

weather report

53°
at noon

Today

• Sunset, 5:30 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:28 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:31 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 31 degrees

• Humidity 42 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds southwest 13 mph

• Barometer 30.05 inches and falling

• Record High 77° (1982)

• Record Low -2° (1939)

Last 24 Hours*

High 31°

Low 20°

Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy with areas of fog and freezing drizzle, low 30-35, southeast wind 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, 40 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 45, low 35, southeast wind 20-30 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: rain changing to snow, high 30s. Sunday: dry, high 40s, low 15-25. Monday: dry, high 45-55, low 20s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.69 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.66

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$1.92 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.89

Loan deficiency payment — 1¢

Milo — \$3.10 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.00 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.97

Loan deficiency payment — 93¢

Millet — \$6.50 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$6.30 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.61

Confection current — \$15\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$14 (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.

Hillary denies part in pardon

WASHINGTON — Awash in controversy, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton said today “I did not have involvement in the pardons that were granted or not granted” by her husband before he left office.

At a crowded news conference, the former first lady said she did not know that her brother, Hugh Rodham, had lobbied on behalf of two men who sought relief from Bill Clinton in the waning days of his presidency. She added she was “very disappointed” to have learned Rodham had been paid \$400,000 to do so.

She also said she had no prior knowledge that her campaign treasurer had helped prepare official papers for other pardon-seekers.

Mrs. Clinton turned aside questions about the pardon decisions her husband had made, telling reporters they should address those issues with him and his staff.



Eighth grader Abby Murray spelled a word into a microphone during the Goodland school district spelling bee held Wednesday afternoon at the Goodland High School auditorium, while Taylor Frazier watched. Frazier won first and Murray was runner-up.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Sixth grader wins spelling bee

By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

Taylor Frazier, a sixth grader at North School, will travel to the state spelling bee in April since he came in first at the Goodland school district contest on Wednesday. Abby Murray, an eighth grader at Grant Junior High, was runner-up.

Frazier spelled the word “behavior” correctly after it was misspelled by another contestant and then went on to spell “sombbrero” correctly.

He is the son of Bill and Mary Frazier of Goodland.

Frazier came into the contest as an alternate after he came in fourth place at the North School competition.

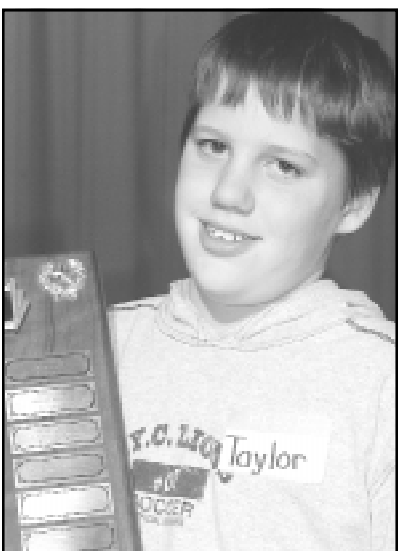
He was surprised about winning.

“I thought she (Abby Murray) would know how to spell behavior,” he said.

Frazier said he likes to spell.

“It’s pretty much been easy for me my whole life,” he added.

He said he definitely did not expect



Taylor Frazier

to win, but thought the words were easy.

“I could spell all the words, even the ones the others had,” he said.

Frazier has been in Goodland school

spelling bees as both a fourth and fifth grader, but hadn’t been in the district competition until now.

Since Frazier won the district contest, his name will be added to a plaque which lists the Sherman County spelling bee champions on it. The plaque will be kept at North School until next year’s district competition. After that it will depend on who wins as to whether the plaque will stay at North, go to Central or go back to Grant Junior High.

As runner-up, Murray will take Frazier’s place in the state competition if for some reason he can’t attend.

Other students who participated in the contest were Jenna McGinley and Gami Cloyd, eighth graders; Lukas Peters, seventh grader; Landon Williams, sixth grader; Britt Zwegardt and Kathryn Craft, fifth graders; and Courtney Sheldon and Michelle Smith; fourth graders.

