

## weather report



**31°**

10:30 a.m.  
Thursday

### Today

• Sunset, 4:23 p.m.

### Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:56 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 33 degrees

• Humidity 69 percent

• Sky mostly cloudy

• Winds northwest 8 mph

• Barometer 30.11 inches

and steady

• Record High today 76° (1939)

• Record Low today -23° (1919)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday 40°

Low Wednesday 17°

Precipitation none

This month 0.34

Year to date 19.26

Below normal 0.05 inches

### The Topside Forecast

Today: Patchy freezing fog before 11 a.m. and then sunny with a high near 31, winds out of the north at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 12. Saturday: Sunny with a high near 42, winds out of the southwest at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 17.

### Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny with a high near 38 and a low around 17. Monday: Sunny with a high near 35 and a low around 16. Tuesday: Sunny with a high near 37 and a low around 23. Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of rain or snow and a high near 43.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

## local markets



### 10:30 a.m.

Wheat — \$6.11 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.21

Corn — \$5.81 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.68

Milo — \$5.52 bushel

Soybeans — \$10 bushel

Posted county price — \$10.68

Millet — \$11.50 hundred-weight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$28.45 cwt.

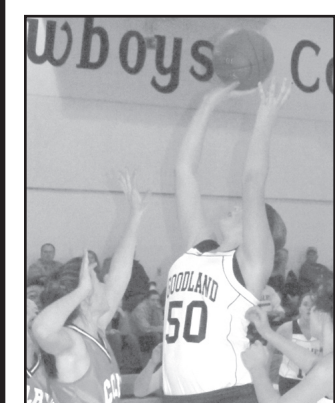
Confection — no bid

Pinto beans — \$28 (new crop)

(Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean.)

## inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



## Mustangs lose to Colby

Lady Mustang Kyndell King shot over the arms of the Colby Lady Eagles during the game last Thursday. Colby pulled out a 34-25 win. See story and photo on Page 8A.

# Fire consolidation draft reviewed

By Tom Betz

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City commissioners Monday evening discussed a third draft of the proposed agreement between the city and the Sherman County Rural Fire Board for consolidation of the two fire departments.

Commissioners agreed the new draft addressed some questions and had some clearer language. The commissioners agreed to have the draft taken to the rural fire board for their input and then be given to the attorneys for their review if there were not more major changes to be made.

City Manager Doug Gerber said this was another draft of an agreement, and was asking the commissioners if they saw things that need to be added or changed.

He handed the commissioners an estimated breakdown of the current fire department costs and what the consolidation would mean

for the city budget.

Gerber said his figures were approximations and would be more specific as the actual decision gets closer.

The information estimates the city fire department budget at \$120,000, but Gerber said he rounded it up a bit to make the math easier.

The city gets about \$25,000 per mil of property tax, and the \$120,000 would be about 4.8 mils.

The proposed consolidation agreement would have the city pay the rural fire board about 3 mils or about \$75,000.

Gerber said that would cover the salary costs both for the full-time position on the volunteer firemen.

The city would have about \$45,000 left in the budget, and felt this could partially fund a replacement building inspector. He said the city budget has \$27,000 in the building

inspector budget for salary.

The estimated insurance savings is about \$5,000.

Gerber asked the commissioners to consider their intent in the discussion with one of three options to be considered. The main option is consolidation, he said. A second option is to keep the separate departments and work for better cooperation as is being done at this time with Chief Brian James working as both the city Fire Chief and Chief of the Goodland Rural Fire Department. The third option, Gerber said, was to do nothing, but felt that was not the best way to proceed, but needs to be considered.

Mayor John Garcia asked if the rural fire board has seen the second draft.

Chief James said they had seen it. He was sorry none of the fire board were present. James said the fire board understood the three mill property tax levy was a question.

He said they might find a way to do away with the property tax levy and do some sort of countywide fire tax. He said he did not want to speak for them, but knew they were continuing their discussion about consolidation of the two departments.

Gerber said he did not reach out the fire board with the latest draft.

Commissioner Chris Zimmerman said he knew the fire board was meeting in Brewster to talk about the situation there.

Gerber said he knew one of the main concerns is loss of control of the financial aspect. He said he felt the city would not lose the specific language in the agreement, especially in the area of the property tax levy. He said it is changed through a countywide tax it might help alleviate the concern.

Commissioner Bill Finley said ownership

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## Meeting on mail in Colby Monday

By Tom Betz

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U.S. Postal Service representatives will be in Colby at 5 p.m. (Mountain Time) in room 108 of the Colby Community College student union to talk about where they might send northwest Kansas mail to be sorted.

The service has been conducting a study on moving Colby's mail processing to Denver. The Colby study was one of more than 200 studies looking at mail processing across the country. The service is looking to consolidate Salina, Hutchinson, Hays and Dodge City into Wichita; Liberal into Amarillo, Texas; and Topeka into Kansas City, Mo.

The service is required by law to hold public meetings to share study findings and record public comments.

The service announced this study in September, just days before moving all of Colby's mail processing to Salina. If the Salina processing facility is closed, Colby's mail would need somewhere else to go.

Information posted on the U.S. Postal Service web site (usps.com) indicates moving processing to Denver would save \$28,426 per year, with another \$323 of maintenance savings. The transportation costs, however, would be \$14,337, making for a net savings of \$14,412. The facility would lose one job. Employee reassignments have to be made according to the collective bargaining agreements the service has with its employee unions.

