

weather report

57°
noon
Monday



Today

- Sunset, 8 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 5:29 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:01 p.m.
- Midday Conditions**
- Soil temperature 52 degrees
- Humidity 21 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds North 18 mph
- Barometer 30.00 inches and rising
- Record High today 96° (1989)
- Record Low today 22° (1982)
- Last 24 Hours***
- High Sunday 83°
- Low Sunday 37°
- Precipitation —
- This month 1.10
- Year to date 2.03
- Below Normal .89 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, highs in the upper 60s. Southeast winds 10 mph increasing to 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Partly cloudy in the evening with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms after midnight. Lows in the lower 40s.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Partly sunny, windy, with a slight chance of thunderstorms. High Mid 70s, lows in the upper 40s. Thursday: Partly sunny, high in the upper 70s. Low in upper 30s or low 40s.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$8.37 bushel
- Posted county price — \$8.51
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$5.44 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.64
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$5.04 bushel
- Soybeans — \$11.72 bushel
- Posted county price — \$12.56
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$11 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
- NuSun — \$17.60 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)

(Markets by Scouler 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 host matches

Goodland High junior T.J. Freeman hit a backhand shot in doubles play against Colby at the Cowboys' home tournament Friday. Results were not available Monday from the school. See photos on Page 12.

Company may buy power plant

By Tom Betz

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Goodland Energy Resources may be selling its three-fourths built power plant west of town to an energy acquisition company from Wilmington, N.C., which filed a letter of intent on the deal on Wednesday.

Energy Holdings Limited LLC said it had signed a letter of intent to acquire the 25 -megawatt, coal-fired plant from Goodland Energy Resources LLC for \$42 million.

"We are excited by the unsolicited interest in the plant," said Doug Sederstrom, chief financial officer for Goodland Energy Resources. "We believe it reaffirms our goal of providing clean, reliable power to northwest Kansas along with bringing much needed economic development to Sherman County.

Modified air permit approved

Goodland Energy Resources has received state permission to burn trash, waste, old wood and railroad ties, tire chips and other, cheaper fuel, along with coal, in the power plant it's building at Caruso, west of Goodland.

Doug Sederstrom, chief financial officer for the firm, said a modified air quality permit came from the state Department of Health and Environment in Topeka on Tuesday, about 30 days after the recommendation had been forwarded to Secretary Roderick Bremby for his approval.

The firm asked for the modified permit last year to allow the plant to expand the type of fuel used to fire

the boilers, partly because of rising costs for coal.

Dana Morris, an engineer with the Bureau of Air and Radiation, testified at a public hearing in Goodland in February that the modifications would not change the emission requirements of the plant and would not cause any impact on the air.

Sederstrom said things are progressing at both the power plant and the adjacent ethanol plant. At the power plant, he said, work continues inside as well as outside the plant, where areas for delivery of the coal and other fuels are being prepared. At the alcohol plant, he said, two tanks for the finished product should be delivered soon.

our people are confident the Energy Holdings people can provide a great value to the project." The Carolina firm was founded by G. William Eason and Karl W. Miller, also founding shareholders of MMC Energy Inc. The two are involved in a bid to wrest control

of MMC from its current board and management.

Eason and Miller say they own about 9 percent of MMC stock and have filed an intent with the Securities and Exchange Commission to offer a slate of officers at the upcoming stockholders meeting May 28 in San Francisco.

MMC currently owns three natural gas-fired power plants with total power production of 110 megawatts at Chula Vista, Escondido and Bakersfield, Calif. The Energy Holdings founders say they want MMC to close their New York office and relocate to California, and to turn the firm's efforts to more acquisitions of small power plants like the one at Goodland.

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Alcohol affects teens brains

By Tom Betz

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Organizers had to bring out extra tables and chairs Wednesday as about 150 teens and parents crowded into the Elks Lodge to hear about a new study showing changes in brain activity of young people who drink.

The Sherman County Community Partnership for Prevention and Education planned the event with help from the Grant Junior High chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions and the Goodland Elks Lodge. The audience was mostly younger kids from the junior high, but there were some high school students among the 105 kids registered. The 39 adults were mostly parents.

