


weather
report

26°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:27 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:04 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:27 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 30 degrees

• Humidity 42 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds northwest 12 mph

• Barometer 30.25 inches and steady

• Record High 69° (1933)

• Record Low -17° (1989)

Last 24 Hours*

High 51°

Low 42°

Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 10, south winds 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 45-50, low 20-25, west winds 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

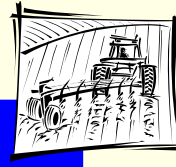
Saturday: dry, high 35-45, low 20-25. Sunday: dry, high 15-25, low 5-15. Monday: possibility of light snow, high 10-20, low 5.

(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 — \$2.66

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$2.00 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.95

Loan deficiency pmt. — 4¢

Milo — \$3.19 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.48 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.43

Loan deficiency payment — 47¢

Millet — \$9.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.90 cwt.


Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.86

Confection current — \$15/\$7 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.

Bush resigns as governor

AUSTIN, Texas — President-elect Bush resigned as governor of Texas with an emotional farewell on Thursday, saying there was “only one thing that would cause me to leave early,” and that is the White House he will take over.

He yielded office to Rick Perry, the Republican lieutenant governor, but said he would need a bit more time to move out of the governor’s mansion, a block from the State House where he said goodbye in the Senate chamber.

Misty-eyed, Bush said the mansion he and wife Laura have occupied for six years “won’t be our home, but Texas always will be.” With that, he and Perry embraced, to the applause of the State House audience.

Two years remain of the second term to which Bush was elected in 1998.

Hospital presents budget to county

By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

Andy Laue, chief financial officer at the Goodland Regional Medical Center, and hospital board members Doug Irvin and Lynn Hoelting presented the hospital’s budget for next year to Sherman County commissioners Tuesday.

Laue said the hospital’s revenue for this year was lower than they had expected, but they have been trying to make better use of people and other resources along with trying to cut costs while maintaining services.

The budget for next year shows a loss of \$161,000, he said, but today for small rural hospitals this is, unfortunately, normal.

He said until the government changes reimbursement rates for federal programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, there isn’t going to be much

change. The hospital is trying to do the best job it can with what it has, he said.

“We spent a lot of time with this budget,” Irvin said, adding that the board is working as hard as it can to make the hospital succeed, and the employees are working hard, too.

“What is your time frame and your outlook on getting an administrator?” Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked.

Irvin said the board is accepting applications until Jan. 30.

“We’re not in any hurry,” he added, noting that the board is happy with the management team they have now.

“Do all the employees have a positive attitude?” Frankenfeld asked.

Laue said most of them do.

Hoelting said one of the things the board is looking at is if a position has to be filled or not when employees quit or move.

Laue said that it’s hard to keep qualified people at a cost the hospital can afford. Hoelting said the board continues the “grow your own” program of helping people from this area further their education.

Rasure asked the board members if they had a need or concern down the road. Laue said the laundry situation is a big problem. He said the hospital is hauling laundry to Oakley two days a week.

That gets very expensive, he said, and the hospital would like to do something about it. He also said the ambulances are getting older and getting more miles on them. In a couple of years, they need to look at replacing one of them, he said, and they are very expensive, from \$90,000 to \$100,000 apiece.

Irvin said the board hopes to increase

revenue without decreasing services.

“The management team has given us a pretty good marketing plan,” he said.

“So, you’re moving ahead with the marketing?” Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld asked.

Hoelting said the hospital is reintroducing itself to the community and surrounding area.

“The best marketing is to have satisfied patients,” Laue added.

Rasure asked how the new radiology group is going.

Irvin said he has heard positive things from the doctors.

He said the board is working hard to get the hospital’s bottom line to where it’s showing a profit, but “You have to be realistic.”

Hopefully, Congress will make reimbursements to rural hospitals a little better, Laue said.

“We need to keep communication open,” Irvin said, telling commissioners they could call the hospital if they had any questions.

He said running a hospital is tough.

“We do it for the community,” he said.

Any money the county can give them would be good, Hoelting said. He invited the commissioners to tour the hospital.

“If you want to show up to our board meetings, feel welcome,” Irvin said.

“We sure want to know if there is something we can do better.

The commissioners appointed Ardith Showalter of Goodland to the hospital board to finish the term of Randy Schoenthaler, controller at Frontier Equity Exchange, who resigned earlier this year. Her term will go until June 30, 2003.



