

weather report

66°

noon Monday



Today

- Sunset, 5:44 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 6:09 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:45 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 46 degrees
- Humidity 17 percent
- Sky Mostly sunny
- Winds north east at 8
- Barometer 30.08 inches and falling
- Record High today 73° (1907)
- Record Low and a today -12° (1920)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	62°
Low Monday	32°
Precipitation	—
This month	—
Year to date	.58

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, with a high around 72 with a low of 33. West wind starting around 15 mph with gusts of 30 mph switching to the north at 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: A chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy with a high around 39 and a low of 30. Thursday: Partly cloudy with a high near 56 and a low of 20. Friday: Partly cloudy and breezy with a high near 50 and a low of 21. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

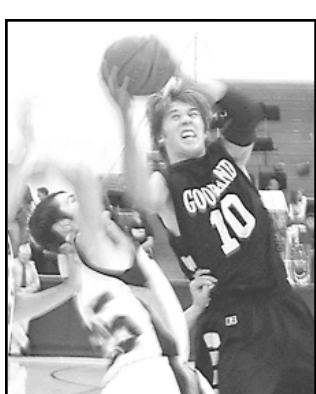
local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.10 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.01
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.04 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.01
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$1.67 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.12 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.27
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5.55 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



Beavers beat Cowboys

Senior Jase Herl scored two of his team-high 15 points despite the defensive efforts of Beaver defenders in the second half of the Cowboys' 79-45 loss to Scott City in the substate semifinal Friday. See story, photo on Page 11.

Co-op merger vote tonight

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

Today will be an important day in the life of Frontier Equity Exchange and St. Francis Equity. Stockholders will vote on a possible merger of the two.

The St. Francis Equity has lost money for the last three years due to the drought, which caused low grain volumes and operating losses. The consulting firm of ProValue, Hutchinson recommended a merger for St. Francis with a business similar to it. The study indicated that Frontier Equity in Goodland with its other locations in Atwood, Ruleton, Brewster, Edson, Bird City and McDonald would be a good merger.

Meetings have been held since early February to inform the stock-

holders about the merger. For the merger to pass two-thirds of the stockholders present must vote in favor by Kansas law.

Voting in St. Francis will take place at the 4-H Building at the St. Francis fairgrounds from 5 to 7 p.m. Central Time and voting in Goodland will be at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall, 824 Main from 6 to 8 p.m. Mountain Time.

The Goodland board of directors favor the merger because it will spread risk over a larger area; be more efficient in its use of facilities, equipment and personnel; have better use of funds; will preserve value for members; bigger size and volume will help negotiate better prod-

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Teachers enthusiastic about West reading

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland School Board heard the enthusiasm of the teachers of West Elementary School on Wednesday at West for their reading program. The board also gave its approval to a Goodland High School junior to pursue a national office in Family Career Community Leaders of America.

The school board also voted to have Glen Strait, architect from Strait and Associates, Colby to get bids to add air conditioning to West Elementary School.

Each of the teachers from West helped give a computer demonstration on their reading program to the school board. The teachers include Lynette McClain, Marianne Gray,

Pat Thompson, Kara Smith, Sandy Jamison, Pat Pickett, Susan McCall, Janet Davis, Linda Lucas with the student teacher from Fort Hays State University Cassandra Van Allen.

Using the Jerry Johns Reading test the students are broken into seven guided reading groups. The groups are flexible so a student can move up or down according to his or her progress. On Fridays students are broken down into smaller groups of four.

West has at least 300 different books including mysteries, fairy tales, biographies and science. The groups meet 90 minutes a day in the morning and cover literacy sections, writer's workshop and guided reading.

See **SCHOOL**, Page 9

Cowgirls advance to state!



Senior Justeen Koehler (No. 42) tried to make a basket over Sheri Hertel of Thomas More Prep-Marian Saturday in the final game of the Class 4A substate tournament held at Al Billinger Fieldhouse in Scott City. She scored eight points against the Lady Monarchs helping the Cowgirls to a 52-37 win earning a trip to the state championships. See story and more photos on Pages 10 and 12.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Rotarians hear road improvement plans

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The sales tax election to finance road rebuilding is about three weeks away, and city and county commissioners are speaking "to anyone who will listen."

