

weather  
report

50°  
noon  
Monday



Today

- Sunset, 4:52 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 7:03 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:53 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 31 degrees
- Humidity 39 percent
- Sky mostly clear and sunny
- Winds southwest 9 mph
- Barometer 29.85 inches and falling
- Record High today 72° (1986)
- Record Low today -17° (1962)

Last 24 Hours\*

High Sunday	58°
Low Sunday	27°
Precipitation	none
This month	trace
Year to date	trace
Below normal	0.25 inches

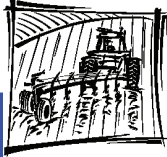
The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with patchy fog before 9 a.m. a high near 44, winds out of the south at 5 to 10 mph, a 20 percent chance of snow and freezing drizzle after 11 p.m. and a low around 25. Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow and freezing drizzle before 11 a.m., a high near 40 and a low around 23.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly sunny with a slight chance of drizzle or freezing drizzle, a high near 40 and a low around 28.  
(National Weather Service)  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets

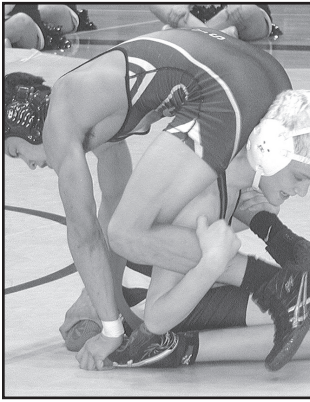


Noon

Wheat — \$4.05 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.46  
Corn — \$3.16 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.58  
Milo — \$2.87 bushel  
Soybeans — \$8.74 bushel  
Posted county price — \$9.19  
Millet — \$5 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$14.05 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



Wrestlers  
take second

Cowboy Austin Avelar wrestled with Calvin Ochs of Hoxie at 112 pounds at their dual on Thursday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Avelar lost the match on a 6-3 decision. See photo, story on Page 10.



# Commissioners tour armory



The Kansas National Guard Armory (top) will soon become a city building, and the drill floor inside (above) has many possibilities. City commissioners toured the facility on Monday, and will be looking at the options for the building. Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

## County reviews sheriff's investigator position

By Tom Betz

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County commissioners met in special session Friday morning to talk to County Attorney Bonnie Selby and Sheriff Kevin Butts about the investigator position created more than two years ago.

The big problem facing the commissioners and Attorney Selby is finding money to add an investigator position in her office. At the end of the meeting Friday the commissioners decided to wait for the auditors who will be in town this week to see if they can suggest how the shortfall to add an investigator could be handled. The commissioners will meet with the auditor at 1 p.m. on Friday.

Attorney Selby said the investigator position has helped her office increase the number of cases handled in the since it was created in May 2007 showing an increase from 99 criminal cases in 2008 to 176 last year. She said that did not include the juvenile cases or any other cases the office handles.

She said getting the case load up

is important when the state may be looking at ways to cut out more judges.

She told the commissioners it was her opinion the position has been a good idea, and felt it was time to move the costs of the position to her office.

When the position was created the person was to work in the attorney's office, but was considered a deputy sheriff and paid for out of the sheriff's budget.

Sheriff Kevin Butts said the investigator was supposed to work for both offices, but it has not been working that way recently.

"The way the position was intended was to look over our case reports," Butt said, "and get with a deputy if the criteria wasn't there for the case. As time went on his job has gotten bigger and taken him further away from my office."

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad asked if she was to understand the investigator was to review case reports for the sheriff deputies.

Butts said it was for his deputies, city police or state troopers who

filed cases through the county attorney.

Strnad asked if Butts felt he was short an officer.

Butts said the investigator can go to Selby's office, but he will have to resign from the sheriff's department and Butts will then replace him.

"I have been in here several times to explain how short handed I am," Butts said, "and it is not just for patrolling, but if I have an accident or a burglary I need an investigator to work with the deputy on the case."

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said he remembered when the position was created and remembers the idea was the investigator would work part time for the county attorney and be available to help the sheriff's office.

Butts said the position has evolved into doing mostly county attorney work, and he does not get the help he needs for the sheriff's office.

