

weather  
report

41°

noon  
Thursday



Today

- Sunset, 5:36 p.m.
- Sunrise, 6:23 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:37 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 31 degrees
- Humidity 64 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds northwest 7 mph
- Barometer 29.90 inches and steady
- Record High today 71° (1896)
- Record Low today -6° (1960)

Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday	41°
Low Wednesday	18°
Precipitation	none
This month	0.49
Year to date	0.67
Below normal	0.09 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 45, winds out of the north at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 22. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 48, winds out of the south at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 27.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow with a high near 38 and a low around 20. Monday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow, a high near 38 and a low around 20. Tuesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 49 and a low around 25.

(National Weather Service)

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# Council hears project updates

By Tom Betz

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The Sherman County Economic Development Council Tuesday evening heard the first phase of the city water project has begun and the citizen committee is considering options for the armory the city became the owner of this week.

City Manager Doug Gerber told the council the city water project has begun receiving pieces for the treatment plant, which is expected to begin construction in April. He said the water line project has begun with digging at Spruce and Cottonwood Ave.

Gerber said the citizen committee has met once and toured the National Guard Armory, and would meet on Thursday to hear a proposal about using the armory for an avionics program for Northwest Tech. He said the plan is to have a recommendation about the armory to the city commission by the meeting on Monday, March 15,

He said he had met with Lt. Col. Eric Blankenship, facilities plans and program manager for the Kansas Army National Guard, on Tuesday to go through the armory and check to make sure it has been cleaned out of anything the guard wanted to take.

Gerber said he would be explaining the details to the city commission at the meeting on Monday.

The development council held a closed door session for 10 minutes on personnel early in the meeting to allow council member Mike Hamilton to leave early.

Larry Keirns said the business retention and expansion committee



Members of the citizen committee met Thursday to tour the armory with Staff Sergeant Mark Reasoner (center) who showed the committee the plans for the armory showing it is about 21,000 square feet. Committee members include (left to right) Annette Fairbanks, Dana Belshe, Doug Gerber, Helen Dobbs and Karen Gilliland. Other members present were Rob Tomsic, Jimmy Gillespie, Debbie Martin, Travis Blake and Tom Betz.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

would have an announcement to be made at the city commission meeting on Monday about a potential use for the city's Ed Wolak building located north of the city administration building.

Jerry Fairbanks said he, Keirns and Walt Linthacum had met with a man who would like to talk to the city about locating a business in the Wolak building.

Linthacum, council chairman, said in the discussion with the gen-

tleman he was looking at two buildings, but said he wanted to make a proposal to the city commissioners about the Wolak building.

Gerber said this discussion would be near the end of the city agenda for Monday. The city meeting begins at 5 p.m. and Gerber estimated the economic development discussion would be about 5:30 p.m.

Helen Dobbs, development council office manager, said the new web site is up and running at www.

shermancountyed.org, and she has mailed out business information to most of the local businesses. She said some of the envelopes were returned and she is working to get the mailing addresses fixed.

Terri Richardson of VIP Video and Design, who created the web site at the request of council member Dana Belshe, said the council web site has been up for about a month and she and Helen have been working out some small bugs some

people trying to use the site have reported.

A bill from Richardson for the development of the web site, designing a color advertisement for a magazine and 100 full color flyers totaling \$2,936 was presented and approved by the council.

Dobbs said the price included web hosting for the first year that would be \$27 a month next year.

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# School district looks at possible budget cuts

By Pat Schiefen

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Superintendent Shelly Angleos explained to the Goodland School Board on Monday night at their regular meeting about where she was planning to cut the budget for next year, with the district expecting to lose \$408,000 in revenue for the next school year.

The closing of North Elementary School is expected to save the district about \$169,000.

The district is planning to discontinue the Parents as Teachers. That was a free program for 30 families with preschool children. Angleos said the budget is such that the district's money needs to be spent on children in the class rooms.

She said the district is planning to cut \$18,000 out of the budget for supplies. With one less library in the district that will cut \$5,000 out of the libraries' money.

The district will cut 50 percent of its funding for professional development for teachers. The superintendent said the district would

try to fill the gap with special federal money or grants.

Things being considered in the search for savings for the district could involve cutting out the senior citizen Christmas dinner, the grandparents lunch and the Christmas dinner for the school board.

Memberships and donations for the district will be closely studied, Angleos said.

Other things being looked at are selling more school owned property, changing the shuttle service for town students, summer work crews for the school, supplemental contracts for coaches and sponsors of clubs, staff and the class numbers in individual classes will be looked at in the high school. Angleos said things like reduction of calendar days for teachers would have to be handled in teacher contract negotiations.

She said the district spends \$200,000 on sports for coaches and related expenditures, which does not include transportation costs. The sport that costs the most is the junior high basketball program with a coach and

an assistant coach for seventh grade boys, seventh grade girls, eighth grade boys and eighth grade girls. That makes a total of eight coaches she said.

High school football brings in the most revenue of any sport, said the superintendent. None of the sports make money.

Angleos said she and the staff are looking at the fees charged to use Max Jones Fieldhouse and other facilities the district has. She said some of them are as small as \$10 which does not cover utilities or cleaning.

