

weather
report

18°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 5:13 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:47 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:14 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 67 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds north 16 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.33 inches

and steady

• Record High 74° (1987)

• Record Low -16° (1933)

Last 24 Hours*

High 34°

Low 17°

Precipitation trace snow

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low zero to 5 above, winds north 5-10 m.p.h. Friday: mostly sunny, high near 30, low 10-15 m.p.h., winds west 10-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: moslty cloudy, high upper 30s, low upper teens. Sunday: partly cloudy, high lower 40s. Monday: mostly clear, high upper 40s, low near 20. Tuesday: mostly clear, high upper 40s, low lower 20s. Wednesday: partly cloudy, high lower 50s, low mid 20s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$3.43 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.43

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.45 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.23

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$2.22 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.15 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.08

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$15

(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside
today



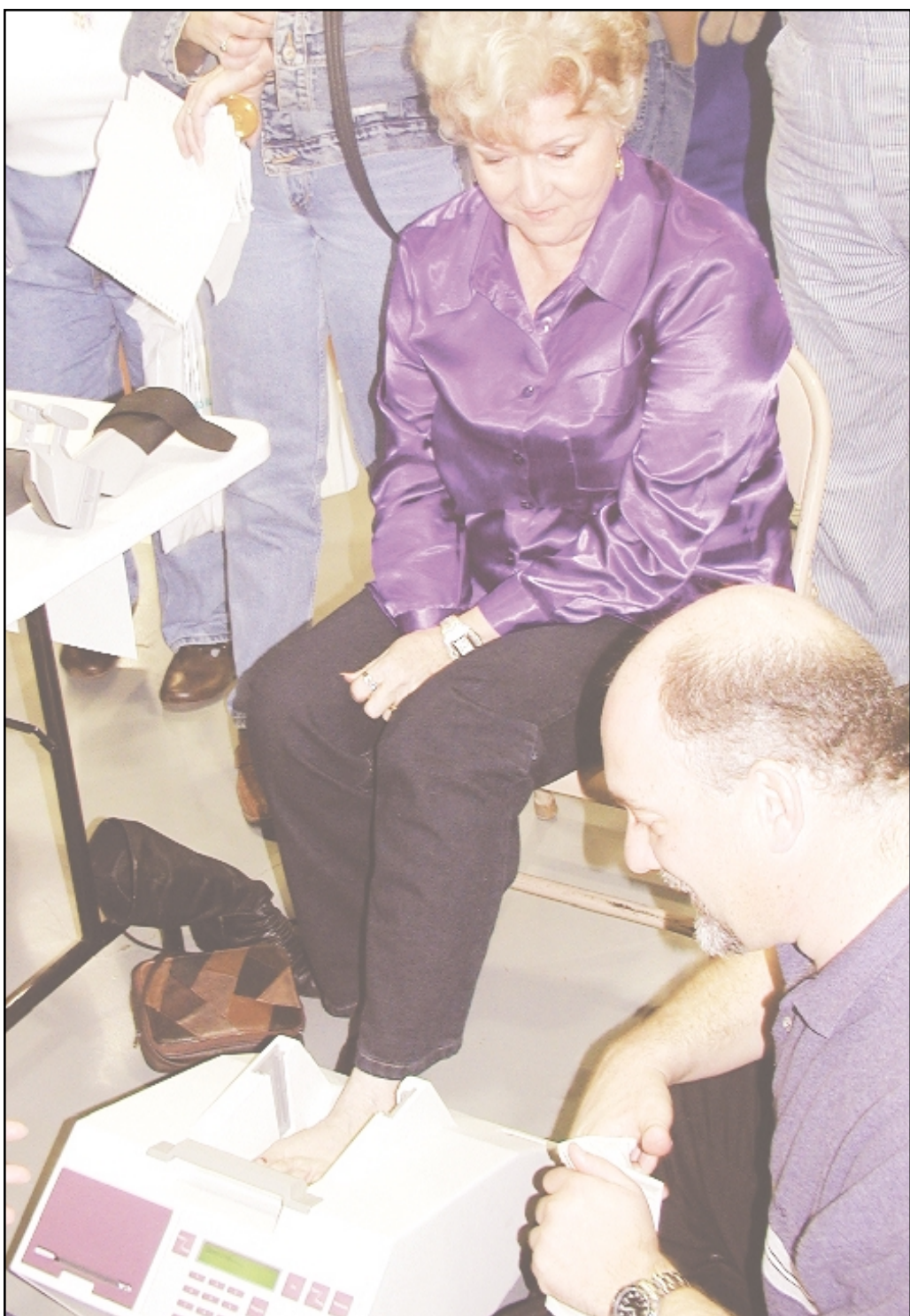
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Stretching
to warm up

