

weather  
report

25°  
noon

Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 5:03 p.m.
- **Saturday**
- Sunrise, 6:56 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:04 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 31 degrees
- Humidity 44 percent
- Sky overcast and cloudy
- Winds east 10 mph
- Barometer 30.34 inches and falling
- Record High today 69° (1976)
- Record Low today -13° (1951)

Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday 37°  
Low Wednesday 17°  
Precipitation trace  
This month 0.11  
Year to date 0.11  
Below normal 0.28 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 36, winds out of the south at 5 mph and a low around 13. Saturday: Partly cloudy with a high near 40, winds out of the southwest at 5 mph and a low around 16.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a chance of drizzle at night, a high near 40 and a low around 20. Monday: Partly sunny with a high near 44 and a low around 16. Tuesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 45 and a low around 19.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

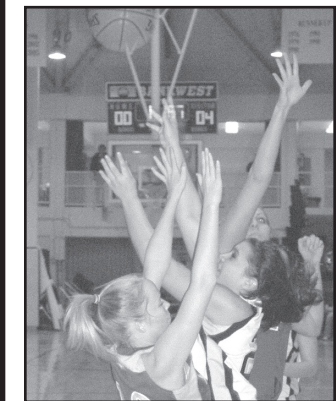
local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.84 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.02  
Corn — \$3.03 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.34  
Milo — \$2.74 bushel  
Soybeans — \$8.24 bushel  
Posted county price — \$8.68  
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



Cowgirls lose  
to Norton

Cowgirl Jennifer Rome reached through the hands of the Norton Lady Bluejay players to take a shot at Max Jones Fieldhouse on Tuesday. The Cowgirls lost to Norton 40-23. See photos, story on Page 10a.



# Board votes 7-0 to close North

By Pat Schiefen

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Nearly 60 people were on hand at the Goodland School Board meeting on Monday to watch the board vote unanimously to accept the superintendent's recommendation to close North Elementary at the end of the school year.

Many in attendance were teachers and staff who came to lend their support to Superintendent Shelly Angelos' recommendation to close North Elementary School.

Angelos explained her reasoning and repeated her recommendation that North School be closed at the end of the school year. The superintendent talked about more funding cuts that are expected from the state this year.

Board members had a chance to make comments, after which board member Amy Sederstrom made a motion to close North.

Member Mike Cochran seconded the motion. The board voted 7-0 to pass the motion. Voting to close the school were Sederstrom, Cochran, Board President Jane Philbrick, Andrew House, John Hendrich, Gary Slough and Chuck Wilkens.

Plans will move kindergarten to West Elementary School, fifth grade to Central Elementary and the sixth grade to Grant Junior High making it a middle school.

She recommended that after closing North Elementary the board will need to consider what to do with the property.

The legal notice of closing will be in *The Goodland Star-News* today and Friday, Feb. 5. A public hearing on the closing will be held at the board meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 8.

Superintendent Angelos said she had not expected the vote to be unanimous, but was glad to have a decision and be able to get going

on what needs to be done.

Superintendent Angelos reported in the State of the State speech by Gov. Mark Parkinson that if his sales and cigarette tax increases are not passed by the Kansas Legislature school districts, including Goodland, could lose \$300 off of base state aid per student, which would be a \$408,000 cut for next year.

She said closing North School would not in itself make up for the shortfall in funding but with the help of staff the district is looking at other ways to cut costs. The savings from closing North, Superintendent Angelos estimated, would be from \$170,000 to \$260,000. This would be from cuts in district operating costs, an administrator in year two, custodial staff, kitchen staff and a library technician.

Areas being looked at for future cost savings would be increased energy efficiency, utility costs, postage, conservation of paper

usage, elimination of field trips for students, elimination of the Christmas Senior Citizen Dinner and changes in bus routes.

The school board endorsed Michael Pettibone's running for national office in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. Pettibone said he wants to be a national officer, but not specifically national president. Pettibone was recommended by Sarah Short and Gwen Cebula, sponsors for the group.

