

weather report



24°

10:30 a.m.
Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 4:29 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 7:05 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:29 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 34 degrees

• Humidity 84 percent

• Sky cloudy

• Winds north 20-25 mph

• Barometer 30.34 inches

and rising

• Record High today 83° (1964)

• Record Low today -9° (2004)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 49°

Low Wednesday 22°

Precipitation 0.07

This month 0.35

Year to date 19.27

Below normal 0.25 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near 40, winds out of the west at 10 mph and a low around 13. Saturday:

Sunny with a high near 45, winds out of the northwest at 10-15 mph and a low around 15.

Extended Forecast

Christmas: Sunny with a high near 43 and a low around 23.

Monday: Sunny with a high near 46 and a low around 24. Tuesday:

Sunny with a high near 43 and a low around 23.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local markets



10:30 a.m.

Wheat — \$6.29 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.02

Corn — \$6.04 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.76

Milo — \$5.75 bushel

Soybeans — \$10.31 bushel

Posted county price — \$10.77

Millet — \$11.50 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$23.30 cwt.

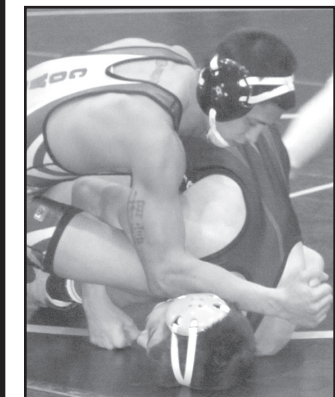
Confection — no bid

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, views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowboys get dual win

Cowboys finished second in the Holiday Classic and won a dual with Baca County, 39-24, Cowboy senior Austin Avelar won by fall over freshman Luke Loflin. See photos, story on Page 9.

Two men win \$1,500 in prizes

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

The sky was clear and the temperature near 40 degrees Tuesday afternoon when a crowd of more than 200 gathered at Central Elementary for the Christmas on Us grand prize drawing.

Winning the \$500 second prize was Jerry Kirkpatrick, and winning the \$1,000 grand prize was J.J. Howard. Both men had collected their winning tickets at Casey's General Store.

Danielle Black who is in fifth grade at Central Elementary and Makai Fredericks who is in first grade at West Elementary helped stir the tub of 24,000 tickets and drew the winning tickets.

Fredericks pulled out the first ticket, but the person was not present within the three minutes allowed.

Black drew the second ticket which was quickly recognized by Kirkpatrick for the \$500.

Fredericks drew the third ticket that belonged to Howard.

The whole process was over in under 15 minutes.

Kirkpatrick and Howard said the scrip money would help their Christmas shopping.

"The Christmas on Us is a great community program helping keep more than \$35,000 in Goodland," said Editor Tom Betz of The Goodland Star-News. "The program is a great way to keep money in town and give people back money with the instant prizes and grand prizes to let them go back and support the participating merchants."

A total of 10 instant winners each collected \$50 as part of the four-week program.

Participating merchants included Olde Westport Trading Company, Jacque's Hallmark, Garcia's Home Furnishing and Appliance, Casey's General Store, Elliott's, Cowboy Corner Xpress, Gambino's, Cochran Farm Supply and the Star-News.



Christmas on Us \$500 winner on Tuesday was Jerry Kirkpatrick (above left) who found his winning ticket to show Tom Betz and Sheila Smith of The Goodland Star-News. Kirkpatrick had gotten at Casey's General Store.

Christmas on Us grand prize winner of \$1,000 was J.J. Howard (above right) showing his winning ticket to Smith. Howard had gotten his winning ticket at Casey's General Store. Danielle Black (right photo) and Makai Fredericks were the helpers who stirred the 24,000 tickets and then drew out the winning tickets. Black drew the \$500 winner and Fredericks drew the \$1,000 winner. The drawing was held in front of Central Elementary.

Photos by Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News



Refinancing bonds could save \$1 million

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Based on revised sales tax projections Sherman County commissioners learned on Tuesday refinancing the bonds could save taxpayers about \$1 million and pay the bonds off at least three years earlier than originally scheduled.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad and Commissioner Larry Enfield talked to Dustin Avey senior vice president of Piper Jaffray of Leawood, about the possible favorable result of refinancing the sales tax bonds issued in 2006 for the combined city and county street and road projects.

Avey sent the commissioners preliminary refinancing analysis showing an estimated savings of \$1,008,274, and reducing the final maturity to July 2022 rather than the current Jan. 1, 2025.

Strnad made a motion second by Enfield to proceed with the refinancing.

Avey said he would get the authorizing resolution ready for the refinancing bond sale for the commission meeting on Friday, Dec. 30.

Avey's figures showed the county has about \$1.5 million of excess sales tax income in the bond fund. He was suggesting in the refinancing to use all or part of that to reduce the outstanding amount of bonds and the ad-

ditional savings would come from a reduction of about 2 percent in interest cost.

Strnad and Enfield suggested using \$1.3 of the current excess to reduce the bond amount and leave a small cushion in the sales tax fund.

