

weather report

29°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:32 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:32 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:32 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil Temperature 31 degrees
- Humidity 81 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds northwest 25 mph
- Barometer 29.63 inches and falling
- Record High 79° (1963)
- Record Low 5° (1955)

Last 24 Hours*

High 33°
Low 6°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 10-15, northwest winds 5-25 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 30, low 15-20, light winds.

Extended Forecast

Friday: dry, high 35, low 15-20, Saturday: chance for snow, high 25-30, low 20-25. Sunday: dry, high 30, low 15-20.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.79 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.59
 - Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
 - Corn — \$1.89 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.79
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 20¢
 - Milo — \$3.08 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$4.21 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.03
 - Loan deficiency payment — 87¢
 - Millet — no posted price; ask.
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$5.65 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.28
 - Confection current — \$15/\$6 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$15
- (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Foreigners told not to worry

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei — Half a world away from the unsettled struggle for the White House, President Clinton told Russian President Vladimir Putin and other foreign leaders today that "there's nothing to worry about" in the overtime contest to choose his successor.

He said there is plenty of time for the American system to work, and it will, to determine whether Vice President Al Gore, his chosen successor, or Republican Gov. George W. Bush was elected 43rd president in the disputed election Nov. 7.

"I think other leaders should have the same reaction the American people have," Clinton told reporters in the lobby of a lavish Brunei guest house, with Putin at his side. "I think they're pretty relaxed about it."

School a step closer to college status

Board of Regents approves technical school's request; lawmakers may be next

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

The Kansas Board of Regents put the Northwest Kansas Technical School one step closer to becoming a college today.

If state lawmakers approve, the school will be able to award two-year associate degrees — something the 36-year-old institution has never been able to do.

After a 40-minute meeting at the Murray Center on the technical school's campus — including a presentation from the school's administrators, other college presidents voicing support and a discussion about accreditation — the nine-member board approved a recommendation to grant the school college status.

"It will give the institution more credibility," Edward Hammond, president of Fort Hays State University, told the board.

Mikel Ary, president of Colby Community College, also spoke in behalf of the school, saying the two institutions have collaborated since 1978 to offer technical school graduates the degrees.

Larry Keirns, who became the technical school's director two years after it opened in 1964, said he was "relieved," but not necessarily surprised. The decision had been recommended by a three-member "commission," or sub-group, of the regents which studied the proposal in detail.

Before the board arrived in Goodland on Tuesday, along with dozens of presidents of other universities, colleges and technical schools in Kansas, Keirns said he was confident the school would become a college.

"I think it's going to happen," he said.

If college status is granted, students will be able to earn Associate of Applied Science degrees in the 13 programs, ranging from medical assistant to truck and tractor diesel mechanic, that the school offers.

Now, technical school graduates get a diploma and a "credential" showing courses they've completed and their grades.

Students can go on to earn an associate's degree from Colby Community College, but the change means that the technical school will be the one awarding the degrees.

Though the school's administrators have cleared the first hurdle, they have yet to reach the finish line. That won't come until the Kansas Legislature convenes in January.

Keirns said the bill establishing the school as a college is now sitting on his desk and is being co-sponsored by Rep. Jim Morrison of Colby.

"Morrison said it'll be the first bill introduced," he said. "Once they approve, it's here."

Joe Birmingham, deputy executive director of the Board of Regents, started the meeting by saying in his and his staff's opinion the school had met the legal criteria to become a college. The technical school submitted an applica-



Jon Wefald, president of Kansas State University (far left), listened as Larry Keirns, director of the Northwest Kansas Technical School, answered questions from members of the Kansas Board of Regents today. The board approved the school's request to become a college at a meet-



Jack Wempe (right), chairman of the state Board of Regents, and member Floris Jean Hampton discussed accreditation and other issues with Northwest Kansas Technical School officials before making a decision today. Hampton and Wempe are members of the commission, comprising three Regents, that recommended the school become a college.

tion to the Regents in October. Keirns, along with Mark Smith, board chairman for the technical school from Tribune, and Robert Loftin, vice-

chairman from Weskan, all told the regents that the switch to a college will be a good move for students.

"I hope we have conveyed to you our forward thinking and our vision for northwest Kansas," Loftin told the board, which had toured the school's campus earlier that morning. The board is in town for meetings today and Thursday morning.

Regent Kim Wilcox said the main issues affecting the board's decision was the quality of programs at the school and how it works with other institutions of higher learning.

Keirns told the board that the school's biggest strength is finding students jobs after graduation, but its biggest weakness is not being able to serve all of the students who want in.

He said 600 students are on a waiting list now and some won't enter the school until 2004. The school has discussed hiring more instructors, he said, and staggering classes to fit more students in.

The technical school has been collaborating with Colby College since 1978 to offer students degrees, said Ary, Colby's president.

He noted that the two institutions make sure they don't offer the same type of courses.

"We're active in respecting each other's turf," Ary said. "I think as far as Colby Community College is concerned, we don't view this as a threat, but a big step forward."

Keirns said 94 of 279 students who graduated in 2000 went on to get degrees from Colby.

He said he hopes to increase that to at least half of each year's graduating class — but with the technical school awarding the degrees.

Birmingham said it's important to an institution to be able to award degrees to its students.

"The major difference is the change in degrees," he said. "There will be no changes in funding or curriculum."

Keirns said one thing is going to change. Every pen, paper, sign, publication, name tag and anything else bearing the school name and logo will have to be changed.

"It's going to be a monumental task," he said.

County stresses buying policy

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Commissioners went over Sherman County's purchasing policy with department heads and elected officials Tuesday, stressing that they wanted to buy locally wherever possible.

Acting Chairman Chuck Frankfeld opened the meeting, saying commissioners wanted to discuss the need for information on vendors and guidelines for purchasing supplies for the county.

The meeting was called after the county discovered it apparently had been buying products for the road and bridge department from a vendor in Colorado which listed a Goodland post office box to appear local. Long-time county policy emphasizes buying from vendors who pay taxes here.

Deputy Clerk Mary Ann Snethen said she needs the information, including name, contact person and address, by the time she pays the bills. She added that she also needs a federal identifica-

tion or social security number if the cost is more than \$600 and if labor is involved.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked if Snethen would have the names of all vendors in her files. Snethen replied, "Yes."

Communications Director Mary Messamore said she wondered if department heads should mark what line item in the budget they want an expense

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Election has Kansans weary, excited

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

STAFFORD — Dennis Harter laughed when asked about his vote in the presidential election. Bush, he said.

Harter laughed because he was a little tired of waiting to hear whether George W. Bush, the Republican nominee, will be declared the winner of the race, pending election recounts and legal challenges in Florida. He thought it

should have happened last week.

Harter manages an auto parts store, halfway up the block from the quiet intersection of Main and Camden streets in this town of 1,300 people about 50 miles west of Hutchinson. A bumper sticker on the glass door to his store says, "I helped rebuild the Statue of Liberty."

Like Harter, some Kansans were waiting wearily for final results from

Florida. Many were following the news avidly. Some were disgusted and thought the stalemate reflects badly on both candidates.

Harter wasn't particularly upset or anxious as he talked about the election Monday afternoon, just tired of waiting for a resolution.

He guesses that most people in

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Cold, wet fun



Lisa Carson, a sixth grader, enjoyed the snow by sledding on a highway embankment near the railroad tracks on Cattletrail Tuesday.

Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News