People in the audience were asked to answer 10 true or false questions about drinking and the expected effects of drinking over the short and long term.

Then they watched a video about the study, which took the audience through a magnetic resonance imaging view of the damage done to a teenage brain by even a little binge drinking.

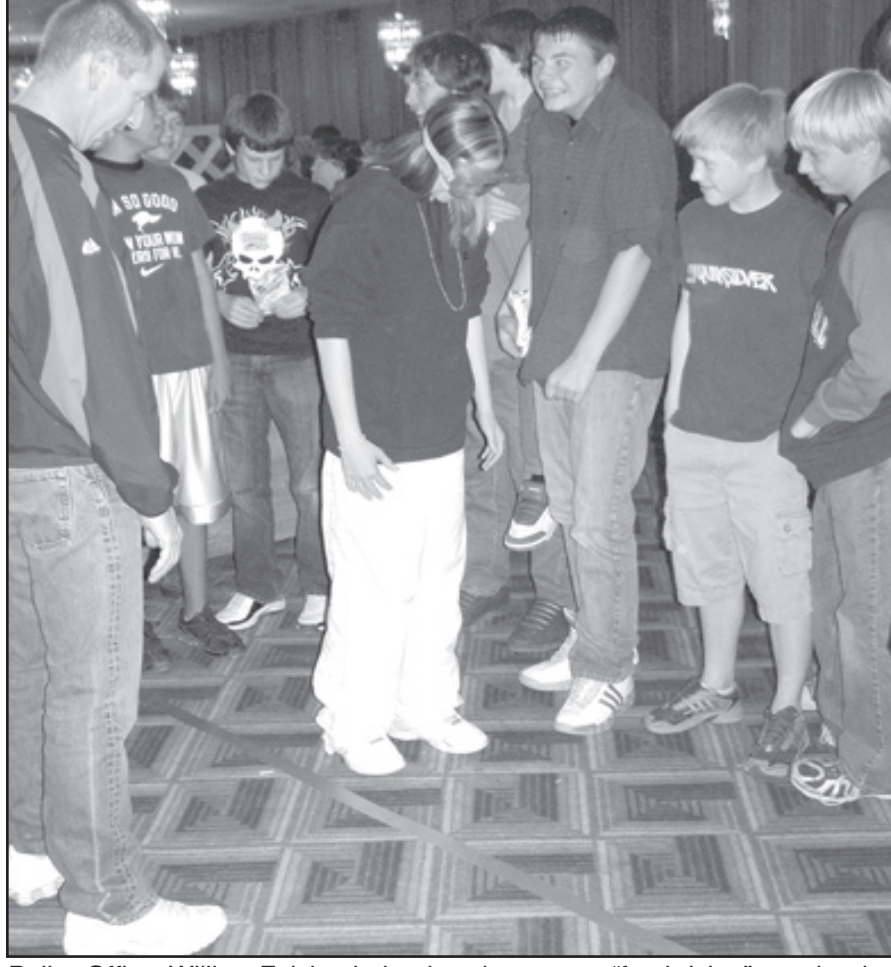
In the video, students were asked about their drinking habits and talked about how it felt to get drunk and how they felt a day or two afterward.

Moderator Burton Piantalo, an investigator for the sheriff's department and the county attorney, paused the video, and the teens in the audience agreed it was an eye opener to see the differences the brain scans showed between those who did not drink and those who did.

"You do stupid things that can affect the rest of your life," said one girl who was the spokesperson for her table.

The second part of the video showed brain scans of a girl who had been on a weekend binge and that of a person who said she had not been drinking.

In the video, Monica Ortiz, a college student, explained that most teenagers believe they can drink for 20 or 30 years before any serious physical problems develop. Challenging that belief, she interviewed Dr. Scott Swartzwelder, a Duke University neuropsychologist who has used rats to study the effects of alcohol on the brain.



