



Communications technology students (left to right) Levi Turner, Brad Zerr, Tyson Sanders, Chris Metcalf and Kyle Grandy looked at a racquetball court this morning in the new student fitness center of the Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland.
Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Fitness center to have opening

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day.
Keirns said the hours may change after the center has been in operation for awhile. He said the college needs to get a feel for what is needed to provide the greatest benefit to students and staff.
At this point, Keirns said, the center will only be open to students and staff. He said it could be open to the public in the future.

“That is subject to change in the future,” he said.
Keirns said all the expenses are not in yet, but he estimated the center will end up costing the college \$900,000 plus to build. The college is paying for the center with money it’s saved over the years, he said.
A \$50 fee is charged to each student who enters the college, Keirns said, which will be used to operate the fitness center.

Keirns said work on the center is in the windup stages.
He said Tiede Construction from Goodland is leveling the dirt and the clock is to be installed today. In addition, he said, the fitness equipment is to be here on Thursday.
After the ground is leveled, Keirns said, work will start as soon as possible on putting in the underground sprinklers, planting grass seed and landscaping.

Day care center being discussed

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hospital should subsidize this in its unstable financial condition, suggesting an independent group be established to handle the center.
Penny Nemecheck, executive secretary, reported at the previous board meeting on the status of the day care grant the hospital applied for.
She said the state Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services has a special day care fund and was surprised when they called in January about the grant. A few weeks later, she said, she received notification that the center had received \$43,268.
Nemecheck said they have looked at several locations, and are considering the former Victory Baptist Church building near North School.
Board member Steve Evert said the

owner of the building was interested in seeing the day care center established and was wondering what the status of the project was.
Dr. Greg Bongers, board member, said the day care center is needed, and that his wife is unable to do things she is asked to do because there is not a day care center available.
“I believe we must find a way to help do this, and we are in a position to take steps forward,” Dr. Bongers said. “If we want good young people we need to find a way to offer day care.”
“We have accepted the grant, but if it is assignable I can see setting up a non-profit group for this,” said Pete Whalen, board member and attorney. “I believe we need to keep the liability away from the hospital or other entities.”
“I am afraid this will wither on the vine,” Bongers said, “I don’t want to let this slip

by. Liability is just sort of an excuse.”
Whalen suggested there be a committee to explore the possibility of putting such a group together and to contact the city, school district and county.
Dale Schields, director of human resources, told the board it is an important issue.
“We are losing good employees because of this,” he said “and it is one of the things we face in trying to recruit new employees.”
Mary Ann Elliott, department head for Rural Health Ventures, said she agreed it would be a good step forward, and that the 22 to 28 children the day care center could handle was a good start.
Whalen, Schields, Bongers and Elliott were named as the hospital representatives to make contact with others to explore the development of a non-profit group to handle the day care project.

Bush warns China to be careful with Taiwan

WASHINGTON — President Bush said today that U.S. military force is “certainly an option” if China invades Taiwan.
The president also cautioned Taiwan not to provoke an attack by declaring independence from Beijing. “I would certainly hope that Taiwan would not do such a thing,” Bush said in an interview with The Associated Press.
And the president said he believes the United States and China will work out their differences peacefully. “I believe the difficulties can be resolved,” he said.
Bush spoke on the heels of China’s detention of 24 U.S. airmen and his decision to sell arms to Taiwan.
His remarks on Taiwan were an unusually blunt warning to China that the United States is willing to use its mili-

tary might to uphold the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act. That law requires Washington to provide Taiwan with “such defense articles and defense services ... as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability.”
China considers Taiwan a break-away province that must be reunited with the mainland.
For decades, U.S. administrations have been purposely vague on whether the United States would actually go to war with China over Taiwan, as opposed to arming Taiwan well enough to enable the island to defend itself.
Bush, who promised a more plain-speaking foreign policy during the 2000 campaign, didn’t mince words when asked if he was willing to use military force if China attacked Tai-

wan. “It’s certainly an option,” he said.
He did not directly respond when asked if his position would change in the event that Taiwan declares independence.
“I will certainly hope that Taiwan would not do such. Our policy is a one-China policy — that the two nations can resolve their disputes peacefully,” Bush said. “And we need to work with the Taiwanese so that does not occur —

Equipment to be replaced

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figured.
Laue also noted that the figures include the loss of \$12,864 for the sale of the Chevrolet Tahoe suburban, which was costing the hospital additional money. The hospital was leasing the truck and lost money when they sold it.
Laue’s notes said that the hospital has received a check for \$2,800 from Chaddic as payment for a computer he kept.
“The figures show a loss, but it was not as bad as the figures indicate,” Laue’s written report said. Laue was absent and Dale Schields, director of human resources, substituted as management team leader.
Schields told the board the hospital’s mammography machine failed a certification test, and could not be used. He said a mobile service company from Colorado will be coming Friday and Saturday, May 4 and 5 to handle the 50 mammograms already backed up.
After discussion, the board voted to

buy or lease a new mammography machine.
Board member Pete Whalen asked how many of the tests are done on a weekly basis. Schields and Mary Ann Elliott, members of the management team, said the hospital averages about 25 per week.
Replacement of the equipment would be between \$50,000 and \$87,000, Schields said. He told the board new equipment would be higher priced, but that it might be possible to purchase a demonstrator model for less.
Board member Larry McCants asked how much the hospital charges for a mammogram. Schields said they charge about \$150, which covers all the costs.
Whalen made a motion for the hospital to purchase or lease a new mammography unit as soon as possible. The motion passed with McCants abstaining because of a possible conflict of interest if the hospital leases the equipment.
Elliott, who is managing the Rural Health Ventures clinic, said she has

spent most of the past month working on collections and getting statements out.
She told the board there is a need to have the operation looked at by an outside firm to make recommendations for improvement.
“The paper flow seems tough to track,” she said, “and an outside group could give us a better idea of what we need to do to improve.”
She estimated such a review would cost about \$15,000. The board suggested putting a decision off until the new administrator has a chance to be involved.
Elliott reported that the effort to allow Dr. David Younger to open an office is still awaiting an insurance certificate and licensing by the Board of Healing Arts. She said they are hoping to have this completed in May to allow Younger to begin seeing patients.
The next regular meeting will be 6:30 p.m., Monday, June 4. The board expects to hold a special meeting with Jolly to look at the future direction of the hospital.

