

weather
report

48°

noon

Wednesday

Today

Sunset, 4:47 p.m.

Saturday

Sunrise, 7:05 a.m.

Sunset, 4:48 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 31 degrees

• Humidity 47 percent

• Sky partly cloudy

• Winds north 8 mph

• Barometer 30.14 inches and rising

• Record High today 68° (1943)

• Record Low today -6° (2007)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 61°

Low Wednesday 21°

Precipitation none

This month trace

Year to date trace

Below normal 0.17 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 51, winds out of the northwest at 5 mph and a low around 22.

Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 58, winds out of the west at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 24.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 53 and a low around 26.

Monday: Mostly sunny with a 10 percent chance of snow at night, a high near 53 and a low around 26.

Tuesday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain and snow, a high near 47 and a low around 30.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.19 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.52

Corn — \$3.23 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.65

Milo — \$2.94 bushel

Soybeans — \$8.96 bushel

Posted county price — \$9.27

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$14.15 cwt.

Confection — \$28/\$15 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)

(Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside
today

More local
news, views
from your
Goodland
Star-News

Cowboys
lose big

Cowboy Brock Wilkens led the scoring against Lakin on Friday with 13 points, but the Cowboys lost 63-49. Tonight at 7 p.m. the Cowboys play the Rawlins County Buffaloes at Max Jones. See photo, story on Page 8.

School board back to square one

By Pat Schiefen
pjschiefen@nwkansas.com

The Goodland School District is back to square one on the school closing issue as the result of a formal motion to close North Elementary going down to defeat by a 4-3 vote at their Monday night meeting. The three voting in favor were Board President Jane Philbrick, Amy Sederstrom and Mike Cochran. The four voting against were Andrew House, John Hendrich and Chuck Wilkens. Gary Slough abstained but to do so is counted as a no vote.

A consensus to close North was reached at a special meeting of the school board on Dec. 2. Philbrick, Sederstrom, Cochran and Slough said they would support closing of North at that time.

Before the formal vote to close North was taken Monday night, Slough said he had called the Kansas Association of School

Boards and when he talked to someone there they told him that if the board formally closed North, and if they wanted to again at some point reopen it, they would have to go through the process of a formal motion, notice and formal hearing.

Slough said an alternative suggestion to that process — but would still clear out a building — would be to reassign students, cut staff and utilities to that structure.

Slough, Cochran and Wilkens said they would like to remodel North into a kindergarten through six facility.

Slough said he would like to see the district set goals.

Slough moved to reassign students from North Elementary for 2010-11 for budgetary reasons and the possibility of renovation. The sixth grade would move to Grant Junior High, kindergarten to West Elementary and fifth grade to Central Elementary. Wilkens seconded.

Philbrick said that while that would would save staff, there would still be maintenance on the building such as heat to keep the pipes from freezing.

Cochran said that would give the board another year to figure out what to do.

There was some question by several of the members if that move was even legal.

Philbrick said she thought the board would still need to have a meeting where the public would have a chance to express their opinions.

House and Cochran asked if the board needed to table the motion to get more information about reassigning students.

Philbrick said they needed to vote on the first motion. That motion, to close North Elementary, was defeated.

Then the board voted on the motion to reassign North Elementary Students. Voting for was Slough and Wilkens and voting against was Philbrick, Sederstrom, Cochran, House

and Hendrich.

“We are back where we started from,” said Philbrick. “Anyone have an idea where to go?”

Before the motion to close North by Amy Sederstrom, Superintendent Shelly Angelos told the board of a possible source in the Qualified Zone Academy Bonds which are state and federal money. To qualify for the money a district has to have 35 percent of its students on free or reduced lunches which Goodland has.

Angelos said the money could not be used for new construction but it is for remodeling. The money would have to be paid back over 10 years but would be interest free. There would be no need for a bond being put before the voters. She said that she had not gotten an answer to her questions about the bonds including how much money could be realized through the bonds.

Hope powerful word for cancer survivor

Tom (TD) Dreiling
tad1@st-tel.net

It’s all about one powerful word: HOPE!

And that word is the driving force behind two well known acronyms: ACS and RFL.

Anyone who is a cancer survivor, anyone who currently has cancer, and anyone who lost a loved one to cancer, understands what ACS and RFL mean: American Cancer Society and Relay For Life. The latter is the society’s largest fund raising event.

Ron Barkley is a survivor.

Barkley, who served the classrooms at Goodland High School so well as a teacher for so long before retiring, knows what it is to embrace the word hope.

Barkley was diagnosed with prostate cancer in the spring of 2008 — May 14 — and underwent 45 radiation treatments at the Dreiling-Schmidt Cancer Unit at Hays Medical Center for the bulk of that summer. Follow up examinations were in his favor. His PSA, which had escalated to 7+ when the diagnosis was made, was back down to nearly zero, placing him on the survivor’s list.

Barkley’s optimistic outlook today wasn’t always that way. You see, when the call came to his home on May 14, 2008 that, “...you have cancer...” , he was devastated. He was unable to fully cope with the message. He was full of questions, void of answers, filled with fear, anger, unsettled, tossing, turning.

Barkley

Goodland resident Ron Barkley entered the radiation machine at Hays Medical Center during one of his 45 treatments for prostate cancer in the summer of 2008. He has since been declared a cancer

survivor and has been designated a Hero of Hope in the Class of 2010 by the High Plains Division of the American Cancer Society. Photo courtesy Betty Barkley

He was experiencing the whole litany of reactions those three words spark. The tears welling in his eyes while talking about that call told a story all its own. “But because of my

experience with RFL, I knew there was hope,” he said.