Police Officer William Fulcher helped students try on "fatal vision" goggles that give the wearer a sense of what it is like to try to do things while drunk. He told the teens to walk a line, but with the glasses on, they couldn't. Their parents and friends got a kick out of the results. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Ortiz asked Dr. Swartzwelder what would happen if — as a 16-year-old — she drank on weekends and got drunk three times a month. He said the effects on the liver and heart wouldn't be seen for years. The brain however, can show changes almost immediately, he said. In his study with rats, he said, he discovered a difference between the effects of alcohol on adolescent brains and on adult brains. The small amount needed to see negative brain effects surprised him.

In his second study, Dr. Swartzwelder said, he focused on two groups of people — those who had used alcohol in their early

20s and those who had used in their late 20s. The younger subjects showed a lower ability to learn new information than those who were just a few years older. He said the difference appeared to change when the person reaches the age of about 25, and then the brain effects seemed like more of those of an adult.

Aggressive behavior of teenagers who drink was explained by Dr. Swartzwelder. He said alcohol's sedative effect is less in adolescents than in adults. As a result, teenagers may be at a higher risk for the

See ALCOHOL, Page 11

Three file for positions

By Sharon Corcoran

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Several candidates have picked up petitions for the county offices up for election this year, and three have filed so far.

Two incumbent Republicans, Treasurer Iris Scheopner, and Sheriff Kevin Butts, have filed for re-election, and Cynthia Strnad has filed as a Republican for commissioner for District 2, the spot held by Democrat Mitch Tiede.

Most of the current office holders say they will run again, and nearly all have picked up petitions. Other offices up for election are county clerk, register of deeds, attorney and two spots on the commission.

Other incumbents are Billie Hoyt, register of deeds; Janet Rumble, clerk; Bonnie Selby, county attorney; and Kevin Rasure for the other commission spot.

Scheopner may have an opponent for treasurer, Rumble said, as Wanda Schritter has picked up a petition. And Goodland lawyer Schyler Goodwin picked up a petition for sheriff.

Tiede said he plans to run for re-election as commissioner for District 2. Republican Rasure said he was undecided about running in District 3.

District 2 includes all of Ward 1 in Goodland, Ward 4 north of Sixth Street and Llanos, Shermanville and Voltaire townships. District 3 is all of Ward 2, the city of Kanorado and Grant, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Smoky and Stateline townships.

Only people living in those districts are eligible to run for the spots on the commission, and only residents of those districts will vote for their commissioner, said Mary Ann Snethen, deputy county clerk.

A bill to change that passed the state Senate 40-0 last month, but had been amended from the version passed by the House last year. The House asked for a conference committee on the amended bill, which so far has not moved back to either floor.

The bill (HB2307) was introduced last year after citizens asked for it during the election when Commissioner Chuck Thomas faced a contest from Darin Neufeld and Larry Enfield. The bill stalled in the Senate Election and Local Government committee last March after passing the House.

There will be an opening for district judge in the 15th Judicial District, covering Sherman, Wallace,

See ELECTION, Page 11

County road project season beginning

Barricades have started sprouting around town and will soon spread to the county as the construction season begins.

A preconstruction meeting at 9:30 a.m. Thursday at the Sherman County courthouse will let people who live along County Road 65 (West Eighth Street) and a one-mile section of Road 16 to be repaved this summer know what's coming, said county Public Works Manager Curt Way.

Way said Venture Construction of Great Bend plans to begin working on the two county projects next week, either Wednesday, April 30, or Thursday, May 1.

The Road 65 project extends from K-27 at Eighth Street west for five miles to Road 14. The Road 16 section lies between old U.S. 24 and Road 65, past the Sugar Hills Golf Club.

Way said Venture hopes to have both ready for paving by mid-June. The roads will be partially open during parts of the project he said.