If implemented, the move to Denver could mean two to three day service for First Class mail. The main reason for considering moving the Colby area mail to Denver is time and distance. When the processing was consolidated to Salina the distance was about 200 miles from Colby. Moving the mail to Wichita would add nearly 88 miles, but the

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A musical trio of Christopher Berls, Bryson West and Luke Hamilton (above) rocked and danced to start off the Central Elementary School's music program Tuesday night at the Goodland High School Auditorium. A whole row of Santas (left) showed off their disco moves in another number. Also making an appearance was the the grinch played by Talon Corke.  
Photos by Pat Schiefen  
The Goodland Star-News

## Fifth grade rocks at winter program

By Pat Schiefen

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The fifth grade rocked through their winter program on Tuesday night at the Goodland High School auditorium.

A whole troop of Santa discoed their way through a song. Even the Grinch, played by Talon Corke, made an appearance as well as a Who, played by Leona Anderson, who chased him around with a can of air freshener. A trio of Christopher Berls, Bryson West and Luke Hamilton sang and danced through the opening number.

Anthor trio of Jade Artzer, Joseph Tompkins and Robert Lawson also did a number. Mikenna Hanevik read a Christmas poem.

Music teacher Char Avila directed the effort by the fifth graders.

Paula Fisher's class is John Baeza III, Dalton Belshe, Zekke Beringer, Julian Bussone, Katelynn Frazier, Michael Gensheer, Austin Hahn, Hamilton, Hanevik, Hunter Helton, Lawson, Sabrina Mendoza, Landon Reicks, Benjamin Roeder, Rosa Sandoval, Kassandra Scott, Peri Sieck, Tompkins, Anthony Urban and Jayden Vallejo.

Members of Myron Tedford's class are Artzer, Danielle Black, Norbert Cano, Kegan Dawdy, Jaquelin Diaz, Michael Garner, Grace Greene, Tyler Horacek, Garin Ihrig, Jack King, Duncan Kroskey, Bramalette Perryman, Desmond Purvis, Mark Rodriguez, Sean Sains, Teresa Schaffer, Crystal Sharon, Kaitlin Thompson, Ryan Volk, Tavis Vrbka and Ethan Wolk.

Rachel Stasser's class is Anderson, Berls, Emanuel Briones, Ashley Brown, Corke, Logan Cross, Jessi Duell, Isaiah Flower, Kaylee Gill-Shaw, Zachery Hunter, Ella Ihrig, Chase Johnson, Taitem Ketter, Ryan Lalicker, Sada Mills, Josue Renteria, Madison Studer, Seth Warren, West and Jerrijohn Xarhis.

# Christmas on Us ticket numbers inside today

Five people can be instant winners in the Christmas on Us merchant drawing if their ticket number

matches any of the numbers printed in the special merchant ads in today's The Goodland Star-News.

People need to check the numbers of the tickets they have received from the participating merchants and compare them to the ones in the ads in today's Star-News.

A total of five instant winners of \$50 have collected their prize so far with five more instant prizes to be given out before the grand prize drawing at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 20, for \$1,000 and second place of \$500. The grand prize drawing will be held on 12th

Street across from the Sherman Theater.

Karen Gillihan, Goodland librarian, was the fifth \$50 instant winner claiming her prize on Tuesday. Gillihan got her Christmas on Us ticket from Gambino's.

Instant winners have until noon on Wednesday following the publication on each Friday to collect their prize at the Star-News office at 1205 Main.

The fourth set of instant winner numbers are printed in the Christmas on Us merchant ads in today's Star-News.

Participating businesses are: Garcia's Home Furnishings and Appliance, Elliott's, Cowboy Cor-

ner Express, Jacque's Hallmark, Olde Westport Trading Company, Cochran Farm Supply, Gambino's Pizza, Casey's General Store and the Star-News.

Participating businesses will hand out one ticket for every \$1 up to \$10 a customer spends, and one additional ticket for any portion over \$10 and for every \$10 over with a limit of 250 tickets per transaction.

If you ask at the Star-News office, we'll give you one free ticket each week. No purchase is required to win. If you buy a newspaper at the same time we will give you another ticket.

The customer takes half of each ticket and the other side is dropped into gift-wrapped collection boxes, which are emptied once a week into a large barrel. The Star-News staff

will pick tickets each week and hide the winning numbers in "Christmas on Us" advertisements, which will run on Friday.

Winners have four days after the numbers are printed - until noon each Wednesday - to bring their tickets to the Star-News office, 1205 Main, and collect \$50 in scrip, which can be spent at participating businesses.

All 10 of the \$50 instant prizes will be given out during the contest, for a total of \$500. Winning numbers appear in ads, which means shoppers have a chance to win with the prizes given out on a first come basis until all the instant prizes are gone. Numbers will appear in today's edition and on Friday, Dec. 16. All of the \$50 instant winners will be given out during the month.

The grand prize drawing for \$1,000 and second prize for \$500 will be held at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 20, on 12th Street across from the Sherman Theater.

It's simple enough, but there are a few rules.

- You must be 18 to participate.
- Employees of participating businesses are not eligible at their workplace, but can collect tickets from other sponsors. Star-News employees and their immediate family are not eligible.
- All prizes will be awarded in scrip, which can be spent only at participating businesses.
- The last day to collect tickets is Monday, Dec. 19.
- Winners must be present at the grand prize drawing and be able to show their winning ticket.

