

weather report **58**° at noon

Today Sunset, 7:26 p.m. Tomorrow • Sunrise, 6:04 a.m. Sunset, 7:27 p.m.

Midday Conditions • Soil Temperature 49 degrees

- Humidity 45 percent
- Sky mostly clear
- Winds east 12 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.01 inches and steady
- Record High 91° (1987) Record Low 14° (1944)

Last 24 Hours*		
High	61°	
Low	34°	
Precipitation	.68	
NI'NA7 17	_	

N.W. Kansas Forecast Today: mostly cloudy with 30 percent chance of showers, high upper 60s, low upper 30s, winds southeast 10-20 m.p.h. Saturday: mostly cloudy with 20 percent chance of rain, high 50s, low lower 30s.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: mostly clear, high lower 60s. Monday: mostly cloudy, high upper 60s, low upper 30s. Tuesday: mostly cloudy and breezy, high lower 70s, low lower 40s. Wednesday: partly cloudy, high near 70, low lower 40s. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.



Wheat - \$3.07 bushel New crop — \$2.75 Corn — \$2.44 bushel Posted county price — \$2.22 Milo — \$2.23 bushel Soybeans — \$5.73 bushel Posted county price — \$5.43 Millet — \$7 hundredweight Sunflowers Oil current crop — \$9.50 cwt. Oil new crop — \$10.15 cwt. NuSun — \$10.10 cwt. New crop — \$10.85 cwt. Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt. New crop — \$17/\$10 cwt. Pinto beans — withdrawn (Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

Insurance, count pinch schools

By Steve Haynes

15.0

10

40

2.10

.40

2.30

.35

The Goodland Star-News Goodland Schools are facing yet another round of budget woes next year, as rising insurance costs and shrinking enrollment might combine to force up to \$410,000 in cuts.

That would be about 6.4 percent of the district's total general fund budget, which is roughly \$6.4 million

Superintendent Marvin Selby told the Goodland School Board on Monday that he wanted them to know what it might be facing before teacher contract negotiations start later this month.

First, he said, enrollment looks to be down by about 20 students from the first of the year. and if that trend holds into the fall, the count

1,128 just three years ago.

Under the state's complicated school finance formula, Selby said, the district can figure its enrollment several ways and pick the best result. The law allows them to use the average enrollment over three years he said, which works out to 1,023.9 full-time equivalent students.

Under that projection, he said, the district could lose \$163,400 from the annual budget. If the losses continue, he said, they would use this year's official count of 1,021.7, which would mean a loss of \$171,900 as the worst possible case.

Selby cautioned that as enrollment shrinks, numbers in vocational, at-risk and long-dis-

could be only about 1,000. That is down from tance transportation groups, which draw ex- into July to balance the state budget. Because tra money, also go down, so the loss could be most teachers elect to take their summer pay But it gets worse.

Employee insurance costs through Blue monthly payrolls. Cross/Blue Shield are up 39.2 percent. Though sive plan, the cost still we be up.

"You're looking at \$410,000 just to be even," he told the board, adding that he would be meeting Tuesday with the insurance committee to go over that situation.

The district's cash situation is OK, he said, even though the state so far has made only half it's April payment. Spending is within budget. it than anyone else.

He said things could get tight if the Legislature adopts a plan to push the June payment coup that much money," he said.

trict has to meet the equivalent of three

By juggling cash in some accounts, he

He said they will need to study the insurance problem, maybe looking at other firms or at the district paying some costs directly to save money. He suggested making Pat Juhl, board clerk, chair of the committee since she deals with the insurance plan and knows more about

"We couldn't even close a building to re-



A few minutes later, though, they

4-5 "students" greater than the figures show. in a single check, he said, on June 15, the disthe district may be able to shift to a less-expen- added, the probably can do that without state money.

Parents protest penalty

School board OKs dog search renewal

By Steve Haynes

The Goodland Star-News A Goodland couple lambasted the school board Monday for the way their son's case was handled after an unannounced search turned up two handguns in his car.