Avey said the current interest rate on the bonds is 4.21 percent and the true interest cost is 2.2 percent. His estimate is a savings of 5.73 percent over the life of the bonds.

He said with the refinancing the county could sunset the 1 percent sales tax in 2020 based on the current sales tax collection projections.

The sales tax cash flow analysis Avey provided shows with a 1 percent estimated growth over the next nine years the fund would have about \$1.4 million in the excess balance and would be able to pay the last of the bonds off at that time. That would actually be five years ahead of the scheduled payoff in 2025.

When the sales tax was proposed and approved by voters in 2006 the projections were the sales tax would bring in about \$1 million a year to pay the bonds.

Avey said except for one year the sales tax collections have been above the estimates and allowed the county to reach the point where refinancing is a good option.

Avey said once the commissioners approve

the authorizing resolution he can get the calendar set to have the refinanced bonds ready by the end of January.

Strnad said it looked like a good program for the county to be able to show this type of progress.

Enfield asked County Clerk Janet Rumpel if any of the \$350,000 the county got back from the Kansas Department of Transportation last month could be used to do crack sealing on old U.S. 24.

Rumpel said the money was available for such a project.

Enfield said he felt getting the crack sealing done this winter was important because the cracks will be at their widest from contracting in the cold temperatures.

In other business the commissioners:

- Signed an agreement with Brian Rippe for a water line extension north of the county shop. The agreement holds the county harmless if any underground utilities are hit while the water line is being put underground.

- Spoke to Brock Abbey, who has been appointed temporary County Attorney by District Judge Glenn Schiffrer after the retirement of County Attorney Bonnie Selby effective on Friday.

The commissioners approved an agreement with Selby to assist Abbey for a maximum of four months.

The Sherman County Republican Central Committee will be meeting in the near future to nominate a county attorney to be appointed by the governor. Abbey said he is hoping the central committee will select him to be the nominee. The county attorney position will be up for election in the General Election in November.

- Approved a resolution establishing a new 911 fund. Crissy Livengood, central dispatch director, said the new resolution is because the monthly rate on the 911 was raised to 53 cents. She said the new resolution will replace the current one that is at 50 cents a month for 911.

Livengood said two dispatchers went to emergency management training to be a team leader for the regional dispatch emergency team. She said the dispatchers could be called to go to a scene in a surrounding county, and each is encouraged to have a personal emergency equipment package. She had a list of things to be in the packages and estimated the cost at \$500 each, and asked about any money to help with this.

Enfield asked if it is something that could be taken out of the 911 fund.

Livengood said that money is for processing the 911 calls. She said she has money in

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City awarded airport projects

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Goodland has received notice of approval from the state Department of Transportation of two apron projects at the municipal airport as part of the Kansas Airport Improvement Program commissioners heard on Monday.

A letter from Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller, who recently resigned her position, said the two projects were to reconstruct the barrel hangar apron and the T-hangar apron.

"The competition for the 2013 funds was fierce," Miller's letter said. "We received 109 applications representing over \$32 million in total project costs."

The apron projects for the Goodland airport are two of 28 projects

selected, Miller said.

City Manager Doug Gerber said the state money will be available in July, but said he was not sure the construction will be one this year or possibly the next spring.

The state has awarded the city a maximum of \$112,500 for the barrel hangar apron reconstruction and \$315,000 for the T-hangar apron reconstruction.

Gerber said the state money is approximately 75 percent of the total project cost. The state will cover the construction and construction engineering. The city will pay approximately 25 percent of the construction costs plus the preliminary engineering.

Total cost for the barrel hangar apron project is estimated at \$140,625 plus engineering and the

T-hangar apron cost is estimated at \$393,750 plus engineering.

Gerber said this is good news, and will help improve the airport for those who rent the hangar space and use the barrel hangar.

The commissioners met for their last meeting of the year, and wrapped things up in quick fashion in about 20 minutes.

Under the consent agenda the commissioners approved reappointment of Christie Rasure to the Tree Board and approved the annual contract with Sherman County for \$25,000 for the Goodland Public Library.

Mayor John Garcia asked about the payment on the water project completed in the summer. Garcia

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Offices close Monday for Christmas, New Year

Federal, state, county, city, banks and the Post Office will be closed on Monday for Christmas and for many again on Monday, Jan. 2 for New Years.

The Goodland Star-News will be closed on Monday for the next two weeks, but will be open on Tuesday. The mid-week newspaper will be a day late being delivered on Wednesday for the next two weeks.

The Sherman County transfer station will be closed Saturday, Sunday and Monday for Christmas and again for New Years.

First National Bank, Bankwest of Kansas and People's State Bank will be closed on both Mondays, but Western State Bank will be closed on Monday for Christmas but open on Monday, Jan. 2. Bankwest will be closing at noon today.

With Christmas and New Year being on Sunday the government offices will take the Monday off for the holiday.

The City commission meeting first meeting of the year will be 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

The Sherman County commissioners first meeting of the year will be at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 10.

