

weather report

51°
noon
Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 4:39 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:40 p.m.

Middy Conditions

• Soil temperature 31 degrees
• Humidity 33 percent
• Sky partly sunny
• Winds northwest 22 mph
• Barometer 30.02 inches and rising

• Record High today 72° (1965)
• Record Low today -17° (1912)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 46°
Low Wednesday 11°
Precipitation none
This month none
Year to date none
Below normal 0.05 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly sunny with a high near 50, winds breezy out of the northwest at 15 to 30 mph and a low around 22. Saturday: Cloudy with a 10 percent chance of rain and snow after 11 a.m., a high near 39 and a low around 18.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow, a high near 29 and a low around 7. Monday: Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow, a high near 15 and a low around -7.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

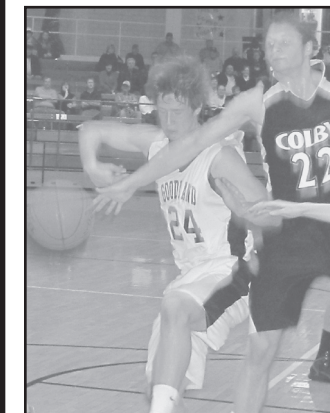
local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$7.31 bushel
Posted county price — \$7.25
Corn — \$5.34 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.70
Milo — \$5.19 bushel
Soybeans — \$12.62 bushel
Posted county price — \$12.84
Millet — \$5 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$23.45 cwt.
Confection — no bid
Pinto beans — \$18 (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 swamp Eagles

Cowboy Brock Wilkens (24) slapped the ball away from Colby Eagle Corbin Stephens in the game Tuesday at Max Jones. The Cowboys exploded in the fourth quarter to win 57-38. See photos, stories on Page 10.

People thank Billinger for service

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

A reception was held Monday afternoon for Commissioner Rick Billinger who will be leaving the commission to become the State Representative from District 121.

Billinger will be sworn in on Monday when the State House of Representatives opens the session. At the reception Billinger said he has found an apartment within a few blocks of the capitol, and anticipates being at the inaugural ceremony on Monday for Governor Sam Brownback.

People came to the city administration building for the reception and thanked Billinger for his 20 years of service on the commission and wish him good luck in Topeka.

Some of those who attended asked Billinger about what he expects when he gets to Topeka and others wanted a chance to give the new representative some suggestions about how to change things.

Billinger's wife Rita and daughter Kaylee were at the reception. Kaylee said she lives about 45 minutes from the capital and is looking forward to driving up to see her father. Rita said Rick's plan is to spend the week days in Topeka and come back to Goodland on the weekends.

Billinger said he had been appointed to the Commerce and Economic Development Committee,



Former State Senator John Golden talked to incoming State Representative Rick Billinger at a special reception held Monday afternoon at the City Administration Building. Billinger will be sworn in on Monday as the State Representative of District 121.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Education Funding, Insurance and Local Government.

The Kansas House combined two committees dealing with labor, tourism and other economic issues into a single panel the Commerce and Economic Development Committee. Previously the two committees

were Commerce and Labor Committee and an Economic Development and Tourism Committee.

Billinger said he was surprised

to be appointed to the Education Funding committee and said fellow Representative Ward Cassidy of St. Francis (District 120) was appointed to that committee.

"It will be good to have two from the northwest on the committee," Billinger said. "I know education funding is going to be a busy committee."

He said he was glad to be on the Commerce and Economic Development committee and hopes he can find ways to help bring business to the state and especially would like to see more in northwest Kansas.

Many Goodland city employees came to the reception and individually thanked Billinger for his many years of service to the city. Several said they felt he had been a good commissioner and would miss his leadership.

One of those who attended was Ron Barkley who said he had a suggestion for Billinger when he got to Topeka.

"I think we need term limits," Barkley told Billinger. "I think some of those people have served long enough they think they own the seat. I think we need to have term limits like we do for governor all the way down the line."

Barkley said he knew Billinger would do a good job in Topeka

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Commissioners plan to fill vacancy Jan. 17

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

A vacancy on the city commission will exist once Rick Billinger is sworn in on Monday in Topeka as the District 121 State Representative, and city commissioners decided on Monday to select the replacement at the next commission meeting on Monday, Jan. 17.

Under state law Billinger's 20 years on the city commission will end when he is sworn in because he cannot hold two elected positions at the same time.

City Manager Doug Gerber said by state law it will be up to the four remaining commissioners to select a replacement, and they have 10 days from when the vacancy occurred to fill the position. He said under state law if the commissioners are deadlocked on the replacement the city attorney will break the deadlock.

He said he knows the commissioners have been contacted by people interested in the position. He said the commissioners could make the decision at the Jan. 17 meeting, and have those interested come and give them two minutes to speak before a vote is taken.

He said another option would be to wait and see who files petitions on Jan. 25, and choose from that list. He said there are pros and cons on each option, but waiting until Jan. 25, does not technically meet the state law. He said the pro on that is you would have the names.

