

weather report

32°

10:30 a.m.
Monday

Today

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.
Wednesday
• Sunrise, 6:59 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 72 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds north 9 mph
- Barometer 30.09 inches and falling
- Record High today 74° (1988)
- Record Low today -9° (1963)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	35°
Low Sunday	14°
Precipitation	none
This month	0.34
Year to date	19.26
Below Normal	-.12 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of freezing rain before 11 a.m. and then rain, a high near 35, winds out of the south at 5 mph and a low around 26. Wednesday: Partly sunny with a high near 43, winds out of the northwest at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 23.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Sunny with a high near 39 and a low around 19. Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 36 and a low around 17. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 38 and a low around 21.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

10:30 a.m.

Wheat — \$6.08 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.57
Corn — \$5.82 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.74
Milo — \$5.53 bushel
Soybeans — \$9.72 bushel
Posted county price — \$10.55
Millet — \$11.50 hundred-weight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$28.15 cwt.
Confection — no bid
Pinto beans — \$28
(Markets by Scoular 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 finish third

Cowboy Ryan Hillmer shot over the hands of the Weskan Coyotes in the opening game. The Cowboys finished third at Topside Tip-Off winning two of three. See photos, story on Page 10A.



Cyclones win titles, set records

By Tom Betz

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The 23rd Annual Topside Tip-Off championships on Saturday saw the Ottawa Cyclones sweep with the boys winning their fifth straight title and the Lady Cyclones winning their fourth straight championship.

The Cyclones defeated McCook in the championship game for the fourth straight time winning 72-49 on Saturday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The Lady Cyclones defeated the Burlington Lady Cougars 48-37 in the championship for the second year.

On their way to the boys championship the Cyclones had a player set two Topside tournament records. Cyclone junior Semi Ojeleye, 6'7", set the record for the most points by a player in a game hitting 45 in the championship game against McCook, and the most points by a player in the three games with 109 points.

Ojeleye beat the individual game record of 40 points held by three players Adam Braxmeyer of Atwood in 1992, Todd Okeson of Weskan in 1998 and Tate Andrews of Wallace County in 2009. Ojeleye beat the 90 points scored by Josh Reid of Brewster in 1995.

In the championship game Ojeleye broke the tournament scoring record in the second quarter. Coming into the championship Ojeleye needed 26 points to tie the tournament record of 90 points. He got 10 points in the first quarter and 19 in the second quarter. To break the individual game record Ojeleye had 11 points in the third quarter and five points in the fourth quarter. For his 45 points Ojeleye had two three-point baskets 12 field goals and was 15 of 15 free throws.

Ottawa followed the scoring of Ojeleye to defeat the McCook Bison 72-49 for their fifth straight tournament title and eighth of the past 10 years. Ottawa defeated McCook in the championship game last year.

When the game started the Cyclones were feeding the ball to Ojeleye who scored 10 of the 12 points in the first quarter including six free throws and two field goals. Ottawa led 12-9 after the first with Bison Cody Wudtke scoring six of the nine and Bison Matt Chitwood putting in a three-point basket to keep it close.

Ottawa took control in the second quarter outscoring McCook 25-11 to lead 37-20 at halftime. McCook had two three-point baskets from Kyle Gaston and a three-point basket from Sean Backer and a field goal by Wudtke. Ojeleye had six free throws four field goals and two three-point baskets in the second with a field goal by Cyclone Alex Hasty, Dallas Natt and James Peoples.

Ottawa outscored the Bison 23-18 in the



Ottawa Cyclone junior Semi Ojeleye drove through the McCook Bison for one of his baskets in the Topside Tip-Off boys championship game on Saturday. Ojeleye set scoring records for the game with 45 points in the Cyclone win 72-49 and 109 points for the tournament.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

third quarter to lead 60-38. Once Ojeleye had broken the records he allowed his team mates to carry the load scoring 10 in the third and five in the fourth. The Cyclones scored 12 in the fourth to 11 by the Bison for the 72-49 win.

Ottawa won the team free throw award

making 69 percent making 45 of 65. The Ottawa fans and cheerleaders won the Spirit Award.

