

**weather report**

**32°**  
at noon



**Today**

• Sunset, 5:54 p.m.

**Tomorrow**

• Sunrise, 5:55 a.m.  
• Sunset, 5:55 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil Temperature 43 degrees
- Humidity 75 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds northwest 8 mph
- Barometer 30.21 inches and falling
- Record High 80° (1966)
- Record Low 07° (1928)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High 52°  
Low 23°  
Precipitation .06 inches/snow 1.3 inches

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: Clear with patchy fog developing, low 20-25, winds south 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, chance of showers late, high 50-55, winds south 20-30 mph, low 20s.

**Extended Forecast**

Saturday through Monday: dry, high 55-65, low 25-35.  
(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 — \$2.19
  - Loan deficiency payment — 26¢
  - Corn — \$1.85 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$1.96
  - Loan deficiency payment — 03¢
  - Milo — \$2.83 hundredweight
  - Soybeans — \$4.51 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$4.45
  - Loan deficiency payment — 44¢
  - Millet — \$3.70 hundredweight
  - Sunflowers
  - Oil current crop — \$6.25 cwt.
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.88
  - Confection current — \$13/\$7 cwt.
  - Pinto beans — \$12 (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.

**Father of three held in kidnap**

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — An unemployed, divorced father of three young girls has been charged with kidnapping and sexual battery in the abduction of a 10-year-old who was left outside a Wal-Mart three days later.

James P. Johnson, 38, is accused of snatching the child from her driveway March 6 after she got off a school bus with her two sisters. He was scheduled in court today.

Investigators searched Johnson's home and seized his green Jeep Cherokee, which they said matches the description of the vehicle used in the kidnapping. The girl picked him out of a photo lineup, State Attorney Rod Smith said.

Johnson has no criminal record, authorities said. He checked himself into a mental health center in Alachua County earlier this week, and was arrested there Wednesday.

## Lawyer suggests land sale

### County would get unpaid tax money

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Retired lawyer Pete Whalen Tuesday urged Sherman County commissioners to have a tax foreclosure sale, which he said hasn't been done for several years.

Whalen said he had talked to County Attorney Bonnie Selby about the issue. He would like to see it done because it's the money the county is losing out on. He explained the procedure for holding a tax sale, adding that he has helped with two and they're not that difficult.

The commissioners must start the action, he said, then the county treasurer certifies the unpaid property taxes. After the taxes are delinquent for two years, the treasurer then bids them in. An abstractor is hired to check the record of ownership and the legal description of the property. A lawyer prepares the paperwork for the court action.

In the name of the commissioners, the owner of each property is then sued for the unpaid taxes. If the owner wants to redeem the property, they have to pay the taxes, penalty, interest, and their share of the cost of the sale.

Judgment is obtained on property which is not redeemed and is then sold at auction on the courthouse steps. The money goes to the county clerk to pay the taxes. The owner or anyone who has an interest in the property, other than the mortgage holder, cannot bid on the property at the sale for less than the full amount of the judgment.

"What's your opinion, Bonnie?" asked Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld.

Selby said when Whalen first came to her, she thought it would be great, but the work has to be done by an abstractor and neither she nor Whalen is qualified.

"So, that's where we are at this point," Selby said.

Whalen thought it might be more expedient to check with people who have abstracting experience. He suggested dividing the properties between the three abstractors in town or letting them bid on the whole job.

"Would you be an employee of the county?" Frankenfeld asked.

Whalen said yes, because if something was wrong, then he would have immunity.

Commissioner Kenny Davis said he would like Selby and Whalen to work together on a plan and for them to let the commissioners know if something is determined.

William McKnight, county building manager, met with the commissioners about some problems on the handicapped restroom project at the courthouse. Davis said he had told McKnight to have a building inspector to look at the project.

McKnight said the water pipes were not going through the plumbing straps like they should be. He said he also had done some measuring in the bathrooms and compared the measurements to the blueprints and they differed. The board decided they would let Amy Griffey of Northwest Kansas Planning and Development, who advised the county on a grant for the project, know about the situation.

McKnight said he could only get one bid for spraying dandelions around the fairgrounds. It was from Graber Enterprises for \$831. Commissioner Gary Townsend moved to have Graber spray the dandelions. The cost will be split between the county and the Fair Board.

There was some wind damage at the fairgrounds and McKnight had an insurance adjuster look at it. He said Terry Baker helped the adjuster measure the buildings. McKnight asked if Baker could do the work as in the past. Townsend said, however, that they need to stick to the policy of getting bids. Davis agreed. McKnight said he would try to get bids by next week.



## A big kick in the snow

Second graders from West School played outside this morning after the snow Wednesday night. And while teachers tried to keep them out of the white stuff, it was too much of a temptation. A big group of kids (above) played soccer on the blacktop. One young boy (left) kicked the ball after he had retrieved it from the snow.

Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News



## Ten graduate from leadership class

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

About 65 people gathered at the Goodland Elks Lodge Wednesday to celebrate the graduation of the third class of Leadership Sherman County.

Class members Darin Neufeld and Jacque Drennan talked about the experiences the group had been through over the past eight months, and the places they had visited.

Drennan talked about a trip to Topeka with Leadership Thomas County, and a visit with the Goodland Weather Service office.

She said they heard about a thunderstorm research program that will bring many people to Goodland in the summer, and include visits by television crews from CNN, the Weather Channel and the Discovery Channel.

Neufeld said the class was told the weather research might about every two years over the next decade to develop data from the a triangular area just over the Colorado border being studied because of its intense weather patterns.

He said the 10-member group was quite diverse, ranging two members who had lived in Goodland all their lives to some who had lived in Goodland 12 years and a couple who have been here less than two.

## Investigators look for cause of Amtrak wreck

CARBONDALE (AP)—Investigators will inspect the track and interview crew members as they try to determine why an Amtrak passenger train derailed in the darkness of a cornfield south of Topeka.

"We have ruled out nothing. We are looking at everything," George Black, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board, said late Wednesday, predicting it would be months before the cause is pinpointed.

Officials of Amtrak, the Federal Railroad Administration and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway were taking part in the investigation as it got under way today.

Santa Fe owns the track over which Amtrak's westbound Southwest Chief



Dan Thornton



Darin Neufeld



J. Drennan

Of the trip to Topeka, Neufeld said, "Politics is politics, but it is different at that end of the state."

He said the class enjoyed visits to the Kansas Museum of History, where they saw the "Wheat People" exhibit which includes farmers from Sherman County, and the Sternberg Museum in Hays.

"No matter what we do in the future," Neufeld said, "we feel this experience was very beneficial and will be so for a long time."

Keynote speaker for the evening was Daniel Thornton, executive director of the Northwest Kansas Education Service Center in Oakley.

"I am proud to have been in education for 25 years," he said. "Education has changed and I am not the same educator I was in 1975. The system has given me an opportunity to rise from

poverty to a position of relative affluence, and I know that I have been blessed.

"I have found that the solution to many of the problems and challenges I always seem to face is 'Ziggy,' a short,

stocky character who is always in the finest messes. I have a copy of one cartoon which shows Ziggy climbing a mountain and as he looks back over his shoulder he says, 'If life seems like it is all uphill, you must be on your way to your peak.'"

Using the tale of David and Goliath, Thornton looked for similarities in the challenges being faced by leaders today.

He compared Goliath to things which are ugly in today's society, including jealousy, rivalry, pettiness, bitterness, dwindling population and finances, violence and social ills of poverty, teen pregnancy, drug use and physical abuse.

"Have you ever lived where there was none of these?" he asked. "If you have I want the address, because the answer is 'No, and neither have we.'"

David was not a champion, and being young, he was not the most wise, Thornton said.

The leadership of the 21st century are already all alive," Thornton said. "There is no gender for leadership. Today's leader is someone who can stand alone in adversity."

"I wonder if we ever consider the challenges that teen-agers face when they find themselves standing alone in trying to maintain their own high morals and character. It is lonely to be in that position. Leadership is sometimes being the only one to be standing."

"The Davids of today are men and women who have ingenuity, and are certainly alive people. They know that success is a journey not a destination."

His challenge to the graduates was to develop a passion to move Sherman County forward, noting that such a passion will stay with a person anywhere they go.

Board President Jeff Deeds and county extension agent Dana Belshe presented the graduates their certificates and a special gift from Aten's Department Store.

The graduates were Drennan, Thomas Stewart, Dr. Greg Bongers, Lance Fulton, Randy Schoenthaler, Loren Strain, Kim Duell, Neufeld, Jeanne Irvin and Jennifer Sanderson.

terrain and was going up a slight incline when a loud noise broke the calm. The train began to shake, and cars began tipping over.

"I thought I was all through," said passenger Jeanne Walker, who was awakened by the noise and the sense that the car was falling onto its right side. "I kept thinking, 'This is it, this is it.'"

Passenger Raven Freeman heard "a loud noise — two or three pops — and the train just started shaking from side to side. I didn't know what was going to happen next. It was a pretty scary experience."

As rescuers helped them out of the cars, passengers who didn't need hospital treatment were taken by bus to a

Topeka hotel while Amtrak arranged for their transportation home.

Amtrak spokeswoman Debbie Hare said she did not know how fast the train was traveling when the derailment occurred. Maximum speed is 60 mph on the curved section and 79 on straight track, she said.

Black, of the safety board, said a preliminary investigation revealed two fractured rails on the track, but he wasn't sure whether they were responsible for the derailment.

The track had passed a physical inspection Tuesday and was electronically inspected last fall, Black said.

Steve Forsberg, a spokesman for the Santa Fe, said, "It's unclear what caused it."