Governor says adjustments a must

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not rule out trying to raise wages of the workers, adding, “We hear their cries.”
On Tuesday, Gov. Bill Graves told legislators that “adjustments must be made” and recommended \$117.6 million in tax increases to help fill the budget hole.
Graves proposed raising the state sales tax from 4.9 percent to 5.1 percent; adding 10 cents to the per-pack price of cigarettes; and imposing higher taxes on some insurance companies and on the wealth inherited by non-blood relatives.
The changes would take effect when the state’s new fiscal year begins July 1.
Coupled with other steps, such as more vigorous collection of delinquent taxes, Graves’ plan would raise more than enough money to close the budget gap.
The fresh revenue would also boost aid to public schools by \$60 million above the \$67 million increase in spending already approved, and would put nearly \$10.8 million extra into the budget for higher education.
“Regardless of past policy decisions, when revenues are less than projected, adjustments must be made —

it is that simple,” Graves said in a letter to legislators.
But many legislators were skeptical of his proposals.
“It’s obviously a long way from a current resources budget,” Wilk said. “Our work has been and will continue to be focused on current resources and putting together a budget within those constraints.”
Graves outlined his proposals one day after Wilk’s committee produced its own budget-fixing plan, which does not include a tax increase.
The governor noted that taxes were cut dramatically during his first term in office.
“To annually recapture a small part of that to ensure fiscal soundness and important services to Kansans is not unreasonable,” Graves wrote.
At a news conference, Budget Director Duane Goossen stressed the ideas Graves borrowed from competing budget-fixing plans drawn up by the

House Appropriations and Senate Ways and Means committees, such as stepping up the collection of delinquent taxes.
“A good share of what the governor is proposing is already in one or the other, the House or Senate plan,” Goossen said.
Senate President Dave Kerr agreed. The Senate plan includes the same \$10 million increase in insurance taxes, which Kerr and other senators view as a correction of a flaw.
But Kerr, R-Hutchinson, added: “I’m hopeful we don’t have to do anything that raises a general tax.”
House Republicans continued to insist that no tax increase will pass their chamber.
“They’re not in the mood to raise taxes under any circumstances,” said Rep. Doug Mays, R-Topeka.
Democrats believe a tax increase is possible, but they wouldn’t commit to the Graves plan.




Athletes of the Week are:



Wendy’s Athletes of the Week are Goodland High School track members: Rachael Hagerman and Jayci Stone. Hagerman took firsts in both the high hurdles and the 300m hurdles to go with a second place leap in the long jump at Holcomb. The high hurdle victory was the second consecutive meet she won. Stone took first in the pole vault, out vaulting her closest competitor by over two feet.

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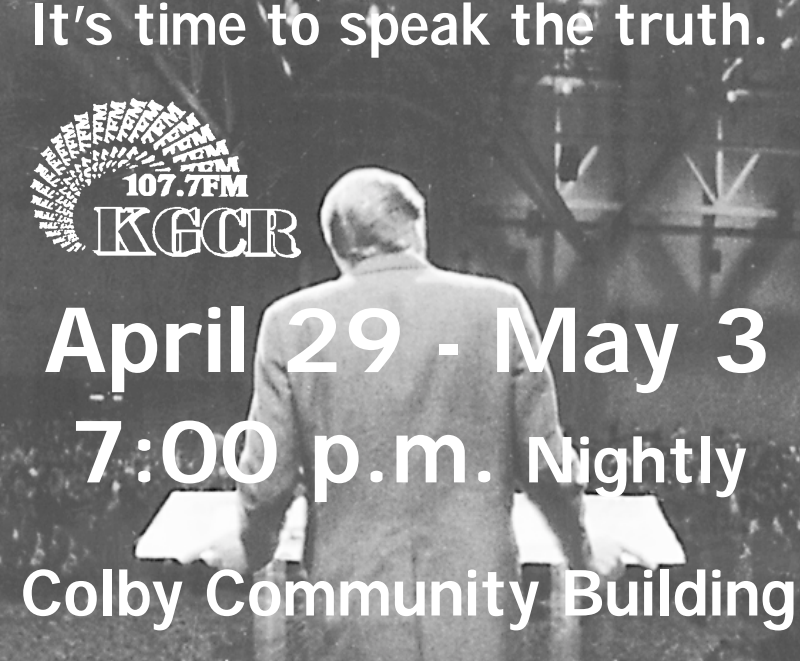


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It’s time to speak the truth.




April 29 - May 3
7:00 p.m. Nightly
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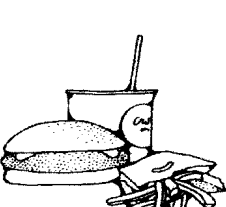


SUN. The Crosses of Columbine:
Why Does God Allow Tragedy?
MON. Satan & Demons:
The Rise of the Occult
TUES. How to save your kids
and grandkids from ruin
WED. Why Marriages & Families
Fail or Succeed
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