Darin Neufeld, an engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates working on the city street projects, said contractor Mike Miller of Miller's Con-

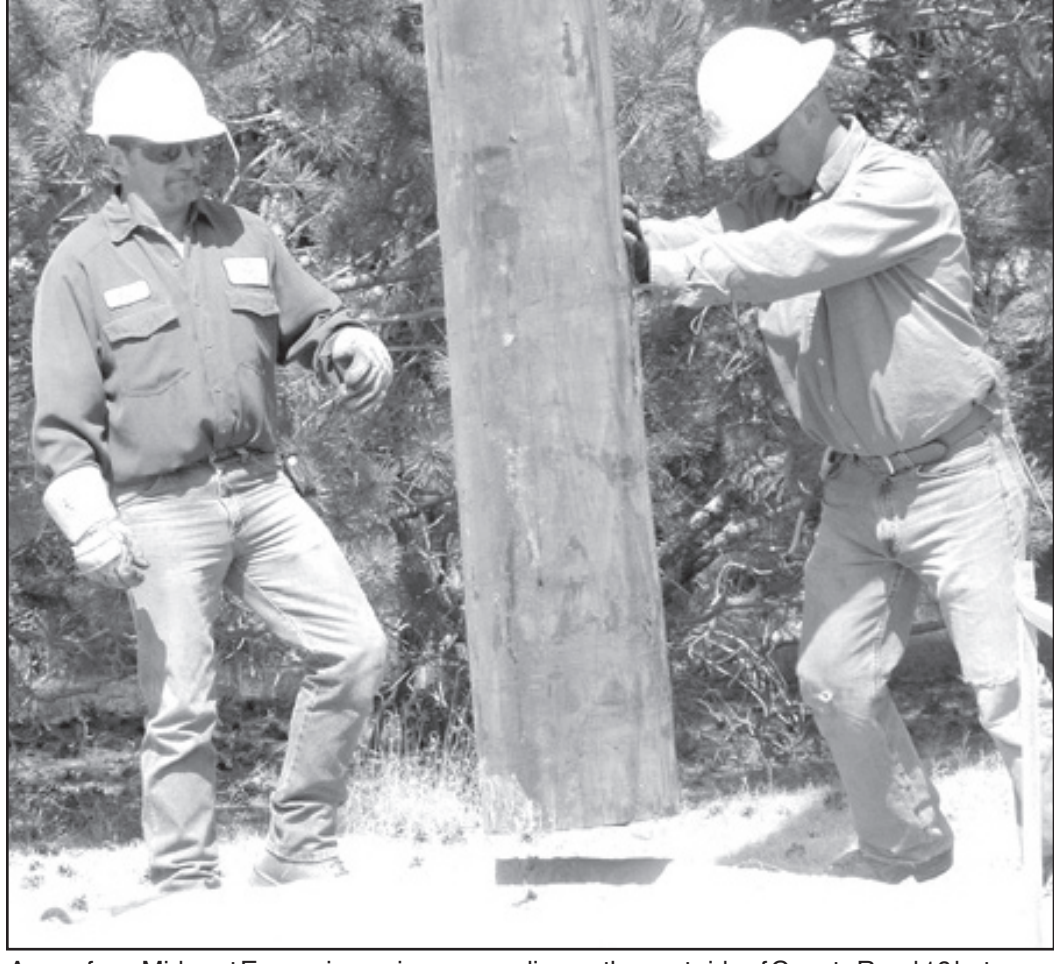
struction is working on the section of Enterprise Road between McDonalds and the Service Oil Conoco Travel Shoppe.

Neufeld said Miller plans to pour the street in one section, so is working on the curb and gutter first.

Miller also has been working on the curb and gutters at Eighth and Caldwell, Neufeld said, and once the Enterprise is poured, his crew will start taking out the asphalt on each side of Eighth and Caldwell back about 40 feet to replace it with concrete. Each section will be closed for about 10 days to allow the street to be torn out, concrete poured and a week for curing before traffic is allowed through.

While Enterprise is being poured and cured it will be closed to traffic, and the sections of Caldwell and Eighth will be closed in rotation when they are being poured and cured.

A third project Miller will be doing is the new airport entrance, Neufeld said. He said a new two-lane concrete road will be built to the south of the present divided entry, with a paved parking lot. Traffic will use the old entry during the construction, then it will be torn out, Neufeld said.



A crew from Midwest Energy is moving a power line on the east side of County Road 16 between old U.S. 24 and Country Road 65 (West Eighth Street) about 20 feet to the east to prepare for realignment and paving of the road this spring. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News