

weather
report

50°

noon Tuesday



Today

• Sunset, 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 7:06 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:30 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 34 degrees
- Humidity 56 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds north west gusts of 35 mph to 45 mph
- Barometer 29.78 inches and falling
- Record High today 65° (2003)
- Record Low today -5° (1996)

Last 24 Hours*

High Monday 69°

Low Monday 27°

Precipitation —

This month .12

Year to date 16.08

The Topside Forecast

Today: 20 percent chance of rain, mostly cloudy, high near 51 and low around 25, north wind between 25 and 30 mph with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high near 57 and low around 26.
Thursday: Partly cloudy, high near 57, low around 23, and windy.
Friday: Partly cloudy, high near 46, with a low around 21.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50, low near 21.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.51 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.40

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$1.86 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.84

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$1.51 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.41 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.52

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$5.75 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$6.75 cwt.

NuSun crop — \$7.75

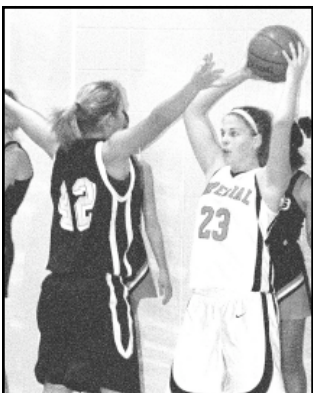
Confection — Call

Pinto beans — \$17 (new crop)

(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside
today

More local
news and
views from
your
Goodland
Star-News



Cowgirls
take to road

Senior Justeen Koehler put pressure on Lady Longhorn Sarah Miller in the third period of the game on Dec. 2 in Imperial, Neb. Goodland won 61-46, and will take a 6-1 record on the road in January. See story, photo on Page 10.

State may cut road project

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Traffic south of Goodland on K-27 is using the new bridge over the Smoky Hill River, but there may be a problem finishing the second phase of work set to begin in the spring.

The wider bridge about eight miles south of town is the first part of a major realignment of the highway, which will see the 13.2 miles from the south edge of the city to the Sherman County line move to the east by about 100 feet.

Total cost for this project is \$17 million, and 80 percent of the total comes from the federal transportation bill passed in November. The K-27 project is one of several Sen. Pat Roberts had listed in the federal program.

Stan Whitley, information specialist with the Kansas Department of Transportation, said the state's share of the project is \$3.4 million, and with a budget crunch coming, that could be in jeopardy.

A contract for the work is supposed to be let for construction in

February, Whitley said.

Transportation Secretary Deb Miller has been spreading the word about the shortfall. She says the state expected an increase of \$250 million under the bill. However, when the bill passed, the allocation for Kansas came out \$117 million short.

Secretary Miller has not said the K-27 project would be cut, but emphasized that there are several projects in northwest Kansas that might be in jeopardy if the state Legislature doesn't find the money to cover the shortfall. The Legislature has been borrowing from road funds the last couple of years to pay for increases in the school budget.

Whitley said the federal money is secure because the K-27 project is among the specific projects listed in the new federal transportation package known as SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users).

When the federal bill passed in November, Sen. Roberts called per-

See K-27, Page 7

Business surveys to begin in January

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

What makes a business successful and what problems do businesses face in Sherman County?

The Sherman County Economic Development Council and the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce want to know. They'll be asking questions in a survey to be completed by the end of January in a Business Retention and Expansion project being done through the state Department of Commerce.

Kay Younger, former office manager, and now economic development coordinator for the council, said 30 businesses will be surveyed after a training session on Jan. 20.

She told the council last Tuesday they will need seven members from the economic development board and seven from the Chamber board to do the surveys. She said after the training, they will set up appointments to go to the businesses to do the surveys, which should take an

hour or less each.

She asked for volunteers and member Harlan House was the first to agree. Other council members said they would check their calendars.

The state will collect the surveys and organize the data to provide a summary of the answers.

Younger said the results may give the council some ideas of what could be done to help new business, and what is working now.

Younger said the council has been asked to join Business Retention and Expansion International at a cost of \$75 per year. She said the group provides information on business retention and extension programs that work.

Vice Chairman Dwane Timm said he wondered how many of these memberships the council really needs.

Member Steve West said he felt it

See SURVEY, Page 7

Council changes title, approves merit raise

The Sherman County Economic Development Council agreed last Tuesday to promote its office manager, saying it wants to recognize the work she had done keeping the office open and things moving without a director.

Chairman John Garcia said the council changed her job title from office manager to economic development coordinator.

The action came after a 25-minute closed session to discuss personnel at the end of the council's regular meeting last Tuesday, and was announced the next day. The audience, including reporters, had gone home because the council members said they did not expect to take any action after the closed session. The council has been without a full-time director since Carolyn Applegate left last December.

Garcia said the title change reflects the job Younger is doing, and the council voted to give her a raise of 50 cents an hour to \$8.50.

He said the council continues to look for a professional director, but appreciates the work Younger has been doing to keep the office running and coordinate development efforts during the long search.

Younger, wife of Dr. David Younger, has been the office manager since the middle of January. She said the job has been interesting, and she enjoys working with the people who call the office.

Over the year, she said, she has worked with a group of artists to develop a market for their work, and with the Small Business Development Center out of Hays to bring training programs to Goodland.

This month, the family bought the home at 12th and Center, which used to be the Four Sisters Bed and Breakfast.

Mrs. Younger was born in Denver, the daughter of Lyle and Lorraine Jandebur, but at age 10 the family moved to Charlotte, N.C., where her father had a new job.