Following the game and presentation of medals Ojeleye stayed around to autograph programs and have his photo taken with lots

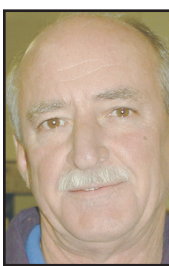
Three claim instant prizes in Christmas on Us

More winners have come forward to claim their \$50 instant prize in the Christmas on Us merchants drawing sponsored by the Goodland merchants and *The Goodland Star-News* with the final chance to win coming a week from today.

Two \$50 instant prizes remain available and people can be instant winners in the Christmas on Us merchant drawing if their ticket number match any of the numbers printed in the special merchant ads in Friday'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 eight instant winners of \$50 have collected their prize so



Cummings



Whittington



Finnesy

far with three 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.

Greg Whittington was the sixth \$50 winner and got his ticket from Garcia's Home Furnishings and

Appliance. Roy Cummings was the seventh instant winner and he got his ticket at Jacques's Hallmark. Both collected their prizes on Friday. Dee Finnesy was the eighth collecting his prize Monday morning. Finnesy got his ticket at Casey's General Store.

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

The last set of instant winner numbers will be printed in the

Christmas on Us merchant ads in Friday's *Star-News*.

Participating businesses are: Garcia's Home Furnishings and Appliance, Elliott's, Cowboy Corner Express, Jacques'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 num-

See TICKETS, Page 5

Representative wants state to help pay moving costs

By Kevin Bottrell

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State Rep. Rick Billinger has an idea: pay moving expenses for people to move from eastern Kansas to western Kansas to fill the available jobs.

Billinger told a small group of citizens and Colby officials Tuesday he plans to propose the idea to Gov. Sam Brownback. Unemployment is low in western Kansas but jobs are available, he said, so the state could offer incentives for people to move from eastern Kansas where unemployment is high.

The Kansas Department of Labor's October report says unemployment in Thomas County is 3.7 percent, while Johnson County is at 5.9 percent; Leavenworth, 7.9; and Wyandotte, 9.5.

This would bring more families to the smaller Kansas towns, boosting

school enrollment. Billinger said he intends to sell the idea to the governor as a way to build on the Rural Opportunity Zone program approved last year.

However, he said, one problem with the plan is how many people are living perfectly well on welfare.

"It's way too easy to live on welfare," he said.

Billinger said Social and Rehabilitative Services Director Robert Siedlecki is proposing the state require welfare recipients to perform 30 hours of community service. This would require people on welfare to give back to their communities, he said, and many would choose to go find a job rather than do the community service.

Billinger said he is focusing a lot of energy on the economy. Several people asked him about the proposal

to end the income tax, and how the state could pay for things like education with less money coming in.

"What I've heard is we're going to work to drop that down the road," he said, "not until we get this KPERs issue behind us. The proposal now is to go to more of a flat tax with two tiers."

The Kansas Public Employees Retirement System has an estimated \$8.3 billion gap between expected revenues and the benefits promised on existing plans through 2033. Billinger said the current proposal is to move to a 401(k) style retirement fund for new employees, while current employees would keep their plans. The state will likely be increasing its contributions and may ask for concessions from workers.

Another economic issue the state may face is federal budget cuts. Billinger said when the session

starts he wants to get a break down of all the federal money Kansas is getting and where it's going to. With the federal government being forced to make cuts, Kansas could easily lose a lot of funding, he said, and the state needs to plan for how it will cope.

Billinger told the gathering he is concerned about Environmental Protection Agency regulations on power plants. Some utilities have said they are looking at rolling blackouts in some areas, he said, if they can't get the agency to back off.

Colby City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the city has been asking all public officials to help pursue an exemption for power plants like the one in Colby that operate less than 100 hours a year.

When asked about property taxes, Billinger said because farm valua-

tion is based on an eight-year average, the taxes fluctuate based on how good the crops were. Valuation is increasing because the average is now including some good years. However, he said, the price of farmland at auction is increasing much faster.

"I hope it doesn't go to high," he said. "Someday that bubble's going to burst."

A lot of the high-priced farmland is going to out-of-state buyers

Billinger said he had been to both of the post office closing meetings in Sherman County. Closing post offices is a hardship for older people and rural communities, he said, and because the offices are so small the cost savings are minimal. He said he had spoken to the governor about post offices about a month ago.