Thursday began with cold winds and snow flurries, but turned sunny by noon. Many were staying warm inside at Goodland Activity Center. Marilyn Imel, instructor of a yoga class offered at the Goodland Activities Center, showed her class proper form. See Page 3

Getting a handle on your health



There were 315 people who signed in at the Sherman County Health Fair on Saturday. (Above) Over 60 people participated in a bone density screening to detect osteoporosis provided by the diagnostic imaging department of the hospital. Participants place their foot in a machine which test the bone density from the heel. (Above right) Edgar the Elephant, from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment,

greeted children at the health fair and encouraged parents to do blood screening of their children under six-years-old. (Right) Donice Monhollon had her oxygen saturation tested. Donna Terry, coordinator of the event said this was the best attended and smoothest running health fair to date.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



Hellerud fired at clinic, but not hospital

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

A nurse practitioner terminated at the Rural Health Ventures clinic continues to work at the hospital and has a job with a doctor in private practice here.

Tom Hellerud, a nurse practitioner, said he was called in at the clinic on Saturday, Jan. 25, on his day off and was asked to turn in a letter of resignation.

"I said 'no,'" he said.

Hellerud said he understood he

had been terminated at the clinic and at first thought he didn't have a job at the Goodland Regional Medical Center either.

Hellerud continues to work at the hospital, however, and is planning to join Dr. Kenneth D. Austin at the Medical Arts Clinic.

"Before they asked for my resignation," Hellerud said, "they told me I was refusing to do obstetric care and that the economy was tight.

"I was never asked to do obstetric care," he said. "I did not refuse. I

was not even required to do it."

Hellerud said there was a member of the hospital board present Saturday morning, so he thought he was terminated at the hospital as well.

"I talked to Jay Jolly (the hospital administrator) Monday morning," Hellerud said, "and that wasn't the case."

Hellerud is still a member of the medical staff at the hospital, Jolly said Wednesday, and continues to take emergency room calls.

"He has been a part of our affiliated staff for a number of years," Jolly said, "and that has not changed."

Hellerud said he has been at the hospital nearly 20 years and the clinic for 10 and didn't feel it was fair he was asked to resign at the clinic.

"After I was fired," Hellerud said, "I asked to take 10 days vacation which will end today."

He said he will start working with Dr. Austin on Monday.

"He's a good man," Hellerud said,

"and I'm glad he is giving me a chance to work with him."

Hellerud said he appreciates the support people in Goodland have given him.

"I heard there was a petition circulating," he said, "and it's nice to have people's support."

Hellerud declined to comment on whether he had talked with a lawyer about trying to get his job back or money from the clinic, but said he had been offered severance pay when he was asked to resign.

Pettibone agrees to diversion plan

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

A former Goodland banker who was charged with the theft of \$11,500 from the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter has admitted his guilt and paid partial restitution of \$12,500.

If he completes all terms of his diversion agreement, he could wind up with no criminal record in the matter.

Gordon Pettibone, who was the treasurer of the shelter at the time, admitted he took the money from the shelter's savings between Oct. 6, 1995 and Aug. 6, 1997. He has agreed to pay a total of \$15,335 in restitution, to reimburse the shelter for \$800 in attorney fees and to pay \$151 in court

costs and a \$100 diversion fee. He is also being required to pay interest on the money that was taken.

The diversion agreement means the criminal case will not be prosecuted for one year. If Pettibone abides by the conditions of the agreement for the year, the case will be dismissed. If he doesn't, Sherman County Attorney Bonnie Selby can prosecute the case.

Pettibone agreed to get counseling, not to violate any federal, state or local laws, to notify the county attorney if he changes his address and to pay the fines, fees, costs and restitution.

He waived his right to a speedy trial and to a trial by jury, and if he

violates the terms of the agreement, Pettibone will not be allowed to introduce any new evidence at his trial. Only the facts he stipulated to in the diversion agreement will be considered.

Animal Shelter President Sandy Rodgers said the shelter needed money from savings in August and discovered it was missing. Rodgers said the board called the authorities. Sheriff Doug Whitson said his department investigated the crime and turned it over to the county attorney.

Pettibone was a loan officer at Western State Bank at the time and then went to work at Kennedy and Coe, an accounting firm. He now works at the Wray, Colo., office.

City delays trash decision, plans to hold work session

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

City commissioners agreed it is time to make a decision on the solid waste question, but face a delay because the proposal from the Colorado company will not be until the next meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 18.

At the commission meeting Monday Commissioner Curtis Hurd expressed dismay at a letter received from Sherman County about the trash pickup issue.

He said the county proposal

would leave the situation the same as it is now, and he specifically objected to the section of the county proposal which said that drivers of the trash trucks "may be asked to help with the separation of the contaminated load."

Hurd then made a motion to approve the county proposal so it could be voted down, but the motion was later withdrawn.

Commissioner Rick Billinger said he had been looking at the

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