

weather report

45°

noon  
Wednesday



Today

- Sunset, 5:20 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 6:42 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:19 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 30 degrees
- Humidity 32 percent
- Sky clear and sunny
- Winds north 15 mph
- Barometer 29.89 inches and rising
- Record High today 78° (1962)
- Record Low today -11° (1948)

Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday	27°
Low Wednesday	8°
Precipitation	none
This month	0.12
Year to date	0.30
Below normal	0.23 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly sunny with a high near 48, winds out of the west at 5 mph and a low around 25. Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a high near 46, winds out of the northwest at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 17.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 29 and a low around 16. Monday: Sunny with a high near 44 and a low around 24. Tuesday: Sunny with a high near 45 and a low around 24. Wednesday: Sunny with a high near 49. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

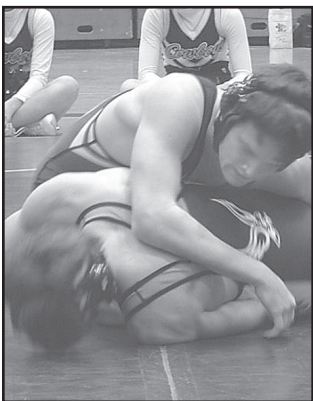


Noon

Wheat — \$3.99 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4  
Corn — \$3.07 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.31  
Milo — \$2.78 bushel  
Soybeans — \$8.41 bushel  
Posted county price — \$8.52  
Millet — \$5 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$14.65 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 at Oakley

Nathan Deeds got his first varsity win at 140 pounds over Colby's Brandon Leth. The Cowboys lost to Colby, but were in Oakley Thursday as a tune up for regionals in Norton on Feb. 19,20. See story, photo on Page 11.



Board votes 6-1 to close North

By Pat Schiefen

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A crowd of around 60 packed the Goodland School Board office Monday night to attend the public hearing on closing North Elementary School.

Board President Jane Philbrick invited anyone who wished to speak to do so. She said speakers would have three minutes and when everyone had their chance to speak if anyone had more to say they could.

Philbrick also invited everyone to the Town Hall meeting on Monday, March 8, to talk about what to do with the North Elementary School property.

Former teacher Shari Taylor was the first to speak. She supported moving the junior high into the high school and said many schools in the area have kindergarten to the 12th grade all in one building — such as Brewster. The junior high and high school kids mix together all year long, she said, in places such as 4-H, the Goodland Activities Center and even at the theater.

She wondered why the board hired an architect from Horst, Terrill and Karst Architects of Topeka and then ignored the recommendation of moving the junior high to the high school. Taylor wanted to know what happened to keeping kids first and thought there was more support to close Grant Junior High than North Elementary School.

Dale Stephens spoke next. He told the school board that they need to step up and make decisions. Older people in town want to educate kids. He also reminded the board that kids are tougher than people think and



Jessica Cole spoke at the building closure hearing at the beginning of the regular Goodland School Board meeting on Monday night. She said that if the junior high was moved in with the high school

can manage.

“We all want to help educate kids,” Stephens said. “We just want the board to use a little common sense.”

Jeff Deeds wanted to know why the district was going to a middle school concept when the reading he had done had said that that concept was a thing of the past. The information said that studies showed drug

use increased, violence increased and drop outs increase when sixth graders were mixed with seventh and eighth graders.

Jessica Cole told the board that she trusted the district to protect her seventh grade daughter if she were moved to the high school while she was in junior high. I think the district should have some idea of where they want to be in 50 or 80

she trusted the district to take care of her junior high daughter. There were almost 60 people who showed up at the meeting.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

years down the road. Schools and hospitals are the first thing people look at when they think about moving to a new place.

Before the audience was asked to speak, Superintendent Shelly Angelos gave an over view and rational for the decision to close North Elementary School.

The district aims to provide a quality education with a high stan-

dard for leaning and a high level of achievement.

The district has had a decrease in the number of students, resulting in less funding from the state. In 2002-3 the district had 981 full time equivalency and in 2009-10 the number was 899.5.

The district formed a task force of

See SCHOOL, Page 5

School district sells Kansas Ave. land to city

By Pat Schiefen

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The Goodland City Commissioners and City Manager Doug Gerber were also present at Monday night's school board meeting.

