

weather report

24°

noon Monday



Today

• Sunset, 4:57 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 7:00 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:58 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil temperature 28 degrees
- Humidity 71 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds west at 12 mph
- Barometer 30.15 inches and rising
- Record High today 69° (1981)
- Record Low today -9° (1963)

Last 24 Hours*

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| High Sunday | 24° |
| Low Monday | 8° |
| Precipitation | .03 |
| This month | .54 |
| Year to date | .54 |
| Above normal | .33 of an inch |

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, high mid 30s, low around 18. Northwest winds 10 to 15 miles per hour.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, highs mid 30s, low around 17.
 Thursday: Mostly sunny, high around 40, low around 19.
 Friday: Partly cloudy, high around 40, low around 16.
 Saturday: Partly cloudy, high mid 30s, low around 15.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

More snow!



People who went to dinner or the theater on Saturday came out to find their cars and Main Street covered in more than two inches of snow. City crews were out Sunday morning plowing more than six inches that fell overnight. Blowing snow created difficult driving as the area got snow for the fifth weekend in a row.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

local markets

Noon Monday

- Wheat — \$4.21 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.42
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$3.86 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.72
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$3.58 bushel
- Soybeans — \$6.21 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.27
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- NuSun crop — \$16.15
- Confection — Call
- Pinto beans — \$19 (new crop)

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

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowgirls finish third

Senior Emily Murray put on the brakes as she got ready to shoot a basket Saturday at the Colby High School gym against the Liberal Redskins. The Cowgirls defeated Liberal, 52-35, to take third place. See story, photo on Page 10.

Winter keeps snowy grip on plains

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland citizens woke up Sunday to the sounds of the city crew plowing streets, and looked out to find another six inches of snow had fallen overnight.

For those who got out their shovels, the sun came out for a few hours, but the clouds were back by noon and more snow was falling. Less than an inch accumulated Sunday afternoon.

The storm created a skating rink out on I-70, sending at least seven people to the hospital. State troopers, rescue crews and firemen were busy all evening until the road was closed.

Driving conditions deteriorated Saturday afternoon, making travel along the freeway dangerous, and several slide-offs were reported, but no injuries. The snow was blowing out of the southwest, which made driving home from the basketball games at Colby and the wrestling tournament at Hays slow as it was hard to see the highway.

Sunday afternoon, the snow stopped and the skies tried to clear again, but with the wind whipping snow across the road, driving conditions did not improve. From about 3:15 p.m. until the state Department of Transportation closed I-70 about 5:30 p.m., switchboards at Sherman County Dispatch and the Kansas

Wide range of snowfall across area

Area snowfall reports from the National Weather Service office in Goodland

- Inches, location, County**
- 8.00 Oakley, Logan
 - 8.00 Hoxie, Sheridan
 - 8.00 2 N Densmore, Norton
 - 7.50 5 E Mingo, Thomas
 - 7.00 3 N Russell Springs, Logan
 - 7.00 1 NE Colby, Thomas
 - 7.00 4 NE Kirk Colo., Yuma
 - 6.70 Grainfield, Gove
 - 6.50 Colby, Thomas
 - 6.40 1 se Leoti, Wichita
 - 6.20 Goodland, Sherman

Official NWS observation

- 6.00 Colby, Thomas
- 6.00 15 S Tasco, Sheridan
- 6.00 Gove, Gove
- 6.00 4 W Brewster, Sherman

- 5.90 Wallace, Wallace
- 5.70 Goodland city, Sherman
- 5.40 Benkelman Neb., Dundy
- 5.00 Hill City, Graham
- 5.00 Grinnell, Gove
- 5.00 Dresden, Decatur
- 5.00 Wray, Colo., Yuma
- 5.00 Culbertson, Neb., Hitchcock
- 4.00 13 NNE Tribune, Greeley
- 4.00 Idalia, Colo., Yuma
- 4.00 16 NNW Flagler, Colo., Kit Carson
- 3.00 St. Francis, Cheyenne
- 3.00 Tribune, Greeley
- 1.00 Atwood, Rawlins
- 0.50 McDonald, Rawlins

Snowfall totals are as of 7 a.m. Sunday and are not necessarily the final amount for each location.

Highway Patrol lighted up with reports accidents and slide-offs along I-70.

