

weather report

28°

noon

Monday

Today

Sunset, 4:28 p.m.

Saturday

Sunrise, 7:05 a.m.

Sunset, 4:29 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 26 degrees

• Humidity 32 percent

• Sky mostly cloudy

• Winds south 34-45 mph

• Barometer 29.68 inches and falling

• Record High today 83° (1964)

• Record Low today -9° (2004)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 20°

Low Sunday -1°

Precipitation none

This month 0.14

Year to date 20.37

Above normal 0.71 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow after 11 a.m. with a high near 27, winds blusters out of the north at 10 to 30 mph and a low around 7. Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 30, winds out of the southwest at 10 mph and a low around 12.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny with a high near 43 and a low around 20. Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 41 and a low around 20. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 40 and a low around 18.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$5.05 bushel

Posted county price — \$5

Corn — \$3.37 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.50

Milo — \$2.68 bushel

Soybeans — \$7.56 bushel

Posted county price — \$8.06

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$13 cwt.

Confection — \$28/\$15 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

Voting close on holiday recipes

By Tom Betz
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

More than 50 people tasted and voted on the holiday recipes presented at the Home for the Holidays and Taste of Goodland Saturday afternoon at the Goodland Activity Center.

People tasted the dishes and many marked ballots with the voting on several being very close with a single vote separating first from second. More than 100 people attended the event, but many did not fill out ballots.

Recipes had been selected from the two special Home for the Holidays sections printed in *The Goodland Star-News*, and in most cases the person submitting the recipe was asked to make it and bring it for people to taste.

The various dishes were spread out over several tables at the event, and people picked up plates and cups to check them out as they worked their way around the room.

Kay Wessel of Oakley was the top winner in the salad division with her Ice Cream Salad.

"I enjoy things like this because you get a chance to see and taste a dish you might otherwise not try," she said. "It is a good chance to talk to other cooks about how they did their recipes and hear from those who were there to taste the food."

Each top winner received \$100 in scrip to be spent with the businesses who helped sponsor the Home for the Holidays program. Second place received a one-year subscription to the *Star-News* and third place won six-month subscription to the *Star-News*.

In the main dish division Tina Meyer was the top winner with her Deep Dish Pizza. Meyer won the

Kay Wessel dished out a sample of her prize winning Ice Cream Salad to Andrea Pritchard who won for her Roasted Pecans. Top place in main dishes went to Tina Meyer (right) for her Deep Dish Pizza, and she won for her side dish Broccoli Cheese Bake. All were

winners in the Home for the Holidays recipe tasting and Taste of Goodland held Saturday at Goodland Activity Center. The Perfect Fudge Brownies were made from Heyde Tiede's winning recipe. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

side dish division with her Broccoli Cheese Bake.

Marvin Seaman had three dishes and was a close second in the main dish division with his Quick Shrimp Newberg and in the appetizers with his Hot Crab Dip. Seaman was

second in the salad division with his Japanese Shrimp and Cucumber Salad.

Top spot in the dessert division went to Heyde Tiede and her Perfect Fudge Brownies. Second went to Marge Pizel of Great Bend with her Cracker Jack Cookies. Third went to Marcia Emig for her White Chocolate Snack.

Top spot in the appetizer division went to Andrea Pritchard for her Roasted Pecans.

Velda Bramer had a third place

in the appetizers with her Salmon Party Dip and was third in the main dishes with the Easy Roast Beef.

In the drink division a Christmas Punch by Debbie Overmiller was

See RECIPES, Page 8

Deputies have improved tool to test for alcohol

By Tom Betz
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

State troopers and sheriff deputies have an improved tool to deal with drivers who have been drinking and that could mean more arrests during the holiday season, which begins Wednesday and runs through New Year's.

Sherman County Undersheriff Roger Studer showed a new machine that tests the breath of a driver to determine the level of alcohol in their system that the county got through the state Department of Health and Environment in the past few months.

"This is a bad time of year," he said, "because we have a lot of festive drinking. It is not a problem to have a drink if that is what you want to do, but when you get behind the wheel that is when we get involved."

Studer said the state troopers and deputies from Sherman County and Wallace County use the new Intoxilyzer model 8000 to test drivers suspected of being over the legal limit of alcohol in their system.

Studer said the city police don't use the machine, but take their suspects to the hospital for a blood test.

Goodland Police Chief Ray Smeed said the city does not use the Intoxilyzer because the city attorney has wanted to use blood alcohol tests.

Studer said the updated breath testing machine is easier to operate and he believes it is more accurate and pretty much fool proof.