With his lovely wife Betty sitting in during this interview in their home last week, Barkley’s words pointed to HOPE as the primary ingredient as one enters treatment and looks to recovery. It was determined at consultation with his oncologist, Dr. Babu Prasad, that radiation — 45 treatments — would be necessary. “I understood after undergoing the treatments why there aren’t 46,” he said. When asked why, he simply replied, “The side effects...” And

there are many.

Radiation treatments aren’t long, although the prep does take some time. When asked about the treatments, Barkley gave the following explanation:

“I would check in at the clinic at 8:45 and unless there was a problem ahead of me, I would be out by 9:30. It would take the techs about ten minutes to get me set up and everything lined up just right before the radiation started.

“Once the radiation started it would take less than 10 minutes.

There would be 7 positions that the Clanic machine would be placed in, and then it varied from 35 seconds to 75 seconds in each of those positions — less than 10 minutes of radiation per daily treatment.”

In August of 2009 at the Sherman County Relay For Life, Barkley was recognized as one of the 28 Heroes of Hope for the Class of 2010 from the High Plains Division of the American Cancer Society that in-

See HOPE, Page 5

Water project bids approved, total under budget

By Tom Betz
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

City commissioners met in special session Wednesday morning to review and approve contracts for the three main pieces of the water collection and treatment project with the total coming in under the \$6 million maximum loan amount.

The total of the contracts for the water project is \$5,766,895. The three contracts approved Wednesday total \$4,346,261. Added are the contract with Layne for the water treatment skid at \$673,135, and the engineering and administration total costs of \$747,500.

The city approved in December a loan contract with the state Department of Health and Environment for a maximum of \$6 million to cover the project. Of that 20 percent is loan forgiveness coming from the federal stimulus money, which is about \$1.2 million.

Commissioners approved a contract with Van Kirk Brothers of Sutton, Neb., for the waterlines (\$2,484,566), Sporer Land Development of Oakley for the evaporation ponds (\$362,500) and Miller Construction for the water collection and treatment building (\$1,499,195).

Don Hollar and Darin Neufeld, engineers from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, who are

Building most complicated contract

By Tom Betz
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

The third part of the city water project bidding turned out to be the most complicated of the three contracts approved at a special commission meeting Wednesday morning with Miller Construction of Goodland being awarded the contract.

The water collection and treatment building was the most complicated of the contracts, and Hollar said a lot of the problems were being created by the Buy American clause in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money from the federal program. He said the Buy American program has been around for a long time, but the definition of what is accepted has changed in the past

year and some of the companies who qualified before do not qualify under the new definition.

He said he had a call from a company last week who he had worked with on the pumps for the project and they were saying their pumps did not qualify under the new definition of Buy American.

Mike Miller of Miller Construction said he had received a call from the glass lined tank company he had in one of the alternates on the base bid, and he had to rescind his bid for that because the tank did not meet the definition.

Hollar said Miller Construction was the recommended low bidder on the project with a base bid of \$1,161,020.

The other two bidders were Smoky Hill at \$1,503,330 and Slat-

tery Construction at \$1,397,967.

The alternates were for four different types of water tanks with glass lined, powder coated, welded steel painted and bolted stainless steel.

With the glass lined tank bid taken out Hollar said his recommendation was to go with the stainless steel tank at a cost of \$336,249. He said he had requested a longer warranty of 20 years, and required a higher amount of nickel in the steel to make sure the tank will last as many years as it should without added maintenance.

Hollar said he had a problem a few years ago with a stainless steel tank in Hillsboro where a stainless steel tank corroded. He said that

See BUILDING, Page 5

handling the project for the city, went through the three contracts and explained options on each including a problem about the water storage tanks to be outside the collection and treatment building.

Mayor Josh Dechant and Commissioners Rick Billinger, Dave Daniels and Annette Fairbanks met

in special session in the conference room at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday to hear the results of the bid openings held on Tuesday afternoon.

Hollar said representatives from all the bidders were at the bid openings on Tuesday.

The waterlines contract was the first contract Hollar brought up for

commission approval.

Four companies bid on the waterline portion with Van Kirk Brothers being the low bidder at \$2,484,566. APAC of Salina was a close second being \$21,475 higher at \$2,506,041. Midlands was third at \$2,565,950, and McCormick Excavating (formerly Grasser) of Stratton, Colo.

was fourth at \$2,992,824.

Hollar said his recommendation was to approve the bid from Van Kirk Brothers. He said the engineer’s estimate for this part was \$3 million so the bids all came in under the estimate.

Billinger asked if Hollar and Neufeld if EBH had worked with Van Kirk before. Neufeld said the company has not worked with them on a project in Kansas.

Rich Simon, public works director, said Van Kirk Brothers is a big dirt work firm in Nebraska similar to Sporer Land Development of Oakley.

Daniels asked if Van Kirk had provided any references of other projects they have done.

City Manager Doug Gerber asked if the city could take the higher bid.

Billinger said he would like to take APAC since they were only higher by \$22,000.

Hollar said under the federal guidelines he did not see a way to take anything but the lowest bid on this project. He said he did not see anything that would allow the city to take the contract away from Van Kirk.

Dechant looked Van Kirk Brothers

See CITY, Page 5