

weather report



44°

10 a.m.
Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 4:23 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 6:55 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:23 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 43 degrees
- Humidity 40 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds north 20-25 mph mph
- Barometer 30.03 inches and rising
- Record High today 74° (1923)
- Record Low today -9° (1978)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 67°
- Low Wednesday 30°
- Precipitation none
- This month none
- Year to date 9.02
- Below normal 10.26 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly sunny with a high near 52, winds out of the southwest at 5 to 10 mph switching to the north and a low around 25. Saturday: Partly sunny with a 30 percent chance of rain or snow after 5 p.m., a high near 47, blustery winds and a low around 12.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of snow, a high near 30, winds blustery and a low around 12. Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 38 and a low around 20. Tuesday: Mostly Sunny with a high near 40 and a low around 21.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local markets



10 a.m.

- Wheat — \$8.44 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$8.32
 - Corn — \$7.51 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$7.35
 - Milo — \$7.11 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$13.94 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$14.01
 - Millet — \$14 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$25.55 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



Cowgirls win opener

The Goodland High School girls basketball team won the first game of the season last Friday in Norton. The junior varsity and C-teams also won.

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Board opts for sales, property tax combo

By Pat Schiefen

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After much discussion and numerous meetings, the Goodland School Board voted unanimously to move forward on a \$14,984,000 renovation for West Elementary, North Elementary and Goodland High School. To pay for it, the district will seek a combination of a .25 percent sales tax increase and an increase of 8.25 mills on property taxes.

The .25 percent sales tax increase added to the current 8.65 sales tax rate in the county would still leave the rate at less than 9 percent.

Board member Amy Sederstrom said she

like doing the mills and the sales tax together. Board member Jessica Cole said she liked the combination also.

To move forward on the school bond the board will on Jan. 14 call a special election to be held on the first Tuesday of April. The sales tax issue would have to be done through the City Commission. The board would make a formal request to the city on Monday, Dec. 17, for a sales tax for educational purposes. It is hoped the commission would make a decision by Monday, Jan. 7, and if approved a resolution would be adopted on Jan. 21. The sales tax would also have to be approved by voters.

If the city rejects the sales tax the board will have to decide if they want to still have the special election.

A total of 180 surveys were taken from people attending the many community meetings held in November. Sixty percent strongly agreed with the district going to a three-building system with North and West Elementaries and Goodland High School, which would include the junior high. Another 35 percent agreed. Three percent disagreed and two percent strongly disagreed.

The district presented different plans with varying price tags and had people rank them in order from one to four with the first one as

the first choice. Eighty-one percent favored the \$16.3 million renovation plan.

This plan included upgrades and building a storm shelter at both grade schools. At the high school there would be electrical and heating and cooling upgrades with a new kitchen and concession stand with bathrooms being built.

Seven percent favored the pared down version of renovations at the three schools for \$14.3 million. The reductions would include not building storm shelters at the elementaries or the concession stand, a renovated storage

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Kansas rep booted off committees

By Kevin Bottrell

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U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp says the House Republican leadership's decision to remove him from the agriculture and budget committees was punishment for not voting the way they want him to.

"You vote the way you're told is the message," he said. "Not the way your constituents want," he said. "There may be more punishments on the way."

Huelskamp — who represents the Kansas 1st Congressional District — said in a conference call with reporters Wednesday that he was informed of the decision after a closed-door meeting of the 30-member Republican Steering Committee on Monday. He said as far as he knows he is still on the veterans affairs committee.

Huelskamp said there are a lot of rumors circulating, and that insiders have told him that members of the leadership had a list of key votes, and anyone who did not vote their way on those issues would be punished.

"This is the worst form of petty, vindictive politics," he said.

He isn't the only one. Rep. Justin Amash (R-Mich.) was removed from the budget committee despite claiming that he voted with the leadership on 95 percent of the issues.

Huelskamp said he did not know what these key votes are and he has requested a list. He speculated that increasing the debt ceiling — on which he voted no — might be one of them.

"When no one on that 30-member committee tells you why they did it, that means they're embarrassed about it," he said.

Huelskamp said he was especially outraged at his removal from the agriculture committee. The 1st District is the top agriculture production district in the nation, he said, and its

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West Elementary second graders sang about mittens and gloves during their winter music program on Tuesday in the Goodland High School auditorium. The high school also had a music program that evening. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Second graders sing about winter weather

West Elementary School second grade students celebrated winter in their music program on Tuesday night at the Goodland High School auditorium. Gentry Deeds and Josie Hill welcomed the audience.

They sang about wearing mittens and gloves, flying like snowflakes, playing in the snow, riding sleds, snowmen and snowy days.

The program was directed by Linda Lucas. The principal of West Elementary is Verna Milnes.

Students in Debbie Bantam's class are Bently Baehler, John Coumerilh, Deeds, Ashton Earhart, Devontay Hardy, Tyson Hatfield, Mason

Hernandez, Kristina Holub, Angel Lazo, Sebastian Musgrave, Jordin Owens, Alicia Pena, Zoey Porter, Lexi Rubio, Allyson Sheldon, Jonathan Sturm and Damion Taylor.

In Cassandra Laughlin's class are Tucker Adams, Harrison Bhend, Lindsey Cure, Adonica Daub, Peyton Finley, Rilynn Frazier, Chisum Goodwin, Garrett Helton, Hill, Lexus McCord, Caden Miranda, Sara Riley, Isaiah Shinette, Tristan Shoup, Colin Showalter Maverick Spresser, Dalton Vallejo and Tayke Weber.

In Julie Dautel and Amy Cebula's class are Kade Belden, Jonathan Brown, Jason Colby, Kyan Ensign, Neia Flenner, Reagan Frandy,

Makenna Hovis, Strid Loudon, Shadd Miller, Angela Ramirez, Devon Rickard, Briana Rodriguez, Jualyn Sharon, Titus Smith, Hayden Terry and Caden Wright.

Members of Pat Pickett's class are Elisa Ayers-Hernandez, Marcus Beltz, Brennan Blake, Natalie Chapin, Jarek Crow, Rick DeHoyos, Alfredo Diaz, Mehki Frederick, Grant Fritz, Gabe Galiardo, Octavio Gonzalez, Julian Lopez, Mya Nemechek, Emilio Pena, Janie Ramirez, Brenda Rodriguez, Claire Scheopner and Kari Sneathen.

Special delivery



Volunteers including 4-H Club members, Boy Scouts and others helped sort the food picked up for the food drive Saturday for Genesis at the Goodland Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Around 200 Christmas baskets will be assembled on Thursday, Dec. 13, to be given out for the holidays. To volunteer call 890-2299. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

City project recognized

The City of Goodland has won a Kansas Public Improvement Award for its water treatment plant and water line improvement project.

The award — sponsored by American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas — recognizes engineering projects for their benefit to the community, in this case a safer and more dependable water supply.

Prior to the project, groundwater nitrate levels had begun to threaten the city's water supply, posing health risks. Engineering firm EBH and Associates was selected to look for solutions. After elevated nitrate levels were found in several more wells, a project was developed that included the treatment plant, backwash disposal ponds, transmission and distribution water lines and nitrate removal equipment.

Contractors included Miller Construction Services, Van Kirk Brothers Contracting and Sporer Land Development. The project, completed last year, cost about \$5 million and was partially financed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment through a Kansas Public Water Supply Loan.

