

weather
report

54°

noon
Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 7:07 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:35 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:08 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 47 degrees

• Humidity 36 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds north 20-25 mph

• Barometer 29.89 inches

and rising

• Record High today 89° (1963)

• Record Low today 3° (1931)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 69°

Low Wednesday 34°

Precipitation none

This month 0.29

Year to date 0.90

Below normal 0.97 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly sunny with a high near 50, winds out of the north 5 to 10 mph and a low around 32. Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain after noon, a high near 68, winds breezy out of southwest 15-35 mph and a low around 33.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of rain or snow before noon, a high near 53 and a low around 33.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$9.85 bushel

Posted county price — \$9.98

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$5.10 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.13

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$4.80 bushel

Soybeans — \$11.64 bushel

Posted county price — \$12.29

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$7 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

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



Softball
opens today

Junior Julica Bonsall practiced Wednesday at Centennial Park. She is one of the Goodland High Cowgirls' nine returning players from last year. The girls start their season at 3 p.m. today in Garden City. See photo, story on Page 12.

Customized truck stops in town

By Tom Betz

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The big black-and-grey truck with a European-looking front didn't look much like the Freightliner Argosy it used to be as it sat in the Goodland hospital parking lot Monday morning.

The customized truck's owners, Mickey and Glenn Larson of Redmond, Ore., stopped to show it to Jay Carpenter, a retired trucker who lives at the Sherman County Good Samaritan Society.

The men said Carpenter, a former Yellow Freight driver, is Mickey's grandfather and the father of Glenn's wife Shirley. They were driving from their plant to enter the truck in shows in Louisville, Ky., and West Palm Beach, Fla.

The rig is the newest product of Twins Custom Coaches, named for twin brothers Mickey and Todd Larson, who customized cars for more than 10 years in Orange County, Calif., before moving to Oregon to turn out fancy trucks.

Mickey and his father Glenn showed Grandpa Carpenter around the outside of the truck, and showed others through the plush interior.

Mickey said the truck has lots of electronic features, including touch-screen controls for the lights and a flat-screen television that can show movies.

A touch-screen navigation system not only shows the driver where he is, but can be projected on the television for passengers to see.

The interior opens onto a plush queen bed on the bottom level with a television screen in the door across from the bed. Steps lead to the front and the rear. In the rear is a small kitchen with built-in microwave, sink, two-burner hot plate, bathroom and shower.

In the middle of the truck is a couch that pulls out to make a full-size bed and a table with two seats across from the couch. In the front, the driver's and passenger's seats are plush, and the driver's side door has a set of swing-out steps to make getting in and out easier.

Mickey said he, his father and his brother worked on the truck, and several vendors help with the customized interiors. He said the basic shell cost about \$350,000 and fully customized, it would sell for about \$600,000.

"We felt the customized car busi-

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Mickey Larson (above) demonstrated the touch screen controls for the interior lights, shades and video system in a customized truck (below left) he and his twin brother Todd and their father Glenn built and are showing across the country. In the back of the truck are a kitchen area with a sink, hot plate and bathroom with a shower. The

truck stopped at the Good Samaritan Society here so Larson could show the truck to his grandfather, Jay Carpenter (center, below right); Dorinda Krueger, society director (left); and Glenn Larson, the twins' father.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



District plans garage sale

By Pat Schiefen

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The Goodland School District is continuing plans to have a districtwide garage sale on Saturday, April 19, Superintendent Shelly Angelos told the school board on Monday.

None of the site councils from the various schools wanted to run the sale, she said, so district employees will do it and the money will go in the general fund.

Angelos said she should have a list of the items for sale for the board meeting on Monday, April 14. The athletic department asked if they could sell sports items from Max Jones Fieldhouse, she said, and the board had no problem with that. The other items will be sold at the round-top storage on Eighth Street.

The board voted to republish the district budget today to allow it to spend more money received from the state, Angelos said. The adopted general fund budget was \$6,825,190 and the district received \$6,981,341, an increase of \$156,151.

The adopted at risk budget was \$524,954 and the district received \$559,954, an increase of \$35,000, while the special education budget was \$1,311,681 and the district received \$1,391,064, up \$79,383.

Angelos said that she and teachers Pam Hardy and Tara Mull would have their first planning meeting for summer school on Thursday, April 3.

The statewide school budget has been set for next year but the Legislature is debating the amount for the 2009-10 year, said Angelos. The state Senate passed a bill in February to increase basic state aid by \$59 per student but the House

of Representatives did not pass it.

With concerns growing about the national economy, Angelos said, Legislators are planning to make as tight a budget as possible for next year. The state sets an amount of money per student it will pay the districts but the Legislature really does not know what its revenues will be, she said.

Board member LeAnn Friedrichs reported that the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center in Oakley was dealing with much the same issues as the district with vehicles, salary negotiations, calendar and personnel.

The board recognized student and faculty achievement at an earlier school board meeting on Monday,

March 11. Kade Sheldon was recognized for qualifying for state wrestling at 112 pounds, A.J. Stephens for his state championship at 140 pounds, Keegan Smith for his fifth place state finish at 145 pounds, Aaron Deeds for his fifth place state finish at 152 pounds, Ryan Taylor for qualifying for state at 160 pounds, Fernando Martinez for his sixth place state finish at 189 pounds, Bob Daxon for his second place state finish at 285 pounds and the team for placing fourth in the state in Class 4A.

For the Future Community, Career and Family Leaders of America, Junior Shelbi Hall was elected as state first vice president, Junior Brennen Clouse as vice president of corporate sponsors and sponsor Sarah Short was named Educator of the Year.

In high school music, Devin Mangus went to the

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County at-large bill passed out of Senate

By Tom Betz

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With some last-minute efforts by County Clerk Janet Rumpel, a Senate committee Tuesday amended and passed a bill to give Sherman County citizens the right to decide in November if they want to elect commissioners countywide rather than by districts.

The bill (HB2307) was introduced in the House last January, and passed 120-2 on Feb. 19. It was sent to the Senate, where it languished in the Elections and Local Government Committee.

Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer (R-Grinnell) told Sherman County commissioners that committee Chairman Sen. Tim Huelskamp (R-Fowler) had told him the bill could be passed this week.

Rumpel said she received a faxed message Monday with amended language that had been approved by commissioners last March. She said she talked to Huelskamp and Brad Bryant of the secretary of state's office just before the committee meeting Tuesday to make sure the language was correct.

The committee approved the amended bill and passed it out to the Senate floor to be passed as amended. It was on the calendar to be passed on Thursday.

Because it has been amended, the bill will have to go back to the House before it can be sent to the governor for her signature.

The amendment sets out the procedures for setting the election and calls for the commissioners to pass

a resolution to allow citizens to vote on the issue in November.

The bill says the Sherman County Commission will consist of three positions numbered 1, 2 and 3. Candidates may live anywhere in the county.

"Each registered voter in Sherman County shall be permitted to vote for each candidate for the position of county commissioner," the bill says.

If approved by the House and signed by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, the bill would become law after being published in the register. Sherman County is the first Kansas county to ask for this kind of flexibility in how commissioners are chosen, said Rumpel, and the bill does not affect any other counties.

Demand for a change was sparked by a heated county commissioner race two years ago involving Commissioner Chuck Thomas of Edson. Darin Neufeld, an engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, ran as a 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 having commissioners voted on at large. Most said they would support an election on the issue.

After the election, the commissioners asked Rep. Jim Morrison (R-Colby) and Ostmeyer to run the bill through the Legislature.