Making music at North School

Fifth- and sixth-grade band students gave a Christmas concert Wednesday afternoon in the multipurpose room at North School. Sixth graders (from left) Gena Overmiller, Amber Cowan and Molly Witzel played their clarinets during the concert. Nathan Linin (left in right picture) played the drums, while Heath Duke played the bells for one of the songs. They are also sixth graders. Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News



County makes trash deal

Mike Schultz of Brewster struck a deal with Sherman County commissioners to pick up trash for some residents of eastern Sherman County on Tuesday, at least on a preliminary basis.

“How many patrons are you going to have?” Commission Chairman Chuck Frankenfeld asked Schultz.

Schultz, said he has been in the trash business for about 28 years. He said he would only be picking up household trash, not metal, trees or oil. He wondered if there would be a tonnage charge to dump the trash.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Curt Way asked how often he would pick up the trash.

“Probably twice a month,” Schultz

said, adding that the average family accumulates about 50 pounds of trash a week. If there are 20 families, that would figure out to about 3,000 pounds, Schultz said.

Way said there would be no tonnage fee. County residents pay a solid waste fee to the county each year, so there is no charge to them for dumping trash, whether they take it to the transfer station themselves or have a trash service pick it up. Schultz would be able to charge for the pickup service, however.

“Do you want to think about it and get back to him?” Frankenfeld asked Commissioners Mitch Tiede and Kevin Rasure.

Way said Schultz should get the cus-

tomers lined up and see what they would be looking at for tonnage. Schultz said he was kind of looking at the first of the year for getting started.

“I just wanted to make sure you knew what I was doing,” he said.

Way told the commissioners he would like to get an idea of the tonnage the additional houses would generate, so he would know if it would put the county landfill over its daily average.

Mary Messamore, county communications director, met with the commissioners in closed session to discuss personnel. After coming out, the commissioners approved a motion to give a 3 percent raise on a six-month evaluation for a communications employee.

Animal shelter gets Christmas gift

The Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter got an unexpected Christmas gift on Monday.

“Technically we got a grant,” said Sharon Bowker, chairman of the shelter board, “but we like to think of it as a Christmas present.”

The \$15,000 grant will cover the cost of the animals’ medical needs for the

next year, including spaying and neutering the animals and giving them their first set of shots before they are adopted into other families.

The shelter received the grant from Gladys W. Sargent Foundation for the amount that the shelter spent on medical expenses last year.

The money can only be used for the

medical costs of caring for the animals, said Bowker, and the shelter will still need money for feeding the animals and finding them homes as well, as for continued efforts to construct a permanent shelter building.

Currently, the shelter has 35 animals in foster homes, with five adopted out over the past couple of weeks.

First baby of year to get lots of gifts

No one knows for sure when the first baby of the new year will be born in Sherman County, but the little one and his or her parents will receive a bundle of gifts from Goodland merchants.

The Goodland Regional Medical Center initiated the giveaway about 20 years ago, said Dale Shields, the hospital’s human resources director.

Shields said the hospital had always considered this to be a special event and tried to make the occasion as big a thing as possible for the parents of the new baby. This year, the hospital will work with *The Goodland Daily News*, which will continue the tradition for 2001.

So far businesses donating prizes for the new baby include Aten Department Store, McDonald’s, Wal-Mart and *The Daily News*.

Parents will have 60 days following the baby’s birth to redeem the gifts.

The first baby of this year was Jesus Alfredo Diaz, son of Jesus and

Jessie Diaz of Goodland, born Jan. 11 at the Goodland hospital.

Some of the gifts the family received were certificates, savings bonds, food, a picture frame, free movie rentals, an alphabet plate, a newspaper subscription and a discount on a rocking chair or glider.

Last year’s sponsors included Wal-Mart, Aten Department Store, Pied Piper Video, Mr. Jim’s His Shop, First National Bank, Elliott’s, Pizza Hut, Garcia’s Home Furnishings, the Goodland Regional Medical Center and *The Daily News*.

Any merchant or individual can participate in the giveaway. A promotional advertisement will run in the Friday, Dec. 29, issue of *The Daily*.

Call Doug Jackson or Eric Yonkey, advertising representatives for the newspaper, at 899-2338 to get your gift on the list. They will be trying to contact as many Goodland businesses as possible about the promotion.