Mayor Josh Dechant asked the school board to sell them the property that the school board owns on Eighth Street. He said it would cost the city \$100,000 for pipe to move salty water from the water treatment plant on Eighth Street to evaporation ponds to be located at the Industrial Park west of K-27.



Dechant

The commission thought they would take that amount of money and offer it for the district's property on Eighth Street to make the water treatment plant more efficient and allow economic development in that area. A water well and the actual treatment plant will be built on the ground on Eighth Street. That would make the offer within \$44,000 that the district paid for the land in the 1980s.

The board asked how soon they would need a decision.

Mayor Dechant said they would like the decision tonight. The bids

for the water treatment plant had been accepted and the work was about to begin. The price of the iron pipe also fluctuated on a daily basis.

Board member John Hendrich thought the sale would be beneficial to both the city and the school district.

Board member Chuck Wilkens said he would like the district to recoup all its money spent on the land.

The city said the evaporation ponds would have burms and fences around them. City Commissioner Rick Billinger said they would plant trees and grass.

Board member Amy Sederstrom

excused herself from discussion as she had a conflict of interest.

Board member Mike Cochran asked if the city might pay \$129,000 if it was done over a period of years.

City Commissioner Dave Daniels said he would not go anymore than \$100,000.

City Commissioner John Garcia asked if the city had to buy the entire property.

Hendrich said when the topic came up before the school board, the city said it would have to buy all or none of the property.

The city commission went into executive session from 8:25 to 8:40 p.m. The school board waited while

they met.

City Manager Gerber said the city would not pay more than \$100,000 for the property.

Board member Chuck Wilkens said that was the best offer the board had had for the property in 25 years. He made the motion to accept the offer.

Board member John Hendrich seconded.

The five board members who voted for the motion were Board President Jane Philbrick, Cochran, Wilkens, Hendrich and Gary Slough. Board member Andrew House voted against and Sederstrom had excused herself.

County asked to revitalize Soldiers park

By Tom Betz

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Two citizens approached the Sherman County commissioners on Monday to suggest the county consider doing some revitalizing of the Soldiers Memorial Park known as Smoky Garden.

Richard Emig and Dennis Stegman were at the meeting and Emig said he had talked to Commissioner Max Linin about the idea.

“We have a facility that is known as Soldiers Memorial Park,” Emig said. “It has been a body of water, but we do not have water now. I believe the county could do lots of other things for the area such as walking trail and improvements to the picnic area.

“I always had a liking for that area, and feel as Soldiers Memorial Park we need to keep it in a manner to make those who served proud. I am concerned that is not how it is now.”

Emig said he was on the Smoky Garden committee years ago, and said he felt the board, appointed by the commissioners, ought to come to a meeting once a year and get

Changing fuel station may save money

By Tom Betz

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Representatives of the Goodland 24/7 store talked to the Sherman County commissioners Monday about ways the county might save on the gas and diesel fuel costs by using their station.

Dean Atteberry, fuel sales representative for the company, said he had contacted Curt Way, public works manger about bidding on the bulk fuel sales. Atteberry said he understood from talking to Way the county does not have any bulk sales. He said he talked to Sheriff Kevin Butts about getting fuel for his vehicles at a different location.

“I was told we needed to come to the commissioners,” he said. He was accompanied by Heather Helpingstine, manager of the Goodland store,

He said Heather checks prices every day, and for

some direction.

He said Oberlin has a similar dry lake, but the people and community have worked to improve it along U.S. 36.

“We have nice shelters,” Emig said. “We need some other things like grills. A lot of people don't un-

derstand that without water the area can be a benefit to the families and the kids. It can be a usable location for family picnics.”

He said the county does a good job of weed spraying down there and Daryl West takes care of the noxious weeds.

“When I was on the committee we were always expected to come in and meet with the commissioners,” he said.

Commissioner Linin said he had not thought about the park until Emig said people can use it even without water.

See FUEL, Page 5

Sherman County Conservation District annual meeting  
6:30 p.m. on Monday at Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall.  
Special award winners section inside today's paper.