

**weather  
report**

**29°**

**at noon**



**Today**

• Sunset, 4:59 p.m.

**Tomorrow**

• Sunrise, 6:59 a.m.

• Sunset, 5 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil Temperature 35 degrees
- Humidity 55 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds south 10 mph
- Barometer 30.21 inches and falling
- Record High 70° (1935)
- Record Low -11° (1957)

**Last 24 Hours\***

- High 55°
- Low 16°
- Precipitation none

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: Cloudy; chance of snow; low 15-20; winds southeast 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Cloudy; 50 percent chance of snow; high 25-30, winds southeast 10-20 mph; low 15.

**Extended Forecast**

Thursday through Saturday. Thursday: chance of snow; high 25-30; low 15. Friday: chance of snow; high 30; low 10-15. Saturday: chance of snow; high mid 30s; low 15. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local  
markets**

**Noon**

- Wheat — \$2.31 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$2.14
  - Loan deficiency payment — 31¢
  - Corn — \$1.82 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$1.89
  - Loan deficiency payment — 10¢
  - Milo — \$2.81 hundredweight
  - Soybeans — \$4.37 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$4.36
  - Loan deficiency payment — 53¢
  - Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight
  - Sunflowers
  - Oil current crop — \$6.20 cwt.
  - Loan deficiency prnt. — \$3.60
  - Confection current — \$13/\$8 cwt.
  - Pinto beans — \$13 (new crop)
- (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

**afternoon  
wire**

Late news from the Associated Press

**1 p.m.  
Seven deaths  
shock town**

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Friends of 10 people killed in a chain-reaction collision near Kansas City were stunned to learn that seven were heading to this area. "It's unbelievable. What a tragic loss for this area," said Jay Reynolds, a friend of several victims. Two were students from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, north of Springfield, headed back to campus for Monday's start of the spring semester. Four others caught in Sunday's pileup on icy Interstate 29 were members of a well-known Springfield family returning from an Amway convention in Omaha. "That morning we all sat down for breakfast before heading back to Springfield," said Reynolds, who was in Omaha with the family but not involved in the accident. "We all hugged and then got on the road. I was just lucky."

## Hospital reports big gains on budget

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland Regional Medical Center showed a small profit in 1999, financial officer Andrew Laue reported at Monday night's board meeting, making \$238, versus a projected \$96,600 loss.

After not meeting in December, the board had a short agenda, but spent most of the time in closed session.

Larry McCants, a board member, commended the hospital for its collection of bad debts in 1999, with \$190,876 not collected, compared to the previous year's \$507,052.

As part of the administrator's report, Jim Chaddic, showed a video which he said is also being shown to hospital employees. The video called "STAT," showed how to avoid patient dissatisfaction and complaints, by giving examples of what could be done in various hospital situations, such as patient care, billing and testing.

Chaddic said the hospital has another video which will also be shown to the employees called "General Hospitable," which deals with how employees can handle difficult issues and put their best foot forward.

He said the hospital is contracting with Dr. Michael Perry, who is associated with Presbyterian-St. Luke's Hospital in Denver, to do sleep testing. He should be available to start in the next 30 days. He would be treating patients who have sleep related problems, such as insomnia or snoring.

There passed on credentials for medical staff. Dr. Jed McKee was up for appointment, while Sondra Krayca, a nurse practitioner; Dr. Darrell Werth, urologist; and Dr. Karl Chambers, rheumatologist, were up for reappointment. Medical personnel have to update their appointment every two years. The board went into closed session at 7:05 p.m.

until 8 p.m. to discuss personnel and risk management. They came back and asked for an extra 30 minutes. After coming out at 8:30 p.m., they passed a motion to approve a no smoking policy for the Medical Office Building.

They also discussed insurance quotes for the hospital building, property, and equipment, and decided to go with whichever quote had the best coverage, as they wouldn't be meeting again until after the policy renewal date.

The next meeting will be a dinner meeting at 6 p.m. Feb. 28.