The state contest will be held Saturday, April 7, in Topeka.

City official asks state to pay more for park

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

Goodland City Manager Ron Pickman told the city commission Tuesday he would travel to Topeka Thursday to talk to state officials about the Cherry Street scenic enhancement project.

Pickman told commissioners at the regular meeting that the city is asking the state for additional money to build the park next to Cherry Street, which will be moved this summer.

The park now includes many features that weren’t in the original plans and the price has more than doubled.

He said the state has indicated it may be able to increase its commitment to help with the storm water ponds and the hike and bike trail.

He said this does not affect the Cherry Street project itself, which is to begin this spring. The contract for the street part of the project has already been approved.

Also Pickman said the state was to open bids on the K-27 rebuilding project in Topeka Wednesday, and are pushing to get this project underway this spring.

In other business, the commission:

- Approved the final request for payment of \$5,172, under the demolition grant. This closes out the grant, and shows the city put in \$2,516 over the \$50,000 they used to match the \$57,000 from the state. Pickman said the city was not eligible for a grant this year, but

See CITY, Page 3

Lawmakers come to town

State Senator Stan Clark and State Representative Jim Morrison will be traveling through the district with a visit to Goodland scheduled for Saturday.

The two will meet with citizens at 2:30 p.m. Mountain Time at Ray’s Cafe. The meeting will last an hour,

with the lawmakers answering questions and presenting issues the Legislature is facing this year.

They will be coming from Colby where they were to be at the Thomas County office complex at 1 p.m. Central Time.

Officials opt for farm leases

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

The Sherman County commissioners came closer to a decision on what to do about farm leases on county owned land at their meeting on Tuesday.

The commissioners are wanting to switch from a crop share basis to a cash lease basis on county land and have been checking into yields and what would be a fair price.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he went to the Farm Service Agency office to check on the crop yields on four partial pieces of land. He said he thinks the yields are all comparable.

He said he talked with Dana Belshe, county extension agent, who thought around the \$20 mark would be fair.

He said if the county switched to a cash lease basis, it would take them out of farming and out of any risk.

“It’s a better deal for the county,” Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld said.

Frankenfeld said he thought they should tell the farmers what they were going to do before they made a motion.

Frankenfeld asked Tiede if he wanted to call the farmers and Tiede agreed to do it.

The commissioners discussed the modifications to be made to the elevator at the courthouse.

Rasure said the elevator company was given until the end of January to get it taken care of, but no one had responded.

Crystal Linsner, deputized clerk and county computer manager, who sat in for County Clerk Janet Rumpel, said Rumpel thought William McKnight, county building supervisor, or County Attorney Bonnie Selby would have something to report. So the commissioners decided to check with McKnight later that morning since he would be talking with them about the boiler at the courthouse.

The commissioners were to sign an agreement with Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, an organization that helps mentally handicapped people. They were asking for \$40,000 from the county for this year.

Rasure wanted to check what last year’s amount was. Basically we’re just purchasing services from them, Tiede said. The commissioners decided to sign the agreement.

After someone in the county clerk’s office checked it was discovered that the county had given \$39,800 to the organization last year.

The commissioners were to sign the county department inventories, but held off doing so because Rasure said they should include the fire extinguishers on the fire engines and buildings in

the inventory.

“When we get all those in the inventory, then we’ll sign it,” Frankenfeld said.

Linsner said Rumpel collects the inventories.

Frankenfeld asked Linsner to get the old inventories out, so they could compare with the new ones, before they signed it.

Mike Niernberger, American Family Life Assurance Co. representative, from Hays met with the commission to talk about his company’s benefits under a cafeteria plan.

He said under the cafeteria plan, employees can pick and choose benefits, such as cancer, accident, medical and Medicare reimbursement and daycare.

He told the commissioners that as the employer, they could pick what they wanted under the plan. The employees then give money voluntarily for benefits and the county would pay nothing.

For employees, it’s a benefit if they use, he said, because they can’t get back any money left in the account at the end of the year.

He said his company helps set up and administer the benefits. They will explain the benefits to employees and have them sign an election form each year.