Board member Chuck Wilkens reported on his visit to the Kansas Legislature. He said he heard first hand about the revenue short falls the state has. A representative from the Department of Revenue said if the legislature does not pass the governor's recommendation of raising the sales tax one percent, the legislature will have no choice but to cut money for education. The state support for education is figured to end up at the 1999-2000 school year funding.

Angleos said there had been some com-

plaints that there were not enough text books to go around. She said she had checked with teachers and the district ordered more junior high books, science textbooks and leveled readers for Central Elementary School.

In other business the board

- Paid \$27,221 in bills.
- Voted to allow students to practice on Sunday to prepare for the wrestling state competition and girls and boys basketball sub-state competition.

The teachers from Goodland High School gave the board a presentation on how they were using their professional learning community time on Wednesday morning. Some of the younger teachers said they were able to work with other teachers in other departments that they hadn't known.

The next meeting for the school board is the town hall meeting on the future of the buildings and grounds of North Elementary School at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 8, at the Goodland High School Auditorium.

# Census forms coming to county homes in mid-March

By Tom Betz

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Many people in Sherman County received a letter from the U.S. Census Bureau in the past week reminding everyone about the upcoming 2010 Census Form and asking people to fill them out and mail it back by Count Day April 1.

Richard Gerdes, assistant regional manager in the Kansas Census office, said Tuesday the letters are a way of reminding people about the upcoming mailing of the official census forms. Gerdes said the 2010 Census Forms will be mailed beginning on Monday, March 15, and most people will receive one that week.

He said the census bureau is looking for people from Sherman County to help with the census, and anyone interested in applying for a census job can call (866) 861-2010.

Every 10 years — as required by the U.S. Constitution (Article 1, Section 2) — every American household receives a form to be filled out and returned to help count everyone in the city, county, state and nation.

Gerdes said 90 percent of the people will receive a census form in the mail, and the people are asked to fill out the simple 10-question form and mail it back by April 1.

He said a few areas including

some parts of Sherman County will receive a census form in a plastic bag left at their front door by a census employee. He said these are usually rural areas where mail is not delivered.

Once the forms are mailed out, a Be Counted and questionnaire assistance site will be opened at the Goodland Public Library, 812 Broadway Ave.

Karen Gillihan, librarian, said the library has agreed to provide the census a place to have a census worker meet with people who have questions about filling out the census forms. She said the census is supposed to have someone available while the library is open.

The constitutional reason for counting everyone every 10 years is to determine the boundaries and number of Congressional representatives for each state. Kansas has four Congressmen, and it is important to get a good count to be sure the state keeps that number of representatives.

The state, counties, cities, school districts, hospitals, fire districts, libraries and other special districts are tied to the census results as the numbers are used in determining who gets more than \$400 billion in federal grants tied to the information gathered in the census.

Sherman County was about average across the state of Kansas

returning 65 percent of the census forms in 2000 when the last census was taken.

The goal of the U.S. Census is to raise the city and country return percentage this year getting it closer to the 85 to 90 percent range. For Sherman County that would be getting census forms returned from about 2,710 homes.

"In these days of concerns over spending by the Federal government, I am not surprised by emails I receive questioning why the Census Bureau sends out letters in a separate mailing in advance of the 2010 Census form package," wrote

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local  
markets

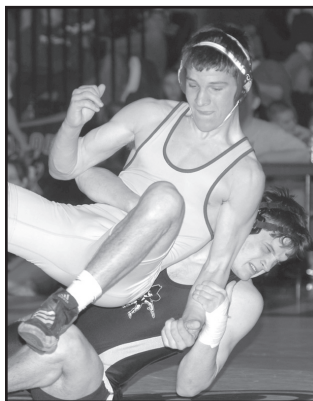


Noon

- Wheat — \$3.96 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.16
- Corn — \$3.18 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.45
- Milo — \$2.93 bushel
- Soybeans — \$8.37 bushel
- Posted county price — \$8.85
- Millet — \$5 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$14.80 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  
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## State 3-2-1A starts today

Cowboy Nathan Deeds throws Norton's Connor Pfannenstiel in the third place match at 140 pounds at the Norton regional tournament. Three Cowboys are looking for wins at Hays. See story, photo on Page 10.

## Women in Technology Day planned at Northwest Tech

Northwest Tech is planning a "Women in Technology Day" to be held from 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., on Wednesday, March 10, at the Memorial Union.

There is no cost for attending, but the college is asking people interested in attending to register by Friday by calling (800) 316-4127 or e-mail marilyn.hefner@nwktc.edu.

The goal of the day is to encourage and promote career awareness

for women in both traditional and non-traditional occupations by providing meaningful hands-on activities and interaction with successful female role models.

The day's events will include a choice of two hands-on activity sessions, a luncheon and panel discussion led by women in technical careers. Students and other attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions about available career and

education choices.

Featured guests will be Jan Slack, a native of Salina, president of Matrix Electronic Measuring, Inc. Jan was chosen to be one of the 2008 KTEC PIPELINE Innovators and as product manager, she developed "The Wand" system, a handheld, mobile, targetless, computerized, stereoscopic digital imaging tool

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**Town Hall Meeting**  
**7 to 8 a.m. on Saturday**  
**at high school auditorium**  
**meet and hear from**  
**Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and**  
**Rep. Jim Morrison**  
**Hosted by Sherman County Farm Bureau.**

Check out the Boy Scouts Chili Feed  
11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Methodist Fellowship Hall.

