

weather report

50°

noon
Monday



Today

• Sunset, 5:41 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:16 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:42 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 31 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds southwest 20 mph
- Barometer 30.11 inches and falling
- Record High today 77° (1967)
- Record Low today -11° (1922)

Last 24 Hours*

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| High Sunday | 42° |
| Low Sunday | 16° |
| Precipitation | none |
| This month | .42 |
| Year to date | .81 |
| Below Normal | .03 inches |

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near 57, winds out of the north at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 24. Wednesday: Mostly sunny with patchy fog before 11 a.m., a high near 53, winds out of the south-east at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 28.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of rain and snow at night, a high near 59 and a low around 29. Friday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain and snow, a high near 49 and a low around 21.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local markets

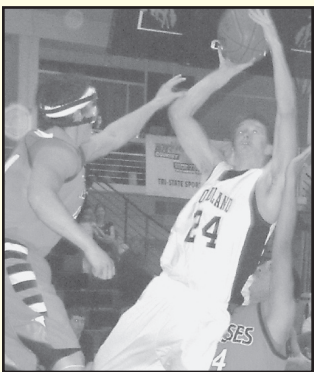
Noon

| |
|---------------------------------|
| Wheat — \$7.52 bushel |
| Posted county price — \$7.75 |
| Corn — \$6.42 bushel |
| Posted county price — \$6.62 |
| Milo — \$6.27 bushel |
| Soybeans — \$11.96 bushel |
| Posted county price — \$12.66 |
| Millet — \$5 hundredweight |
| Sunflowers |
| Oil current crop — \$30.40 cwt. |
| Confection — no bid |
| Pinto beans — \$18 |

(Markets by Scouler Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowboys play tonight

Cowboy Brock Wilkens shot over a Tiger on Friday in the final regular season game. The Cowboys plat at 6 p.m. tonight at Max Jones against the Monarchs. See story, photos on Page 11.

Energy program being studied

By Tom Betz

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The City continues to work in the Take Charge Challenge to reduce energy use with an eye to winning \$100,000 for the community, and have looked at the possibility of allowing home owners to improve their homes with the cost added on their monthly utility bill.

Nikkie Lee of Efficiency Kansas and Shauna Johnson, co-chair of the city Take Charge committee were at the city commission meeting on Monday to talk about the program.

Lee said the Take Charge Challenge is separate from the Efficiency Kansas program, but it is something people can take advantage of with an energy audit and that makes points for the Take Charge Challenge.

She said the program has been around since 2009, and provides an energy audit subsidy to make the cost \$100 for every homeowner in the state. She said some of the energy audits have cost \$300 to \$700 and the subsidized audit is to help throughout the state. She said

there are now more than 70 energy auditors who can make these inspections.

She said the state has a scholarship program for someone to become an energy auditor.

The loan program can be accessed by everyone, but currently the local lender is a bank in Colby.

Johnson said a presentation has been made to all of the Goodland banks about the loan program, but none have agreed to be a local lender partner at this time.

Johnson said the city was moving ahead with the Take Charge Challenge effort with a special business and education event planned for 8 a.m. today at the Goodland Elks Lodge. She said this will be the community event for March, and feels it will be a good mix of getting the young kids and business people involved.

On the loan program Lee said the agreement in front of the commission was to allow people to finance improvement through the city monthly utility bill. She said the city could be part of the program this way, and the

goal is to make cost effective improvements by the homeowners and not borrow more than they need.

She said on the utility bill it is a meter charge and paid through the monthly utility bill.

She said the program has 20 partner utilities so far, and include Larned, Garden City and others who have signed a memorandum of understanding. She said the program allows the people of each city to access the statewide pot of money and pay it back through the monthly bill.

She said the original amount came from the federal government, and that the money is to be used and then repaid so it can be reused again and again.

She said this is a revolving program, and something people may be able to use in the future as long as the money is available. She said that is part of what makes it different than the Take Charge Challenge that is over in October.

Lee said she was there to answer questions about the agreement.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked what

the staff thought about the program,

City Clerk Mary Volk said Shauna talked to the other cities and the question was how much time it would take for the paperwork.

"Honestly I think we are not going to be overwhelmed with 100 loans," she said. "I would expect maybe 10, and I don't think it would be a problem."

Volk said she had the city attorney look the agreement over, and there was one section they had a problem with about Buy American. She said the city has run into problems with the water program on that section.

She said Lee told her that does not apply in the energy case as the city is doing only residential homes an not commercial.

Commissioner John Garcia asked if the only investment the city was making was doing the paperwork.

Lee said a lot of work is done by her office as they oversee the project, do the auditor work and set up the programs.

"Essentially all the city is in this is the

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Mother Nature's winter tree decorations



The weather was chilly Saturday morning and Mother Nature had coated all the trees with a layer of frost to make the empty branches appear to have a coating of white. The white layer quickly disappeared when the sun came out about mid morning. The trees are east of the Khurt Ranch near the Kidder Massacre sight

north east of Goodland. The weather service says Mother Nature is going to warm things up this week with a chance of incoming weather with a chance of rain or snow on Thursday.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

City approves demolition of four residential structures

By Tom Betz

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The city commission has approved a contract to move forward on demolition of four dilapidated structures in the city.

The city approved a contract with Mike Yarger for \$28,900 for demolition of properties at 1015 Cherry Ave. (\$7,500), 214 N. Main Ave. (\$10,950), 1714 Montana Ave. (\$6,500), and 1505 Montana Ave. (\$5,500).

Fire Chief and Building Inspector Brian James said the owner of 214 N. Main did try to contact the city

manager, but return calls from the city went unanswered. He said the other three owners did not maintain any contact and have not done any work.

James said he has received return receipt on each one to know they each got their letter.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked what happens after the demolition.

James said the city will send the owner a bill for the demolition, but if they don't pay it goes on the tax roll as a lien.

Mayor Josh Dechant asked if anyone in the audience was present

to speak on any of the properties. No one answered.

Commissioner John Garcia asked about the owner who called and

when the last attempt was made to contact Doug Gerber, city manager.

City Clerk Mary Volk said he had

been in the past two weeks.

Rasure asked if this a program the

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Three Cowboys place at 3-2-1A tourney



Cowboy Seth Miller held onto Troy Bainter of Norton in the championship match at 130 pounds on Saturday. Miller lost a 5-0 decision to Bainter to finish second in the 3-2-1A State Championships held at Gross Memorial Coliseum. The Cowboys finished tied for 10th place. More photos and story on Page 12.

Photo by Traci Price-Waugh/The Goodland Star-News

City Primary Election today at VFW Hall

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

The polls opened at 7 a.m. and continue until 7 p.m. tonight for residents of the city to vote.

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.

The remaining six will be on the ballot on Tuesday, April 5, and the top two will win four-year terms and the third place person will get a two-year term.