I-70 was closed west from Goodland to Denver because of the snow and blowing snow, and remained closed early Sunday night from Colby to the state line. Colorado reported the road open by midnight, and the highway was reopened early Monday morning from Goodland to Burlington.

Callers reported three rollover

accidents about 11 miles west of Goodland within minutes of each other, all in a three-mile stretch, with seven people taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center. Two ambulances from Goodland and one from Kanorado rushed to the scene, along with two fire/rescue trucks from Goodland.

A state trooper reported that one or two people had been ejected from one of the rolled cars and were lying in the snow when he arrived. The

Kanorado ambulance picked up the driver, Ameaka S. Robison, 28, her 6-year old son, Theorius C., and 1-year old boy, Tyreese C., who were ejected from a 2000 Ford that slid into the median and rolled one time. Passengers Theodore Robison, 31, Tabor C., 3 and Theo C., 11, were picked up at the same accident by a Goodland ambulance.

A third ambulance picked up Kenneth Eldon Hurst, 42, of Denver when the 2002 Mazda he was driv-

ing slid into the median and rolled one time about 13 miles west of town.

Dale Schields, human resources director at Goodland Regional Medical Center, said Monday that six of those brought to the emergency room had been treated and released. He said Ameaka S. Robison, the driver who had been ejected was admitted to the hospital and is in stable condition.

Wreckers from Alex's Radiator, McB's and Stagestop were kept busy with calls to pull stuck cars out of snow or pull them back onto the highway.

About 4:30 p.m., a dark Suburban was spotted down an embankment between two guardrails 13 miles west of town. No one was in the van, and a tow truck was called to haul it to town. Several semi trailer rigs slid off, and the largest tow trucks were needed to pull them back onto the highway.

About 5 p.m. came a report of a pickup pulling a horse trailer that had rolled about two miles west of the Sherman/Thomas County line. A wrecker was dispatched to pull it out of the highway. Some of the slide-off vehicles were being left in place as long as they did not block the highway. Crews planned to pull them out in the daytime on Monday.

See SNOW, Page 7

Colby college plans \$20 million expansion

By Patty Decker

Colby Free Press

Thomas County voters will decide whether to build a proposed \$20 million "student living" complex at Colby Community College during the general election Tuesday, April 3.

An issue on the ballot calls for \$15 million in general obligation bonds to be repaid over a 20-year period. Officials said at a meeting last Tuesday in Colby the college would raise the other \$5 million from donations and grants.

The facility would give the college a drawing card to attract new students, said President Ly Kreider, and would include a dorm addition

of 260 beds to house them.

The proposed facility includes a 2,400-seat gymnasium, a practice gym with seating for about 400, wrestling practice room, eight locker rooms, an elevated walking track, free and machine weights, a cardiovascular fitness center, coaches' offices, an all-purpose classroom, a large concession area and a vestibule.

The building would be at the northeast corner of the college campus, near College Drive and Franklin Avenue, with parking for 450 vehicles including buses.

Plans for the 115,000-square-foot facility arose from four months of

study and analysis incorporating the best designs for community and college use, said Dr. Kreider.

"I solicited the help of Lou Hines (owner of Western Sprinkler); Mike Woolfer, (Woolfer Construction); Mike Tubbs (Tubbs and Sons Ford); and Kenton Krehbiel (Colby postmaster and a college board member) to serve on a committee," he said. "Those four people spent a lot of time considering the needs of all constituencies, including community members and students."

Kreider and Krehbiel displayed architect's drawings to more than 25 people attending the meeting, which included city and county officials and

the majority of the college's coaches. The college board voted unanimously in favor of the project and asking for voter approval for financing, Krehbiel said.

The estimated tax increase, if the bond issue is approved, is \$165 a year for a home valued at \$120,000, Kreider said, \$45 a year on a quarter of dryland farmland with market value of \$110,000, and \$91 on an irrigated quarter of farmland with market value of \$224,000.

Kreider said the Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hays State University had done an economic impact study indicated the center would produce a:

- \$30,932,000 increase in economic output of goods and services.
- \$10,972,000 increase in earnings in Thomas County.
- 216.85 man-years of jobs created.

Each additional student would spend about \$9,828 during the nine-month school year and \$15,528 of new sales would be associated with each new student, the study said.

"This is a wonderful chance to take Colby Community College and the city to the next level," Krehbiel said.

Drawings of the center are on display at city and college offices and at Colby banks.