The state purchased more than 200 of the Intoxilyzer 8000 breath alcohol instruments and distributed and trained the operators across the state.

Undersheriff Roger Studer showed the Intoxilyzer 8000 at the Sherman County Bastille used to test the breath of drivers suspected of being intoxicated while behind the wheel. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

"This was a significant effort," said Rodrick L. Bremby, Health and Environment secretary. "Thanks to the efforts of our staff and local partners, it is a worthwhile investment in keeping Kansas travelers safe."

The state's Breath Alcohol Program is responsible for the certification of agencies, instruments and officers who test drivers suspected of being under the influence of alcohol.

The Intoxilyzer 8000 features the latest advancements in breath alcohol detection, Bremby said, ensuring every driver is receiving an accurate breath test. He said the instruments are more mobile, enabling officers and troopers to run a higher volume of impaired driving checks. The instruments are more user-friendly, decreasing the marginal incidence of operator error and ensuring greater viability in the prosecution of offenders.

Studer agrees the updated testing equipment is easier to use. He said with the older machine it had to be turned on and warmed up before the test could be run, and there were more details that had to be watched.

"This one is on all the time," he said. "This machine uses a gas we don't have to change it like we used to. The state sends someone out to check the machine on a regular schedule."

"It is a close loop system. There is nothing from outside. Nothing goes in except the breath."

When asked when an officer makes a decision to test a driver, Studer said it is usually

See ALCOHOL, Page 8

County office to close early

By Tom Betz
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Sherman County offices will close at noon on Wednesday, for Christmas, and will not be open on Friday for an extended holiday for the county employees.

The commissioners agreed to allow all offices to close at noon, and that employees can either take the afternoon as half a day of vacation or as non-paid time off.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel told the commissioners at their meeting on Dec. 9, that she had been asked by Register of Deeds Billie Hoyt about closing early on Dec. 24.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he felt the offices should stay open until noon.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said he would agree and like

to see them close at non.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he felt that after noon the people would just be standing around gabbing.

Rasure raised the question of how they would be paid.

Thomas suggested it be non-paid unless the employee wanted to take a half day of vacation.

The commissioners unanimously approved closing early on Wednesday.

Sherman County offices will be closed on Thursday, Jan. 1 and on Friday Jan. 2 <check this?>

In other business the commissioners:

- Agreed to keep a \$75 deposit for the use of the fairgrounds when someone did not clean up after an event. Tiede

said Deputy Clerk Mary Ann Snethen had asked her about a recent event where William McKnight, grounds supervisor, said he had to clean up after the event. Tiede said not only did the people not clean up but they left beer cans in the trash.

"I told Mary Ann we would keep the \$75," he said. "We will need to let them know they need to do the cleanup and that no alcohol is allowed."

Rasure said he would agree the county should keep the deposit since they were told to clean up when they signed the contract.

- Talked to Kathy Ryan, health department administrator, about two-way radios and replacing the county van.

See COUNTY, Page 8

Offices, banks close for holidays

Government offices, businesses and banks will be closed the next two Thursdays for Christmas and New Year's Day.

The *Goodland Star-News* office will close early on both Wednesdays and will be closed both holidays. People will receive their *Star-News* editions normally on Friday of both weeks. The office will be closed on Friday, Dec. 26, but open for regular hours on Friday, Jan. 2.

City offices will be closed on Christmas Eve and Day (Wednesday and Thursday) and be open for regular hours — 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. — on Friday. They will be closed on Thursday, New Year's Day.

The Sherman County Courthouse will close at noon on Wednesday and be closed until Monday, Dec. 29. They will close on New Year's Day till Monday, Jan. 5.

The post office and state and federal

offices will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. There will be no mail pickup or delivery on those holidays.

The First National Bank will close at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, be closed on Thursday and open regular hours on Friday. They will close at 2 p.m. on Dec. 31 and be closed New Year's Day.

BankWest will close at noon on Wednesday, be closed on Christmas Day and open regular hours on Friday. They will be open regular hours on New Year's Eve and Friday, Jan. 2 and be closed on Thursday, Jan. 1.

Western State Bank will close at noon on Wednesday, be closed on Christmas and open regular hours on Friday. They will close on Thursday, Jan. 1.

Peoples State Bank will close at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday be closed on

See CLOSING, Page 8

Cowboys finish second

Junior Jay Cotter gave Goodland just enough points to beat Garden City for second in the Holiday Classic wrestling tournament Saturday. See story and photo on Page 10, and more photos on Page 9.