

weather report

24°
noon
Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 5:34 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:25 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:36 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 34 degrees
- Humidity 88 percent
- Sky overcast with light snow
- Winds northeast 13 mph
- Barometer 29.96 inches and steady
- Record High today 75° (1989)
- Record Low today -19° (1960)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 52°
- Low Wednesday 21°
- Precipitation 0.01
- This month .41
- Year to date .79
- Above normal .05 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow and freezing drizzle before 11 p.m., a high near 24, winds out of the east at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 10. Saturday: Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow before 11 a.m., a high near 36, winds out of the southeast at 10 mph and a low around 22.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow at night, windy, a high near 42 and a low around 21. Monday: Sunny with a high near 48 and a low around 23.

(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 — \$7.97
- Corn — \$6.13 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.59
- Milo — \$5.98 bushel
- Soybeans — \$11.56 bushel
- Posted county price — \$12.57
- Millet — \$5 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$29.50 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



Cowgirls play tonight

Cowgirl Berkley White looked for a teammate to pass to on Tuesday as the Cowgirls won over the Scott City Lady Beavers 60-49. The Cowgirls play at 5:30 p.m. tonight at Max Jones. See photos, story on Page 9A

County has plus shopping figures

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

A report released recently by the Kansas Department of Revenue says Thomas County is the best in the state at drawing in retail dollars, and Sherman County is not far behind.

The department puts the County Trade Pull Factors report out each year. The report looks at the amount of money spent by out-of-county residents versus the amount spent by county residents somewhere else. A pull factor over "1" means more money is coming in to the county than going out.

The report puts Thomas County's pull factor at 1.58, beating Ellis County's 1.56. Pottawatomie County in northeast Kansas has the third-highest at 1.49. The pull factor for Sherman County is 1.3.

Pull factor is reported per capita, so smaller

counties like Thomas and Sherman can be compared to higher-population counties like Ellis. Previous reports listed Colby as second behind Ellis County, but the last two years Colby has pulled in more money per capita.



Soloman

Michael Solomon, Economic Development Director, has been on the job for about a month, and Monday said he felt the report was a good one for Sherman County.

Solomon, who moved to Goodland from Lowell, Ark., in January to take the new

economic development position with the City of Goodland, said he has been learning about the Goodland area and agrees with some of the things the pull factor report seem to indicate.

He said he has been looking at the area Goodland serves. He said the connection with I-70 is a given and the vehicle counts show a high number of vehicles go through both east and west on a daily basis.

He said Goodland is a service area with big shopping places such as Walmart, Orscheln's and having three car dealers plus other businesses and services to bring people to town.

Solomon said he figures the Goodland service area stretches west to Stratton, Colo., north to Wray, Colo., and Benkelman, Neb., south to Cheyenne Wells, Colo. and Sharon Springs. He said to the east he said it is probably Brewster because of the nearby shopping in Colby.

He has estimated the number of house-

holds in the Goodland trade area at 9,748, and a population of 23,976. He said he has not seen the 2010 official Census figures, but will update his trade area figures when they are available.

Solomon said he has learned a lot of about Goodland and Sherman County in the month and took his first trip to Topeka last week. He said he is interested in working with the rural economic incentives program announced by Gov. Sam Brownback.

The program would allow families relocating to rural parts of the state to get income tax rebates for five years. Solomon said it is another way to encourage people to look at the smaller communities in northwest Kansas.

Solomon said he feels the western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance is a good group for Sherman County be part of, and was impressed that 50 state legislators

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City OKs incentives for 'The Basement'

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

City commissioners listened to a request for economic development incentives from two people who are working to open businesses in the former Warehouse Mall, and approved waiving the utility connection fees and building permits plus a six month utility rebate to be determined once the businesses are open.

The request for incentives was presented by Rusty and Wendy Fritz, owners of the building, and asking for the utility credit to allow them to install energy efficient lighting and make other improvements to the building.

Fritz said he purchased the building about three months ago and has been working to open a social club The Basement in the east end where the Yacht Club had been years ago.

He said The Basement will be a private social club where people can go to relax and play pool. He said he has been working on the area for the past three months.

Fritz said he was approached by April Hall to rent a portion of the front portion of the building for her start up business, Sunflower Feed and Mercantile. He said they discovered everything is on one meter, and he was looking at renting the offices up front that face Main Ave.

Hall said the utilities were a challenge when she approached Fritz about renting a portion of the warehouse and an office.

Fritz said he was asking for the special utility rate for a year or something like that to allow him

to take out the old lights and put in better lights and cut the cost by half or more than half. He said the main floor has 25 lights and a number of eight foot fluorescent fixtures he would replace.