Niernberger said he has worked with the Goodland school district for seven years and has just signed up the City of Goodland.

Frankenfeld asked what is done with the money left over each year.

Niernberger said it’s either used to offset costs or divided equally between the employees, but that legally it can’t go back to the individual.

He said the company gives the individual plenty of opportunity to use any money left in the account.

We’re not here to make a quick buck, Niernberger said. We’re here to serve the people. Rasure asked if they do it, how much time it would take.

Niernberger said they would set up 10-15 minute appointments for the employees.

Linsner asked if both full-time and part-time employees were eligible for benefits. Niernberger said that was up to the county.

Niernberger asked if he could get a chance to bid on a disability insurance plan for the county. He gave packets to the commissioners which told about the benefits offered.

Niernberger asked when they might make a decision about the plan.

Frankenfeld said if not today, then probably at their next meeting. Niernberger asked who he would work with and Frankenfeld told him it would be Rumpel.

Tech school can help you find work

Looking for a job? The Northwest Kansas Technical School can help.

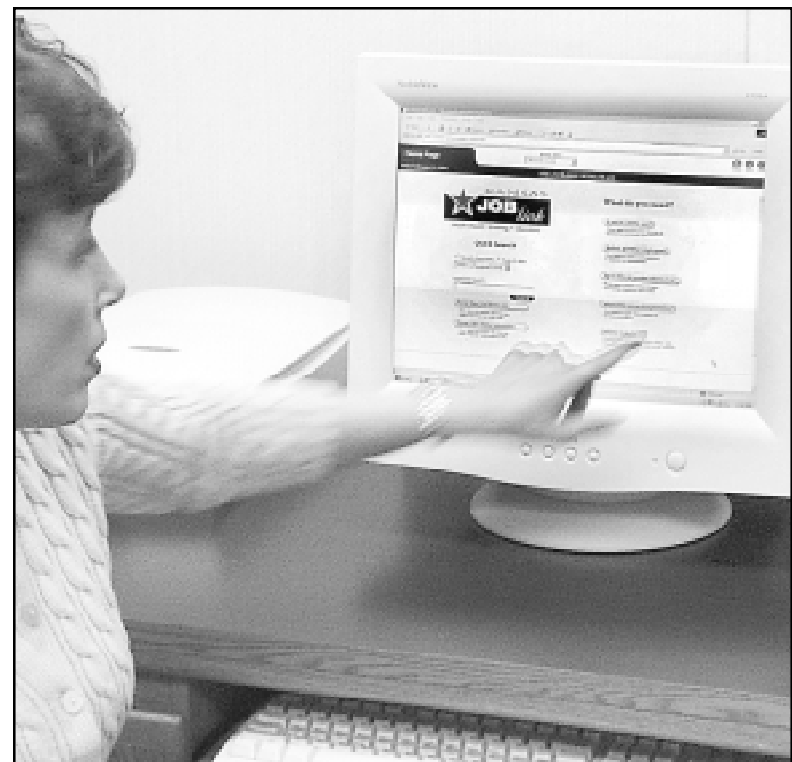
Earlier this month a computer, scanner and other computer equipment was installed at the school’s resource center to help students and anyone else in the community find a job.

Director Larry Keirns said a state grant given to the Workforce Development Center of Reno County paid for the computer equipment here and in eight other Kansas counties. He said the workforce center plans to install a total of 62 computers in Kansas’ cities west of Hwy. 81.

Terri Lucas, the technical school’s computer center instructor, said job seekers can use the equipment to search a website, called Kansas-joblink.com, for work in Sherman County or across the state. She said job hunters can post their resume or qualifications for employers to see. The center is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

Though the computer has been available for three weeks, she said, no one in the community has come in to use it.

“No one knows about it,” she said, noting that the website should be easy to use, even for people with minimal computer skills.



Terri Lucas, Northwest Kansas Technical School computer center instructor, explained a website that helps people find jobs.

Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

Keirns said he felt the computer and equipment would benefit students and the community.

“I wanted to have it available to students,” he said, “and thought it was a nice service for the community.”