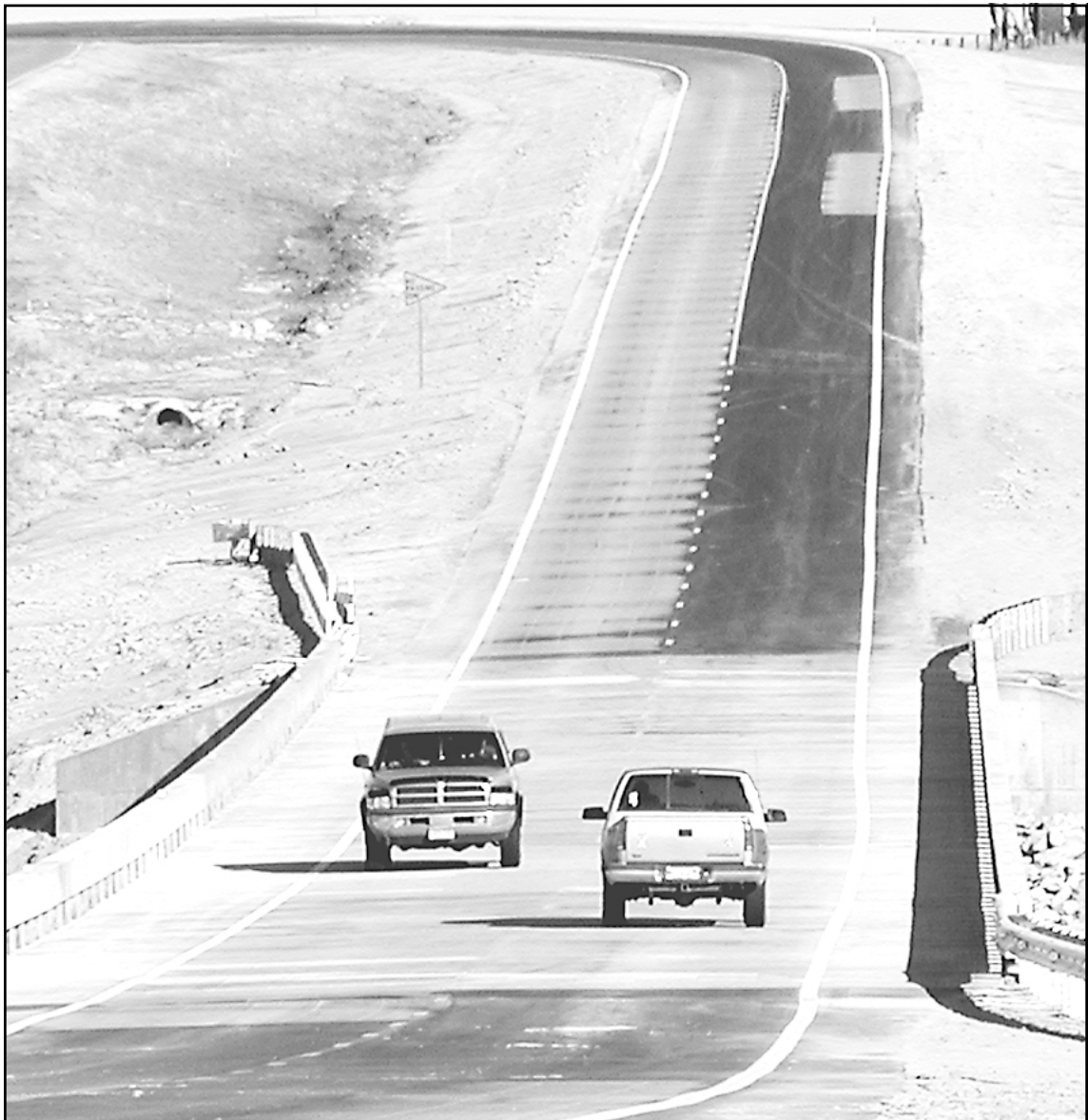
She went to college at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, graduating in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in music education.

She married Younger in 1976 and they moved to Winston-Salem, N.C., where he went to Bowman Gray Medical School at Wake Forest University.

The Youngers moved to Burlington in 1982, where they lived until moving to Goodland in 2001.



Younger



The new, wider bridge on K-27 about eight miles south of town is open, replacing an old bridge crossing the North Fork of the Smoky Hill River.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

State may give \$800,000 for new County Road 14

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County commissioners got some good news offered Tuesday, and acted quickly to let the Kansas Department of Transportation know the county is wants state money for rebuilding County Road 14 at Caruso.

The state had offered to pay \$500,000 of the estimated \$2.4 million total cost, but last week upped that to \$800,000.

The new Goodland Energy Center north of Caruso will increase heavy truck traffic on the road, and improving the pavement is one of the priorities of the joint city-county program to be financed by a 1 percent sales tax citizens will be asked to approve next year.

To get the ball rolling, the county listed the section of Road 14 on its five-year highway plan, and in September submitted a request for money as an economic development project.

The total project cost would be \$2,355,000 as estimated by Darin Neufeld, the engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates who does projects

for the City of Goodland.

A letter last week from Melinda J. Desch, program management engineer for the Department of Transportation, said the state had selected the project for \$800,000.

Desch referred to a previous letter about the project and said the state would set the maximum at \$500,000, but the letter last week said, "we have had a change in the amount of fund that available. ... We would like to revise your project funding."

"Having reviewed the project, the Highway Advisory Commission has allocated \$800,000 toward the project. KDOT is prepared to participate in 75 percent of the actual construction costs as well as 100 percent of the construction engineering, preliminary engineering, right of way and utility costs. Based on this arrangement and current estimates, the state's share would be \$800,000 and the county share's would be \$1,555,000."

The letter said the county had until Friday to tell the state if it was interested.

See COUNTY, Page 7

Down comes part of old Moose Lodge



Roger Snethen, working for Goody's, tore down part of the building that was the Moose Lodge. The remaining building will house a business to be run by Brian and Victoria Freeman.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News