



Rebecca Brace was received the 2026 GHS Alumni Outstanding Educator Award. Members of the Goodland High School Graduating class of 2026. *Courtesy photos*

Goodland graduates 63 seniors as Class of 2026 hears message on life's unexpected turns

Class of 2026 Goodland High School graduated 63 students on Saturday May 16, 2026. This class sported five Valedictorians, Brode Bergsma, Halle Bhend, Hopes Biermann, Danica Dautel & Paige Fulwider and Salutatorian, Sakari Newman. Commencement Speaker was Tranda (Ihrig) Strnad (class of 2002). Strnad shared her life journey, and stated, "You'll find out who you are when you're doing something unexpected." The GSH Alumni Association named Rebecca Brace the Outstanding Educator for 2026.

Goodland advances \$225 million grain mill bond process as growth planning continues

BY ALEX BARTA
HIGH PLAINS NEWS

Economic development, housing planning and water conservation dominated discussion during the May 18 Goodland City Commission meeting as commissioners moved forward with several projects tied to anticipated industrial growth in the community.

The commission approved Resolution 2026-10, declaring the advisability of issuing taxable industrial revenue bonds connected to a proposed flour mill, bakery and wheat delivery system facility planned for Goodland's industrial park.

The proposed bond issue

could total about \$225 million and would support construction and equipment costs for the project associated with Golden Waves Grain LLC.

The resolution does not authorize the issuance of the bonds but begins the public hearing and review process required under Kansas law. A public hearing was scheduled May 18 regarding the proposed bonds and potential property tax exemptions connected to the project.

Goodland City Manager Kent Brown clarified that the step was early in the process.

"This is just the first part, and they still have to complete a cost benefit analysis, which is paid for by the developer," Brown

said. "Then they'll have a public hearing as well at the June meeting for the ordinance that actually takes us a little further on that route."

The grain mill and bakery proposal has remained a central topic for commissioners in recent months as city officials continue pursuing infrastructure improvements and outside funding opportunities related to the development. Previous commission discussions referenced ongoing federal grant applications and electrical infrastructure planning connected to the project.

Commissioners also discussed a proposal to allow extended hours for alcohol and cereal malt beverage sales during World Cup events from June 11 to July 19. The item remained under discussion as commissioners reviewed whether a resolution or ordinance would be necessary to temporarily modify sales hours.

Kansas House Bill 2481 is a tourism and taxation law enacted ahead of the

2026 FIFA World Cup. The law expands short-term rentals, boosts transient guest tax revenues and allows expanded alcohol sales. It was passed by the Legislature and approved by Gov. Laura Kelly on April 9.

The commission is expected to consider an ordinance at its next meeting.

Housing development planning also continued during the meeting. Commissioners finalized plans for a June 8 joint meeting involving the city, Sherman County and Goodland School District officials regarding a proposed Reinvestment Housing Incentive District project.

The housing district discussion follows earlier conversations about the need for additional housing tied to future economic development and workforce demand. Previous commission meetings included discussion of possible middle-income housing projects and phased residential development near existing utilities.

Water conservation was another major topic as commissioners reviewed city code provisions and current drought conditions. The agenda packet included existing regulations outlining potential water restrictions, surcharges and penalties that could be implemented during water emergencies.

Commissioners also approved the appointment of David Branda to the Library Board and Colton Cooper to the Construction Advisory Board of Trades and Appeals. Commissioners also approved a letter of support for a KYLE Railroad application.

City manager reports included updates on financial balances, police activity, upcoming chip rock bids, maintenance projects at City Hall, repairs to a natural gas line and replacement of a hood fan at the airport restaurant.

During public comment, Regina Barnes addressed the commission about theft at the cemetery after items were stolen

from her son's grave. "The people that are out there, the last thing we can do for them, you know, and it's very disrespectful," Barnes said. "It's disrespectful to the families. It's disrespectful to people out there, so that's why I'm coming to you guys, because there needs to be a solution."

Commissioners discussed making the issue an action item at a future meeting.

Dustin Bedore, director of electric utilities for the city of Goodland, updated commissioners on assistance the city provided to another community.

"Brad Davis, electric superintendent at the city of Colby, requested the digger derrick and two boys to assist in outages in Colby," Bedore said. "Tyler Jones and Lukas Wolak helped with substation issues and got some transformer set up and then returned home by 10 o'clock. Neighbors helping neighbors."

The next regular Goodland City Commission meeting is scheduled for June 1.

Seeking members for GRMC Hospital Board

The Sherman County Commissioners are requesting Sherman County citizens interested in being appointed to the Goodland Regional Medical Center Hospital Board to express their interest in serving the community in this important capacity.

Please complete the Board and Commission Interest Form located at www.shermancountyks.gov or pick one up at the Sherman County Clerk's Office (813 Broadway, Rm 102 Goodland). Mail or deliver to: Sherman County Commissioners, 813 Broadway Room 102, Goodland KS 67735. Letters must be submitted by June 5th at 5:00 PM.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our organization is looking for volunteers of all ages to join our team in helping our elders live their best life!

While we're grateful for the wonderful volunteers providing Bible-related support, we'd love to invite others to share their talents and interests as well. Whether it's baking with the elders, playing cards, simply having a chat, or doing what you love with others, everything makes a meaningful difference!

Not sure what you can do but are interested?
Call us for ideas!

Contact Morgan Flowers
for more information (785) 890-7517
or morgan@topsidemanor.com



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May 22-28, 2026

The Devil Wears Prada 2

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\$1 OFF large popcorn & 2 med. drinks. Exp. 12/31

Summer Matinee: Wednesday, June 3 @ 1:30 PM: Dog Man

Showing Nightly 7PM
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Seeking members for Public Building Commission

The Sherman County Commissioners are requesting Sherman County citizens interested in being appointed to the Public Building Commission to express their interest in serving the community in this important capacity.

Please complete the Board and Commission Interest Form located at www.shermancountyks.gov or pick one up at the Sherman County Clerk's Office (813 Broadway, Rm 102 Goodland). Mail or deliver to: Sherman County Commissioners, 813 Broadway Room 102, Goodland KS 67735. Letters must be submitted by May 27th at 5:00 PM.

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