29. Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain and snow showers before noon, a high near 46, winds breezy out of the north at 10 to 30 mph and a low around 22.

Extended Forecast

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

Springtime fun



Kylee Kindal, 14, pushed her cousin Erica Cullens, 6, in a swing at Gulick Park Wednesday afternoon. Kindal said it was nice weather for outdoor activities, but Cullens said she thought it was a little hot.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

At-large issue could be on ballot

By Tom Betz

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Sherman County could get a chance to decide in November if they want to vote for county commissioners on an at-large basis with a push to get a bill passed by the state Senate in Topeka.

County commissioners discussed the bill Tuesday morning, which has been in the Senate Committee on Elections and Local Government since last February, and on a 2-1 vote asked Sen. Ralph Ostmeier (R-Grinnell) to get the bill passed out of committee and passed on the floor so it can be signed into law by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure made the motion to ask Ostmeier to move the bill ahead and Commissioner Mitch Tiede seconded the motion. Commissioner Chuck Thomas said he did not feel the people needed this and voted against supporting the bill.

Rasure asked County Clerk Janet Rumpel to contact Sen. Ostmeier to let him know the county was ready to proceed with the bill in the committee.

The bill (HB2307) was introduced in the House last January, and passed 120-2 on Feb. 19. The bill was sent to the Senate where it was sent to the Elections and Local Government Committee. Because of time constraints and questions the bill did not get passed out last year, but Ostmeier said

last week it could be moved out quickly with the support of the commissioners.

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

The call for a change was sparked by a heated and contested county commissioner race two years ago involving Thomas that included Darin Neufeld, engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, as write-in candidate both in the Republican primary and general election. Thomas narrowly survived both challenges.

In public forums held before the primary and the general elections candidates were asked if they would support changing the county commissioners to be voted on at-large. Most said they would support asking the state to allow the citizens to make that decision through an election. After the election the commissioners asked Rep. Jim Morrison (R-Colby) and Ostmeier to introduce the bill and help get it passed through the legislature.

"I think it is a good change for the county," said Jeff Deeds, farmer as one of a small audience who were at the meeting

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City workers praised for handling outage

By Tom Betz

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Slapping lines knocked power out on Sunday, and city commissioners Tuesday afternoon praised the efforts of city workers to get the power plant up and running to restore power to the city.

City Commissioner Josh Dechant, acting mayor, said when the power went out he went down to the power plant and was impressed with the way Rod Blake and the city power plant workers dealt with the issues and that they did a great job getting the plant up and running in about two hours.

"The city guys were there," Dechant said, "and did a great job. Rich Simon had

his people there and Charlie Bandel had his people there in case they were needed."

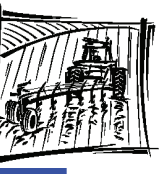
City Manager Wayne Hill said the power plant crew had practiced on taking the plant from a dead start to bringing it up to handle the load. He said it was good to hear praise for their efforts, and agreed he thought they handled the emergency well in getting the plant up and running.

Hill said that Sunflower Electric had to cut the city off because of lines slapping east of town, and that the city was on the power plant for about four hours after getting it up and running.

Dechant said he was told the line to

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local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$9.65 bushel

Posted county price — \$10.52

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c

Corn — \$4.63 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.85

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c

Milo — \$4.33 bushel

Soybeans — \$10.42 bushel

Posted county price — \$11.14

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c

Millet — \$7 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c

Confection — \$30/\$20 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$32 (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



Kansas Kids go to Hays

Simon Basset of Goodland came close to pinning Easton Slipke of Colby in a match at 64 pounds in the 8-and-under class at the Kansas Kids subdistrict Saturday. The district tournament is in Hays tomorrow. See story, photo on Page 12.

Cool weather moves egg hunt to Central

With a forecast of cooler weather and possibility of rain or snow showers the annual scramble for candy-filled eggs is set for 10:30 a.m. Saturday has been moved to Central Elementary School for Goodland's annual Easter Egg hunt.

There will be three age group with separate areas for egg hunting for

kids 2 and under, 3 to 5 and 6 to 8.

"There will be plenty of eggs," said Connie Grieve, a member of the sponsoring Goodland Lions Club and hunt organizer.

The Easter Bunny will be hopping around during the hunt. Sponsors for the event include the Lions and Wal-Mart.

Churches plan special Easter Sunday services

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

Many area churches are planning special services for the observance of Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

The First United Methodist Church, 12th and Center, is planning a Good Friday service is at 5:30 p.m. There will be an Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. at the Cemetery Chapel followed by a breakfast by the Methodist Men at 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and Easter Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, 207 W. 13 will have Good Friday services are at 1:30 p.m. Holy Saturday and Easter Vigil service will be at 10:30 a.m. and church at 10:30 a.m. They meet at Bateman's Funeral Home, 211 E. 11th.

The Church of the Nazarene, 305 Caldwell, will have Sunday school at 9:45 and regular worship at 10:30 a.m.

The First Christian Church (Disciple of Christ), 711 Arcade will have Good Friday service will be at 7 p.m. On Saturday there will be a Lenten Comedy Dinner Theater at 5 p.m. Easter Sunrise Service with breakfast will be at 6:45 a.m. and at 10:30 there will be the Easter Service with a vocal contata.

Calvary Gospel Church, 4th and College, will have services at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday.

First Baptist Church will have Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and church at 10:30 a.m. They meet at Bateman's Funeral Home, 211 E. 11th.

The Church of the Nazarene, 305 Caldwell, will have Sunday school at 9:45 and regular worship at 10:30 a.m.

The Harvest Evangelical Free Church will have its Easter Service at West Elementary School at 9:30 a.m., on Sunday. The will be music, drama, refreshments and Easter egg hunt.

Teen's job chasing dogs, skunks

By Sharon Corcoran

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A Goodland teen has been chasing dogs, cats and even a skunk around Goodland, rounding them up and getting them off the streets, and he may have found a career he hadn't planned on.

Dustin Zelfer, a senior at Goodland High School, has been the town's dog catcher since Jan. 14, working from noon until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, following a half day at school.

He had to do an interview on a career for school and chose criminal justice. Zelfer said while he interviewed three police officers, they asked him if he gets to leave school early and told him he should try to get the job.

Zelfer said he didn't really have plans for the future and didn't know what he would do after high school, but now he may stay in Goodland and continue as the dog catcher.

His big excitement last Wednesday was finally catching the skunk that was making appearances around town. Since the striped "kitty" had rabies, he said, an officer took it out in the country to put it out of its misery.

But not before Zelfer made a bit of a stir just doing his job.

"All the neighbors were watching me and everything," he said. "I caught it in a cat trap and had a black bag over it."

But most people have been wanting to borrow cat traps to catch cats, he said; cats and dogs that are caught are taken to the animal pound for three days and then are given to the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter if they



Dog catcher Dustin Zelfer, senior at Goodland High School, stood by the red pickup used to carry loose and stray dogs he captures.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

have room.

Zelfer said he has also been sent to pick up stolen bicycles when they are found.

And he has routine duties, like paperwork. Zelfer said he has to fill out papers on each animal he takes to the pound, which includes what kind of dog or cat.

He enjoys the job and says it pays well, about twice what he had been making at the bowling alley.

Before joining law enforcement, Zelfer had a little run-in

with the law in September but learned his lesson.

Zelfer and Karen Juranek spent a Saturday morning cleaning paint off the bricks on Main in front of Central Elementary School as part of an agreement with the city police and municipal judge after spending an evening finding out what happens to paint cans and other types of bottles when they come in contact with a golf club.

"I won't ever do that again," Zelfer said. "That ruined a Saturday."