County Commissioner Kevin Rasure and City Commissioner Josh Dechant explained the program to the Goodland Rotary Club on Friday.

The special election will be held on Tuesday, March 28, and Rasure said the only polling place will be the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 824 Main.

"This is a city-county sales tax," Rasure said. "It is supported by all the city and county commissioners. It says something when you can get eight people to support this project."

He said part of the reason the city



Rasure



Dechant

and county had to turn to the sales tax is that the state eliminated revenue-sharing payments to cities and counties, known as demand transfers, when the state got into financial trouble. He said cities and counties depended on the transfers to help maintain their infrastructure, including streets and roads.

"The demand transfers were easy pickings," Rasure said. "Both the city and county lost over \$150,000

a year in these cuts.

"We have three choices to fix our roads. One is do nothing, and eventually have to rip them up. Raise the property tax to pay for the essential roads, and not many people want to see their property taxes raise that much. The third is increasing the sales tax by one cent, and that is what we are asking the citizens to support."

He said having good roads is vital to economic development, and both the city and county felt raising the sales tax was the best and fairest way.

"We have done nothing for several years," Rasure said, "and both commissions felt this was a good time to move forward."

Rasure listed the county roads to be improved and said the state has approved an \$800,000 economic

development grant to help with the paving of one mile on County Road 14 between old U.S. 24 and Eighth Street. The state money will help do that section in concrete to handle increased truck traffic expected from the development of the Goodland Energy Center.

The main county road to be worked on is old U.S. 24 from Thomas County to the Colorado line. The other road is Eighth Street from K-27 to County Road 14, and the one-mile section of County Road 16 between Eighth and old U.S. 24, which runs past the Sugar Hills Country Club.

Dechant listed the city streets to be improved, including the intersection of Eighth and Caldwell and Caldwell Avenue north from Eighth to the airport, and 17th from the railroad crossing to Main. The last street

will be the section of Eighth from D'Lao to Cattletrail.

"I know not everyone travels these roads every day," Dechant said, "but I suggest you travel the roads to see what the conditions are today."

Rasure said the two commissions felt \$12 million was most the city and county could afford. He said the roads in the plan are the main access routes.

"We would like to do them all," he said, "but we felt these were the best to begin with."

Rasure said figures provided by Kevin Cowan, a bond attorney from Gilmore and Bell in Wichita, show a 15-year pay out. Rasure said Cowan used a 1 percent growth rate, but agrees that with the expansions

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Horse owners face 14 charges of cruelty

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

The tale of the couple with mistreated and dead horses has now moved into the area of the courts.

Tim Armknecht who was arrested last Tuesday posted \$5,000 bond and was released from jail on Thursday night.

Tim and his wife Shaunna are charged with 18 misdemeanor counts. Fourteen are counts of animal cruelty with is a Class A non person misdemeanor.

There are four counts of unlawful disposal of dead animals which is an unclassified misdemeanor with a fine of \$100 for every 24 hours per count.

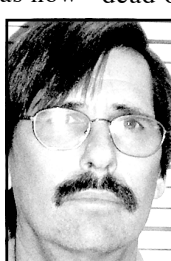
Tuesday after a call was made to

the Sherman County Sheriff by Derek Nichols, officers found 11 hungry horses in corrals with four dead ones. The dead horses appeared to have been dead several weeks.

The horses were transported to Prairieland Animal Clinic and were believed to recover with care and food. Eight of the horses have been moved to pasture by the veterinarian and three remain at the clinic.

The Armknechts are scheduled to make their next appearance in the District Court today at the Sherman County Courthouse.

Sheriff Kevin Butts said his office and Prairieland Animal Clinic are accepting offers of feed and money to help care for the horses.



Armknecht



One of the rescued horses from Tim and Shaunna Armknecht's, eating at Prairieland Animal Clinic. Sherman County Sheriff's officers found 10 hungry horses and four dead ones in corrals last Tuesday which led to 14 charges of animal cruelty.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News