### Work goes on despite cold

Winter may be here at last, but there is plenty of construction going on. Felipe Soto (left) sandblasted the steel pilings on the new Caruso bridge this morning, while Jose Pionon carried the hose. Above, Rob Wurtz (left), a Goodland Cable TV employee, and Chris Kaba, with Krob Trenching Inc. from Stockton, unrolled tubing for a cable line to serve Wheat Ridge Acres. Brian Kaba (at right) pulled tubing with a loader as Terry Dunlap watched. Both work for Krob.

Photos by Janet Craft/Goodland Daily News



## School board grants request to let Cowgirls play softball

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

With a surprising 4-2 vote Monday, the Goodland School Board approved adding girls softball to the list of spring sports, and moving girls golf and tennis to the fall.

Athletic Director Dick Liess presented the board with the results of the surveys he had done of both students and 14 schools that are currently playing softball.

"I know you wanted a clear-cut recommendation, but after gathering all this information, I still have no enthusiastic recommendation," Liess said. "I am ambivalent about this."

Liess said the survey indicated there was enough interest to develop a softball program, but that there would be about a 50 percent drop in the numbers of girls out for track. However, he said, it appeared the overall effect could be an increase of about 16 girls participating in athletics.

A surprising result of the survey was the interest in playing soccer by 24 girls, Liess said, but more schools have softball than girls soccer. He said he

found only three schools in western Kansas that have soccer, but 14 that play softball.

Thirty-three high school girls said they are interested in playing softball, Liess said, plus 14 girls currently in eighth grade.

In other survey results, Liess said parents parent-teacher conferences indicated they favored softball 39-16. However, the high school faculty survey was 10 in favor and 17 against adding softball.

Liess said start-up costs for the softball program are estimated at \$7,667, without the cost of coaches, umpires and transportation. He said the estimate did not include coaches' salaries, which he said could run close to \$12,000 a year.

"How do we do it?" Liess asked. "I don't know."

Liess was asked what other schools could be played, and how many games would be involved. He said the Kansas High School Activities Association allows for 20 games, but with no more than 10 on school days. Most schools schedule 10 doubleheaders to be played

during the week, with games starting at 3:30 p.m., he said, because no one wants to play on Saturday.

"Of the 14 schools contacted, four said they would not be willing to travel to Goodland to play softball," Liess said. Three of the four were Great Bent, Pratt and Thomas More Prep of Hays. He said that these teams might be willing to meet at a third school, where they would play a triangular set of games.

"I guess at my time in life I have selective hearing, but I know that if I surveyed my 10 daughters, they would all have played softball," said Board member Elmer Duell.

"I am not concerned about the numbers," said Board member Kathy Russell. "I think the girls will play, and we will probably have some good teams. My questions is the costs, and what effect this would have on the students who participate."

"The ones who are in sports and other activities do make the best grades," Superintendent Marvin Selby replied. Board President Dick Short called

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## Victorious Bush, Gore on to New Hampshire

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Fresh from victories in the first voting of the 2000 presidential campaign, Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush quickly turned their attention today to the contest in New Hampshire, exactly one week away.

In the caucuses Monday night, Gore piled up a yawning gap over rival Bill Bradley, but Bush faced stiff competition from second-place finisher Steve Forbes.

"Yesterday was 'Thank you, Iowa.' Today is 'We're ready New Hampshire,'" Bush said early this morning after an overnight flight to Manchester. Later, he told CBS' "Early Show" that Forbes "deserves credit for a strong second."

"I, however, had a strong first," he added.

An exuberant Gore, also on CBS, said today the competition from Bradley "is great. It's put wind in my sails and made it easier for me to get my keel deeper in the water, so to speak."

On the Republican side, with more

than 97 percent of the state's 2,142 precincts reporting, Bush had 41 percent of the vote while Forbes had 30 percent. Conservative Alan Keyes had a solid third-place showing with 14 percent.

"This is not a good night for the power brokers in Washington," Forbes told cheering backers Monday night. "We broke the political rules."

Forbes argued that his showing means he's "emerged as the conservative candidate" to serve as an alternative to the front-running Bush. It also set the stage for a three-way primary fight in New Hampshire between him, Bush and Sen. John McCain.

McCain suggested Forbes had benefitted from a low caucus turnout, because conservatives tend to show up in larger numbers. The relatively high number of independents in New Hampshire would make for a "much broader political spread here," McCain said today on ABC's "Good Morning America."