West Elementary School teachers gave a presentation on how they were using their professional learning community time on Wednesday morning to collaborate on learning methods being used for students.

The board paid \$99,377 in bills.

The next board meeting and the public hearing on closing North Elementary School will be at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 8, at the administration building, 1312 Main.

## County to help buy ambulance

By Tom Betz

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Representatives of the hospital and ambulance service attended the Sherman County commission meeting Friday afternoon to ask for help replacing an ambulance that had developed some serious engine problems.

The commissioners listened to the request and after reviewing the budget agreed to give the hospital \$35,000 toward the purchase of a new ambulance.

Bruce Gleason, director of the ambulance service, said the service has three ambulances with the oldest being a 1995 Ford housed at Kanorado, a 1999 Ford and a 2006 Ford stationed in Goodland.

He said the 1999 Ford was in Hays with a patient transfer when it developed a problem and was blowing blue smoke. He said it was taken to Dan Brenner Ford to be repaired.

The ambulance had lost an injector on a prior trip and this time it was the same cylinder. Gleason said he had taken the ambulance out of service after talking to the serviceman at Dan Brenner Ford.

"I felt it would be risky to use this ambulance," Gleason said.

He said the older 1995 Ford ambulance was on the way to Hays last week and the transmission went out. He said a new transmission has been installed and it was back in service on Thursday.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad asked where the ambulance service was on replacement rotation for the ambulances.

Gleason said there was not a rotation schedule.

Jim Precht, financial officer for Goodland Regional Medical Center, said there is a need for a rotation, and the hospital has replacement of an ambulance in the budget.

He said Gleason wants to see a three year rotation or based on the mileage.

Strnad agreed the ambulance is handling a heavy load and feels there needs to be a good replacement program.

"Who is the ultimate decision?" Strnad asked. "The hospital has the ambulances it appears."

Precht said he felt the hospital has a replacement program, but feels the hospital, ambulance service and county commissioners need to look at the long term ambulance operation model.

He said he looks at the hospital like another department of the county.

Commission Chuck Thomas said the county owns the building.

Strnad said she understood the hospital was an autonomous operation.

Precht said the county appoints the hospital board, but felt that was getting away from the point of the meeting.

"We have a down ambulance," he said, "and we could put a new engine in it, but am not sure what the warranty is

See AMBULANCE, Page 5a



## The walls came tumbling down

Mike Miller of Miller Construction used a front end loader to knock down the walls of the old L&W Andrist Insurance office at Eighth and Main Ave. Wednesday afternoon. The demolition will make way for a new insurance office to be built this year said Walt Linthacum, agency owner.

Photos by Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News



## Northwest Tech to add rodeo team

The Northwest Tech Mavericks will hit the wrestling mats, golf links and now the rodeo arena with the addition of a rodeo team announced this week.

The rodeo team will be under the leadership of Lester Cress, staff member in the Diesel Technology program and belongs to the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association.

Dr. Ed Mills, president of Northwest Tech, said the rodeo opportunity has been made possible thanks to the generosity of John Boyington and his family.

He said the Boyington's have donated the land and arena, located south of Motel 7, so

the team will have ample practice and boarding facilities for their horses.

Cress brings a wealth of experience and knowledge along with Brenda Cress who will be serving as Assistant Coach of the team.

The Northwest Tech Rodeo team will consist of seven students (men and women) and begin in the fall. The team will be a part of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association, Cress said.

"The team will place emphasis on timed events," Coach Cress said, "but will welcome rough stock riders."

The program is considered a sports program

and will have the same student academic requirements.

"This is another opportunity for Northwest Tech to enhance the student life available for those attending the College," said Dr. Mills.

The Northwest Tech rodeo team will kick-off in August with a barbecue.

Any student entering the college in the fall who is interested in joining the Rodeo Team, should contact Coach Cress at (785) 890-1560.

For additional information on Northwest Kansas Technical College, go to the website at [www.nwktc.edu](http://www.nwktc.edu).

## Sherman County Health Fair

8 a.m. to noon, Saturday

Northwest Tech Student Union

Admission Free, see more than 40 health related booths