He said he feels the investigator position is important because it gives the officers someone to help with the cases, but the investigator is now doing more work for the at-

By Tom Betz

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City commissioners began their meeting on Monday touring the National Guard Armory on Armory Road to see what the city will be receiving at the end of February when the Kansas National Guard unit moves to Colby.

The closing of the Goodland armory was announced in December by Adjutant General Maj. Todd Bunting as one of 18 around the state being closed to cut state costs.

The Goodland unit will be moving to Colby, and Sgt. Mark Reasoner, full time soldier at the Goodland armory, said the original plans had included the Russell unit moving to Colby, but that has been changed and Russell will be moving to

Norton.

Reasoner said Monday he has people coming in this week to begin moving equipment to Colby and some of the equipment will be turned into the guard headquarters.

He said he has not found anything with a date showing when the Goodland armory was built, but did find information that the building was started in late 1988 and finished in 1990. He said the guard unit moved into the armory in May of 1990 and shipped out to Saudi Arabia in November for Desert Storm.

He said he found information that the Goodland guard unit was established in Oct. 1985, and when formed they drilled at the Goodland Co-op on the second floor. He said the unit's equipment was stored at the city lot, and the soldiers had to drive from the drill site to work on the vehicles.

Reasoner said he will stay in Goodland until the building is cleared and turned over to the city. He will then start work in Colby, but after numerous requests for deployment he has been approved and may only work in Colby until he is deployed.

"I may only work in Colby until I deploy," he said, "and who knows what state we will be in when I get back."

He said with the change in assignments for the Russell unit moving the Goodland unit to Colby will not be as difficult and there will be enough room for the two units to fit into the Colby armory.

The Goodland armory was the newest in the state, and was upgraded several years ago. The Colby armory is one of the older ones built in the 1950s.

The building has seven offices, a locker room, large drill room, one set of bathrooms, a kitchen and scullery, two large garages and a large garage door opening into the drill floor. Around the outside is parking for about 40 vehicles outside a fenced parking area where the unit equipment has been parked, and there is open space on both sides of the building that belongs to the city.

The city commissioners will be looking at options and public input about what the building should be used for.

One option mentioned was to use the building for a community center, and a suggestion was made to name it for Goodland Guardsman Derrick Lutters who lost his life in Iraq.

go help the sheriff. She asked if that has not been happening.

"You feel his priority should be assisting the deputies since he is your employee," Thomas said, "and if he has extra time he can help with the cases for the city police and state troopers."

Butts said that was correct, but at this time he does not see that happening.

Burton Pianalto, who serves as the investigator, explained what he has been doing, and the types of cases he handles.

He said he mainly reviews the reports from all of the law enforcement officers and talks to an officer if there needs to be follow up or if he sees a hole in the case. He said he assists in juvenile cases as well and cases that have come in the front door of the attorney's office.

Selby said she was under the impression the investigator would be reviewing the cases and helping if needed on cases with the deputy.

See COUNTY, Page 5

## College to 'Connect the dots' on Friday

The first sign is visible along I-70 east of town, and the Northwest Kansas Technical College will hold a media event at 10 a.m. on Friday to announce a brand name change as part of a "Connecting the Dots" theme.

The event will be held in the Memorial Student Union on the Campus. Announcements will include new branding as well as the launch of a campus-wide initiative for students attending the college.

The academic year has brought positive

change for the College, said President Dr. Ed Mills. The "Connecting the Dots" event will explain what Northwest Tech is working to accomplish — thinking outside the box.

"We are connecting the lines outside of the confines of the square area and choose not to be defined by "the nine dots themselves," Mills said.

Technical colleges, in the past referred to as "vocational or trade schools," have not typically been viewed to be at the forefront

of higher education and yet they meet the educational needs of a great many students, business and industry he said.

The Goodland college is a Higher Learning Commission Accredited college in addition to maintaining other recognized standards within various departments.

Northwest Kansas Technical College partners with several other outstanding colleges and universities to further extend educational offerings, he said.

"We are exploring new ways to provide high quality education in these challenging times, and we believe we are on the right track," said Dr. Mills.

Take the opportunity to find out how Northwest Tech is making history and moving forward through the use of creativity, imagination and innovation.

Anyone wishing to attend, please call (800) 316-4127 extension 505 or mhcfner@nwktc.edu.