

**weather report**



**53°**  
noon  
Thursday

**Today**

- Sunset, 6:57 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 6:51 a.m.
- Sunset, 6:58 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil temperature 44 degrees
- Humidity 19 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds north 20-30 mph
- Barometer 30.01 inches and rising
- Record High today 88° (1907)
- Record Low today -5° (1896)

**Last 24 Hours\***

- High Wednesday 77°
- Low Wednesday 37°
- Precipitation none
- This month 0.42
- Year to date 1.23
- Below normal 0.24 inches

**The Topside Forecast**

Today: Mostly cloudy with patchy fog before noon, a high near 48, winds out of the east at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 27.  
Saturday: Partly sunny with a high near 54, winds out of the south at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 32.

**Extended Forecast**

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with a high near 67 and a low around 38. Monday: Partly sunny with a high near 65 and a low around 35. Tuesday: Partly sunny with a high near 61 and a low around 33.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**

**Noon**

- Wheat — \$6.97 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$6.83
  - Corn — \$5.69 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$6.08
  - Milo — \$5.56 bushel
  - Soybeans — \$11.78 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$12.29
  - Millet — \$5 hundredweight
  - Sunflowers
  - Oil current crop — \$29.50 cwt.
  - Confection — no bid
  - Pinto beans — \$18 (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 play today**

Coach Devlin Mull hit fly balls out to the outfield and grounders to the infield as part of the practice. The Cowboys open the baseball season at 3 p.m. today at Burlington. See photos, story on Page 12A.

## County sets mowing bid specs

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Sherman County commissioners are planning to open weed mowing bids at the last meeting in March, and Tuesday determined the starting date and plans for the single round of mowing for this summer.

Butch Vandiver, public works manager, said he is planning to have the bid proposal available at the County Clerk's office and sealed bids are to be turned in by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30. Plans are for the commissioners to open the bids at their meeting at 8 a.m. on Thursday, March 31.

Vandiver asked about adding minimum maintenance miles as part of the mowing contract, and said that would add 71 miles.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad asked how the minimum maintenance roads have been handled.

Vandiver said the county crew has mowed those on request. He said they have a request so far to mow seven miles of minimum maintenance.

Strnad said she felt they should leave the minimum maintenance on the request basis.

Vandiver said without the minimum maintenance the total would be 2,080 swath miles or 1,040 road miles to be mowed.

The commissioners are talking about one round of mowing this summer and Commissioner Max Linin asked how wide they can do on a single swath.

Vandiver said they will be asking for everything from the edge of the road out to the right of way.

Linin said he felt that would be more efficient than trying to take two swaths. The one would be 15 feet wide.

Vandiver said the hope is with the spraying program the weeds will be less and not require a second round of mowing.

Commissioner Larry Enfield said the mowing cost \$190,000 for two rounds of mowing and hopes with the spraying that would be less this year. He said that is why the commissioners are asking for bids to find out what the cost might be.

Vandiver said the county needs to set a starting and ending date for the mowing contract.

Linin said if it is a wet year the county road and bridge crew may have to go back and mow some places.

"We are prepared for that," Vandiver said. Enfield asked about insurance or bond requirements.

Vandiver said the contractor, Darrel Schrader, has carried insurance in past years.

Strnad said the insurance is to protect the county, but did not feel there was a bond.

Enfield said the state is going to start requiring projects to have a surety bond after July 1.

Strnad said the contractors need to work the insurance into their bids, but said she did not feel they could get a surety bond for mowing weeds.

Linin asked about trash the mowing contractor finds in the ditches.

Vandiver said they should call the road and bridge office and they will take care of

it. He said in past years Schrader's crew has brought tires found in the ditches to the road and bridge office.

He said he feels spraying program is going to help, but roads that don't get sprayed are going to be tough to mow.

"Mother Nature will let us know if the spraying is working," he said.

He said the spraying program should start this week, and they will be doing a pre-emergent round of chemicals.

Linin asked if the crew has done any seeding of grasses.

Vandiver said they have seeded grass on County Road 77 between County Road 13 and 14.

Linin asked if the crew was going to do more seeding this spring.

Vandiver said not this year, but try to do some more in the fall.

On the question of a starting date Linin called Schrader to see when he started last

See BIDS, Page 5A

## Registration closes Monday for election

Registration to vote in the April 5 election closes on Monday said Sherman County Election official Mary Ann Snethen, and advance and early voting will begin on Tuesday at the county clerk's office during regular office hours.

Snethen said the clerk's office is mailing out the advance ballots beginning this week, and will be open for early voting beginning on Tuesday. Advance and early voting will be open until Monday, April 4.

The ballot for the General Election will include the city commissioners plus voters from Kanorado, the Goodland School District and Brewster School District residents of Sherman County will be eligible to vote for a council and board positions and the Goodland school board proposed bond issue.

The top six city commissioner candidates will be on the General Election ballot. In the Primary Election held on March 1, incumbent Annette Fairbanks topped the list with 279 votes, Chris Zimmerman second with 263, Bill Finley third 252, Jeff Deeds fourth 236, Gary Farris fifth 227, and Dave Daniels sixth 220. The top three on April 5 will be elected with the top two winning four-year terms and the third will win a two-year term.

Goodland School District has filed for voter approval of a bond

issue for \$14.9 million to renovate North school into a K-6 facility and upgrade the Goodland High school to be a 7-12 facility. The bond issue is for 20 years and would raise property taxes about 12.6 mills in the school district to pay for the capital improvements.

The Goodland School Board has four board positions up for election in April and six people are candidates for the seats with the top three winning four-year terms.

Those running 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. School Board members Gary Slough, Mike Cochran and Amy Sederstrom are the holdovers with two more years on their terms.

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

## School district staff finding ways to cut

By Pat Schiefen

pjschiefen@nwkansas.com

Superintendent Shelly Angelos said she would start having budget meetings with the Goodland School District staff to talk about areas to economize. She said everyone is expecting the base state aid per student equivalency to be cut another \$157 from \$3937 to \$3780. That would give the district \$148,180 less in its operating budge from this year's \$6,428,727 to \$6,172,362 for next year.

Superintendent Angelos said that the district has three areas they can cut facilities, programs and personnel. Cutting costs in facilities is tied to the School Bond election on Tuesday, April 5. Programs includes activities such as sports and science olympiad; pre-school; all day kindergarten; special services such as Title reading programs, special education and english as a second language; student services such as counseling and credit recovery, alternative education such as the Goodland Learning Center; course

offerings, food service, maintenance and transportation.

She said where do you start to cut sports and activities. Most of those cuts would not involve large amounts of money.

Cutting pre-school to students who need it would impact the district with more students needing more help to achieve expectations from No Child Left Behind when they started school, Superintendent Angelos said.

Kindergarten could be cut back to a half-day again making school harder for them.

She said cutting special services would involve losing funding from federal sources.

Help given to the students for credit recovery could be cut but that would impact the number of kids dropping out of high school and the district meeting Annual Yearly Progress, she said.

Relocating alternative education onto school grounds could cause

See CUTS, Page 5A

**School bond committee informational meetings Monday at 3 or 5:15 p.m. at VFW Hall**

## Giant painting attracts visitors



Nearly every day someone stops at the giant VanGogh painting on Business U.S. 24, and takes photos. On Thursday Mindy Melia (seated taking photo) took time to visit the painting with her friend Peggy McAlister of Denver. Melia, who lives in Denver, said she had been telling her friend Peggy about Goodland and the giant painting and the two made a trip to visit her parents and get first hand look at the giant painting they said can be seen from I-70 especially at night.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