He said if the commissioners

wanted to get into names that night it would be OK, or if they want to wait until the next meeting that is fine as well.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she was a bit confused on when the 10 days start.

Gerber said it will start on Monday when Billinger is sworn in as a state representative.

"It does not begin until Rick is sworn in on the 10th," Commissioner John Garcia said. "The seat would have to be filled by the 20th. It does not matter if Rick filed a resignation as under state law he cannot hold both positions."

Mayor Josh Dechant said the next meeting on Monday, Jan. 17, would fall within the 10 days and suggested the commissioners could come prepared to hash the decision out.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he thought it might be beneficial to have a special meeting on the 20th.

"We could publicize that if you want to be considered to come that day," he said. "If they want to run for the election in April it might push them to get their petitions in a little earlier. Rather than waiting until the 25th we might know more by the 20th."

Gerber said another option is for the commissioners to appoint a caretaker who is willing to hold the position for the next three months, but does not want to run for the office.

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Little Levin LaNea Humrich is not the least bit impressed at having her picture taken on Wednesday. Levin is the first baby born in 2011 at Goodland Regional Medical Center. Her mother, Monique Pottorff, is holding her. Her father, Anthony Humrich, was on his way to a job at oil drilling in West Virginia.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Hospital has first birth of year

The first addition to the population of Sherman County was Levin LaNea Humrich born at 3:16 a.m. on Tuesday at Goodland Regional Medical Center to Monique Pottorff and Anthony Humrich.

The baby girl weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces and was 20 inches long. Dr. Travis Daise was the physician. Levin joins her brothers, Ryley Humrich, 6, and Triston Humrich, 2. The family lives south of Ruleton.

Anthony Humrich works for Pattersons and works in oil fields. He left Tuesday for West Virginia. The mother said her mother from Burlington was going to stay with her when she got home.

Gifts given to the new mom and daughter were a free newborn session from Brittney's Photography, an engraved sterling silver bank from Mann's Jewelry and Smitty's Sports; a baby blanket and bath time gift set from Walmart; wishes from Shelter Insur-

ance Jim Alcorn agent; pizza, bread sticks and drinks from Gambinos; a one-year membership to the Goodland Activities Center for the new mom; and a one-year subscription to *The Goodland Star-News*. Goodland Regional Medical Center and its Auxiliary also gave gifts to the new baby.

"The nurses and Dr. Daise were great. Couldn't have asked for better nurses," Pottorff said.

Previous Goodland First Baby of Year

2010 - Thursday, Jan. 7 - girl, Sydney Maria Eve Lovington. Parents: Ashley Verlinden and Andrew Lovington.

2009 - Thursday, Jan. 1 - girl, Ciley Ray Heyrman. Parents: Tamara Heyrman and Christopher Heyrman.

2008 - Thursday, Jan. 3 - girl, Katerina Valentine Snethen. Parents: Rose Snethen and Dennis Snethen.

2007 - Friday, Jan. 19 - boy, German Herrera Soto. Parents: Susana Soto Herrera and Gerardo Herrera.

2006 - Monday, Jan. 1 - girl, Guadalupe Jesus Ramirez. Parents: Norma Ramirez and Benjamin Ramirez.

2005 - Monday, Jan. 3 - boy, Nicholas Ian Lange. Parents: Kathleen Lange and James Lange.

2004 - Sunday, Jan. 11 - girl, Hannah Marie Lange. Parents: Kathleen Lange and James Lange.

2003 - Thursday, Jan. 2 - boy, Matthew Logan Lalicker. Parents: Lori Lalicker and Dewayne Lalicker.

2002 - Tuesday, Jan. 8 - boy, Korbon Clay Russell. Parents: Lacie Russell.

2001 - Wednesday, Jan. 3 - girl, Jayden Elise Vallejo. Parents: Tonia Vallejo and Steven Vallejo.

2000 - Tuesday, Jan. 11 - boy, Jesus Alfredo Diaz.

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School public meeting planned for Thursday

The Goodland School District will have the third in a series of community meetings at 7 p.m. on Thursday at the Goodland High School cafeteria about the proposed renovation of North Elementary School into a kindergarten through sixth grade facility.

At this meeting an updated project design and a projected project cost will be given. The project manager Cristy Joy and project architect Richard Hawks from Architecture Etcetera will talk about the updated project design.

Construction Manager Michael Ayars from Ayars and Ayars will be there to give some dollar amounts for the design. Dustin Avey, the bond advisor from Piper Jaffray, will be there to translate the cost of the project into the potential raise in property taxes to home owners, commercial business owners and agriculture land owners.

With a closer idea of projected project cost an idea of what will be needed in a school bond to pay for the project can be determined and approved by the school board.

Gennifer House and Deb Ihrig are the co-chairs of the bond election committee.

The plan is to have the bond question on the ballot for the Tuesday, April 5, election.