He said he would have a couple of other offices that could be rented out by start up businesses or ones that might want to relocate closer to Main Ave. He said he would have a monthly rate and he would be paying the utilities. He said that is what he is doing with Hall.

Hall said as a prospective tenant she was appearing with Fritz to show her interest in moving into the building.

Hall said she has been working on getting her business started since October, and while there are a number of buildings open on Main Ave., she could not find anything big enough for what she needed. She said the Sunflower Feed and Mercantile would have a small number of employees the first year, but believes it will grow.

"I have been working on this since October," she said. "I am from Goodland and love this community. If I had not loved this community I would have given up in December because there is not a place to open a business. When Rusty and I talked about the warehouse the utilities was one of the challenges we talked about."

"If he could get a credit or rebate that would help Rusty make this happen. It would help him make it more energy efficient and he could

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Removing underground tank



Employees of VanKirk working on the Goodland water project were running water lines and ran into a buried tank under the sidewalk at the Centennial Building at 10th and Main. They were going to remove the tank.

Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

March good time to prepare for severe weather

Kansans live with the threat of severe weather year round, but Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 7 to 11, is the ideal time to prepare for upcoming severe weather.

Families should practice their severe weather safety plan at home, work, school or other public locations they frequent, said

David Floyd, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at Goodland National Weather Service. Families should develop a safety plan for times when they are participating in outdoor recreation activities, sporting events, or working outdoors. Each Kansan should know where to go should severe weather strike their location, he said.

During Severe Weather Awareness Week, Floyd said, weather hazards and safety information will be discussed each day and disseminated on NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards, and displayed on the National Weather Service of Goodland web page www.crh.noaa.gov/gld/.

The highlight of the week, he said, is

the statewide tornado drill, when Weather Service offices around the state issue a test Tornado Warning through normal communication channels. The test warning will be at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, and will air on all radio and television broadcast stations

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City Primary Election Tuesday

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Tuesday the City of Goodland citizens cut one candidate off the city commissioner in a Primary Election at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall.

Advance voting for the city primary is open, and will continue through noon on Monday, at the Sherman County Clerk's office.

Seven people filed for the three city commission positions up for election on April 5, and the primary will cut the number of candidates to six.

Those filing include incumbents Dave Daniels and Annette Fairbanks. The other five include Chris Zimmerman, Gary Farris, Bill Finley, Jeff Deeds and Randy Topliff.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the primary election on Tuesday will be held at the Veterans of For-

eign Wars hall, and voters who live in the city will be eligible to vote.

When the General Election is held on Tuesday, April 5, voters from Kanorado, Goodland, the Goodland School District and Brewster School District residents of Sherman County will be eligible to vote for a variety of positions and the school board proposed bond issue.

The Goodland School Board has four positions up for election in April and six people filed for the seats.

Those filing are Incumbent board member Chuck Wilkens, and the five others include Mike Brannick, Teresa Sieck, Jessica Cole, Gennifer House and Diane Stiles.

School board incumbent members Jane Philbrick and John Hendrich did not file for re-election.

Positions open in Kanorado are for Mayor and City Council. Kano-

rado City Clerk Deb Fahey said current Mayor Dennis Korbelik filed and Allan Billenwillms filed for city council.

She said the city council has two seats up for election. Kanorado will have an open council seat, Fahey said, and unless there is a write-in the council will have to appoint a person to fill the second vacancy.

The General Election on Tuesday, April 5, will include the Goodland School District request for a bond issue for \$14.9 million to renovate North school into a K-6 facility and remodel the Goodland High school to be a 7-12 facility.

The Goodland School District Board has scheduled a public meeting on the building bond issue for 7 p.m. on Monday, at the high school auditorium as part of their regular monthly board meeting.

School bond issue meeting Monday

If you have questions about the facilities project that the Goodland School District would like to do come to their community meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday at the Goodland High School Auditorium.

A brief overview of the project will be given by Superintendent Shelly Angelos, Project Manager Cristy Joy of Architecture Etcetera at Lincoln, Neb. and Construction Manager Michael Ayars of Ayars and Ayars at Lincoln.

The school district will talk about its future plans for North Elementary School and Goodland High School. A \$14.9 million school bond will be on the ballot of the Tuesday, April 5, general election.

The district wants to renovate and enlarge North to handle all students in the pre kindergarten through sixth grade. That will include new heating and cooling, flooring and a storm shelter.

The high school would get new electrical equipment, heating and cooling and fire sprinklers.

Also included is a small remodel for the Administration Office at Central Elementary, demolition of unused existing facilities as necessary, asbestos abatement and information technology improvements in district facilities.

