


## weather report



**Today**  
• Sunset, 5:17 p.m.

**Saturday**  
• Sunrise, 6:44 a.m.  
• Sunset, 5:19 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**  
• Soil temperature 33 degrees  
• Humidity 69 percent  
• Sky cloudy  
• Winds west 9 mph  
• Barometer 30.13 inches and falling

• Record High today 76° (1962)  
• Record Low today -17° (1981)

**Last 24 Hours\***  
High Wednesday 32°  
Low Wednesday 19°  
Precipitation none  
This month .28  
Year to date .37  
Below Normal .13 inches

**The Topside Forecast**  
Today: Increasing cloudy with patchy freezing fog after 8 p.m. and a 40 percent chance of snow and freezing drizzle before 11 p.m. and then snow, a high near 33, winds out of the north at 5 to 10 mph changing to the east and a low around 8. Saturday: Patchy freezing fog before 11 a.m. and then changing to cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow, a high near 20, winds out of the southeast at 10 mph and a low around 14.

**Extended Forecast**  
Sunday: Mostly cloud and breezy with a 20 percent chance of snow, a high near 33.  
(National Weather Service)

# Commission backs fire contract

By Kevin Bottrell

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The Goodland City Commission decided by consensus on Monday to pursue a contract with Sherman County to provide fire protection service, but opinions remain divided over contract versus consolidation.

City Manager Doug Gerber said he felt the issue had come to a point where the commission needed to come to a consensus and then vote. Mayor John Garcia said one of the things the commission had to decide is whether to go with full consolidation, which would create a new fire district and a fire board to run

it, or a contract for services, under which the county would pay the city to run fire protection for both.

City Attorney Jerry Fairbanks was at the meeting to talk about two state statutes under which the city and county can consolidate fire protection. Fairbanks said there are essential two statutes under which the county and city could consolidate fire services, and each has different requirements, but the city and county can write in various provisions into the agreement, such as taxation and representation.

"You can do pretty much what you want as long as you and the county agree on it,"

he said.

Commissioner Chris Zimmerman, who has supported consolidation, said he's been talking to current Rural Fire Board members, who say they don't think a fire district would have to exceed five mills, especially since city and county would be pooling equipment.

Fairbanks said under one statute, the agreement is required to contain some sort of exit strategy. Zimmerman suggested a three-year review period, after which the city and county would decide whether to keep things consolidated or go back to the current structure.

Commissioner Bill Finley said for him

the issue keeps coming back to the cost. He asked Gerber if there was a way to research how much a consolidation would cost or save. Gerber said there's no way to definitively predict costs or savings. Fire Chief Brian James said there are no similar consolidations that could be looked at for comparison. Thomas County contracts with the city of Colby for fire service, Burlington and Kit Carson County have always had just one fire department and Greeley County consolidated all city and county government.

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# Guard captain 'excited' to deploy

By Kevin Bottrell

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Former Goodland resident Capt. Scott Weber says he's excited to be commanding the Kansas Army National Guard's 170th Maintenance Company as it prepares for deployment to southwest Asia.

The 170th is based at the army in Norton and includes the army in Colby. The Goodland army was a part of the unit before it was closed down in March, 2010. The unit includes people from all over northwest Kansas, including two current Goodland residents. Weber was born and raised here. He moved in 2006 after becoming a full-time National Guardsman.

The 170th is about half veteran soldiers who have been deployed before, Weber said, and half younger soldiers. Some unit members were around when the unit was last deployed 20 years ago in Operation Desert Storm. Both groups are highly motivated, he said.

"The troops are extremely motivated," he said. "That makes it easier from a command perspective."

Weber said 170th had been set for deployment several years ago, but did not end up going overseas. When it was deployed in February, 1991, the unit acted in support and maintenance roles for Army units during the fighting in Kuwait and helped with repair, cleanup and inspection after.

This will be Weber's first deployment, something he describes as an exciting prospect.

"It's my turn," he said.

Weber said the 170th has been



# Honor society inducts members


Thirteen new members were inducted into the National Honor Society on Tuesday at Goodland High School. New members are Chantel Coates, Cortney Cowan, Brendan Fulcher, Chloe Goodwin, Rachel Hageman, Gunner Helton, Jeffrey House, Tanner Jones, Brooke Lockhart, Carly McCracken, Shayley Miller, Cy Paxton and Sloan Ruhs. Each new member got a pin and a rose, and got to choose who would put on the pin and receive the rose. Membership in the National Honor Society is based in part on grade point average, requiring a 3.5 or higher. Students must also go through an application and interview, during which faculty judge them on leadership, service and character.

Photos by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News



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## local markets



**10:30 a.m.**  
Wheat — \$6.62 bushel  
Posted county price — \$6.64  
Corn — \$6.22 bushel  
Posted county price — \$6.31  
Milo — \$5.94 bushel  
Soybeans — \$11.04 bushel  
Posted county price — \$11.56  
Millet — \$11.50 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$25.35 cwt.  
Confection — no bid  
Pinto beans — \$28  
(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



### Comeback win for boys

The Goodland Cowboys basketball team beat the Colby Eagles 59-55 on Tuesday at the Max Jones Fieldhouse. The basketball teams play away games tonight against Ulysses.

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# State award



Sherman County Conservation District Manager Sandy Rodgers presented Kaitlen Thompson with her honorable mention award from the State Limerick Contest at the annual conservation district dinner and meeting Monday night.

Photo by Sheila Smith/The Goodland Star-News

# St. Francis market goes full steam ahead

After the short closing of Bella's Market on Jan. 31, the store has reopened with promises of filled shelves and dedication to the community.

Sam Mancini, the store's owner, reported on Tuesday that he had sent \$54,000 in groceries to help fill the shelves of the super market.

"We are committed to Bella's and our other supermarkets," Mr. Mancini said. "The last thing I want to do is close the doors."

Mr. Mancini said he had received a number of responses to the short closing because of the untimely delay of paying state sales tax.

"I answered every call," he said. "Most of the response was positive and, even those less positive were taken in stride. I appreciated hearing from everyone."

Bella's employees spent several days stocking the shelves and noted

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# Logan County now has tougher breath test rule

OAKLEY — Effective immediately any DUI test refusal in Logan County will result in law enforcement applying for a search warrant to obtain a blood sample. The blood sample will determine the Blood Alcohol Level of a person suspected to be driving under the influence.

The new policy is an effort to reduce the number of DUI test refusals in Logan County. Many counties in Kansas have already implemented

similar "zero tolerance" policies, saying they will reduce the number of impaired drivers on the road thus making the roads a safer place for all.

Sherman County Attorney Brock Abbey said obtaining a warrant has always been an option for law enforcement. The county has been looking at a similar policy to Logan County's, but has not implemented it yet.