Greg and Tammy Cloyd complained that while their son Gage has been expelled from school for a year and has to endure a 60-mile bus ride to Oakley each day, while other students caught with firearms got much shorter suspensions.

The board listened to their sometimes emotional talk for about 10 minutes, then politely thanked the couple, and they left. Board member had no comments or questions for the couple, and gave no response.

voted 5-2 to renew the contract with the Oklahoma firm which brings a search dog to the school for random, unannounced checks four times a year. "I recommend renewal," said Goodland High Principal Harvey Swager. "They've done a very good job for us. "The whole purpose is not to catch kids and get kids in trouble. The purpose is to send a message that we want a safe environment." Greg Cloyd led off during the public comment section of the agenda. 'Our son made a mistake in the middle of January," he said, "and vou had him arrested." Other boys caught with guns in the January sweep got suspension as short as seven weeks, he said, and one was set up to study at home with a school-provided computer and Internet access. He said he didn't feel the searches that day were truly random; that at least three teachers' cars would not have passed and several students took their cars and left while others were being searched. "He made a mistake and he should have been suspended," the father said. "He's not a bad kid and he doesn't deserve the way he's been treated.' Cloyd added that he thought other officials, including probation officer Kathy Russell (a school board member) and County Attorney Bonnie Selby (wife of the superintendent) had treated his son fairly. "According to the lesson you gave us," he said to the board, "when someone) is down, you're going to kick him in the head." His mother said Gage gets up at 5:30 every morning to catch his bus to the service center alternative school in Oakley. "His goal is to graduate from Goodland High School with his friends," she said, adding that her son doesn't want any attention. "He doesn't want us here tonight." There were no questions from the board, and as the couple turned to leave, board President Dick Short



Homeowners

rid of waste

The county's household

hazardous waste program

collected 5,413 pounds of

paint and chemicals, nearly

three tons, Saturday. Nine-

ty-five people participated.

Supervisor Crystal Linsner

said the collection was not

as large as the first one in

September, but there was a

steady stream. See Page 3.

stops off for visit

Rep. Jerry Moran talked with Postmistress Connie Sheldon (above) on Tuesday when he stopped in Kanorado on his way to Denver. While visiting businesses, he carried a banner supporting our troops for people to sign. Moran said he would deliver it to soldiers at Fort Riley when they return from Iraq. At the Kanorado Senior Center, Tammy Colby and Edna Bishop signed the banner

Storm downs trees; rain tops normal

By Steve Haynes

The Goodland Star-News Storms that passed through Goodland on Tuesday and Wednesday blew down trees and a carport, fences and signs, but blew in a few smiles by dropping.80 of an inch of rain, putting the area above normal in precipitation for the year.

With the rain and wind, the area went from balmy days and a record high on Monday to shivers and some chilly lows, though nowhere near the record.

Vic Stegemiller, an intern meteorologist with the National Weather Service office at Goodland's Renner Field, said the official measurement brought the total for the year 3.05 inches, which is .33 more than normal for this time.

rain as the area had by this time last above or slightly below average,



This tree at 628 Harrison was one of several down after winds swept through town Wednesday morning. A car port also was damaged, along with some signs. Photo by Phyllis Hadley/The Goodland Star-News

year, at 1.07. Stegemiller said we depending on how much rain falls in That's almost three times as much could finish the month slightly the next few storms.

A thunderstorm Tuesday after-

noon left just .11 of an inch of rain with some small hail. By the time it reached Herndon, in Rawlins County, though, it dumped a reported two to three inches on some farms. Later, McCook, Neb., got more than an inch from the same storm.

Early Wednesday, a cold north wind brought gusts up to 58 m.p.h., downing large trees all over town. Signs and carports were down along with limbs. Stegemiller said there was damage all over the region, the worst of it a semi-trailer truck which was blown over on U.S. 34 near Trenton, Neb., at 12:24 p.m. In Colby, there was damage to a new home under construction, while in Oberlin, the wind ripped part of the facade off of a jewelry store.

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