

weather
report

59°

noon
Monday



Today

• Sunset, 7:16 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:21 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 47 degrees
- Humidity 33 percent
- Sky partly sunny
- Winds southwest 15 mph
- Barometer 29.75 inches and falling

- Record High today 88° (1991)
- Record Low today 8° (1936)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	68°
Low Sunday	33°
Precipitation	none
This month	0.01
Year to date	2.54
Above normal	0.31 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain or snow, a high near 55, a low around 27 and winds out of the northwest at 15 to 30 mph. Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow before noon, a high near 49, winds out of the north at 20 to 45 mph and a low around 26.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Sunny with a high near 62 and a low around 32. Friday: Sunny with a high near 70 and a low around 35. Saturday: Sunny with a high near 63 and a low around 35.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.65 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.76
Corn — \$2.90 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.16
Milo — \$2.66 bushel
Soybeans — \$8.35 bushel
Posted county price — \$8.63
Millet — \$5 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$15.10 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



Kids enjoy
Easter sun

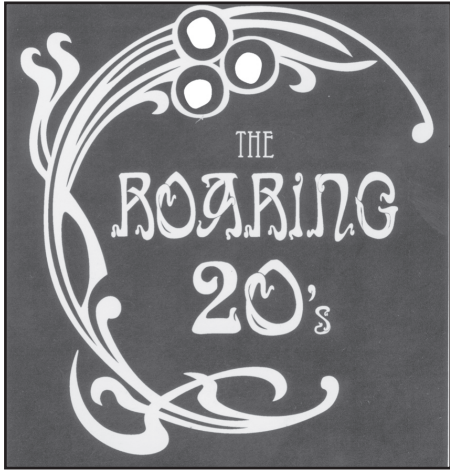
The great weather Easter Sunday brought families out to Gulick Park to enjoy the sunshine. Destiny Heltingtstine, 6, (left above) was with her grandmother Helen Elliott. See photo on Page 8.

College plans ‘Roaring 20s’ bash

A “Roaring 20s” bash is planned for 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 24, at the swanky Goodland Elks Lodge.

The Northwest Kansas Technical College Endowment Association is hosting the event as their annual fundraiser. Admission is \$50 and will include dinner and top of the line entertainment. Silent and live auctions at the Roaring 20s event have been provided by generous donors said Bill Finley, endowment director.

To name a few items to be auctioned include: a 1967 Red Chevelle SS; Remington Model 710 Rifle .270 caliber; beautiful Snooker Table with all the amenities; John Elway framed autographed jersey, one carat diamond ring and many other unique items Finley said.



The Northwest Tech Cosmetology students will be open on Saturday, April 24, for

those attending the event who wish to have their hair styled. All proceeds for hair styling will be donated to the Endowment Association. Contact Christa Bergsma, cosmetology instructor, to schedule your “1920s hair” at (785) 890-1505.

For more information call (800) 316-4127 or call direct at (785) 890-1505 for ticket information. Reservations need to be made by Monday, April 19. You may purchase tickets at Northwest Tech, 1209 Harrison Street or at the Goodland Activities Center., Eighth and Main Ave.

The Northwest Technical College Endowment Association is a not-for-profit registered 501(c)(3) corporation with the sole purpose of providing financial support for the students and programs of Northwest Tech.

Last year the Endowment Association awarded over \$140,000 in scholarship funds to students. Ninety-Two percent of the students who attend Northwest Tech have some sort of scholarship whether through their own community or the Technical College. It is the goal of the college to make sure every student who wants to attend college has an opportunity.

The Board of Directors for the Endowment Association are Arlie Archer, McDonald; Shelly Angelos, Goodland; Kirk Easterday, Atwood; Doug Flemming, Bird City; Gerald Franklin, Goodland; Harold Frasier, Sharon Springs; John Geisinger, Seldon; Rob Loftin, Weskan; Roland Query, Firestone, Colo.; Clarence Redmon, Syracuse; Carol Sanders, Goodland; and Alan Townsend, Goodland.

Hospital board OKs feasibility study for remodel, building

By Tom Betz

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The Goodland Regional Medical Center main building was built in the early 70s, and the hospital board building committee suggested a feasibility study be done to look at remodeling or building a new facility at the meeting on Monday.

Jay Jolly, hospital administrator, said the building committee talked about what to do with the existing building, and said a feasibility study would analyze the building and master plan plus look at financing options. He said the estimated cost was \$22,500 with Health Facilities Group of Wichita doing the study. He said the company did the 2005 master plan, and would work with others who would do parts of the study.

“A study would give us a context and framework to talk about what we really are going to do,” he said.

Jolly said he wanted to talk to the people from St. Anthony about this as they were in the middle of a \$500 million improvement program, and Bob Wallace has been a big part of that.

He said the hospital staff were to meet with Wallace and Pam Nicholson of Centura Health Systems in Denver on Thursday. He said the review was at the system level and not just the St. Anthony level as Centura Health Systems is the owner of all the St. Anthony hospitals.

He said rural outreach is part of a new Centura Health Systems initiative, and with the other health reform changes he wanted to see how they can help Goodland’s hospital and clinics and what benefits might be available.

“We have no way to move ahead without a lot of information,” Jolly said.

Brenda McCants, board chairman, asked if Jolly wanted to go ahead with the feasibility study or wait until he had talked with Centura.

Jolly said he would not send the letter about the study off until after the talks, but if nothing major changed he would get the study started.

Jim Precht, hospital financial officer, said when the budget was done there are a lot of things that did not get put in. He said with cash reserves the board could go ahead and do the study and not run the budget short.

“How are we going to use the study,” said Steve Riebel board member. “What are we looking for.”

Jolly said the study would provide environmental assessment, utilization and what we would plan for in the future. He said the study would look at the existing facility and look at remodeling versus building new.

“That is one of the first decisions that needs to be made,” he said.

“There are trade-offs there, and the study gives you the basis to make the decision. It helps you choose your options.”

Precht said the study will look at what is going to be the best facility to meet the needs of the county. He said part of the process would be to go to see some facilities that have been remodeled or built, and could allow some of the board to go on some of these trips.

“This is not really a bad time to build things,” he said. “The interest rates are down and builders are looking for work, but if you do not have a good plan to bring to the people you can be sure it will fail. We need to have a plan to take out there. We do not know how we would pay for this. We need to determine what our best option is and then determine what is the best method to pay for it.”

McCants referred to a study done by board member Darin Neufeld a member of the building committee. She said Neufeld felt the board ought to get a professional opinion.

Riebel said he was questioning the study because many he has done have not been worth the paper they were written on.

“I just have a bad feeling on feasibility studies,” he said. “In many cases if you wanted it they wrote the study that way, and if you didn’t want it they wrote the study that way.”

Jolly said he felt the study would be useful as the hospital started going after money. He said it would help answer some questions especially about market and utilization. This is more comprehensive and some of the studies I have seen, he said.

“We are going to need teams of people to look at various aspects,” he said. “I cannot tell you what we need. We are licensed for 25 beds, but today we do not need that many. We need to look at those kinds of numbers and get some of the answers we need to make good decisions.”

McCants said it would be good to include the people who are going to work in each area.

Harlan House, board member, said the hospital needs to be sure the doctors are part of the study.

“It is getting the input from all those we need to determine what we are looking at,” Jolly said.

McCants asked about a timeline for getting things done.

Jolly said he would like to have the approval to go ahead with the feasibility study.

A motion was made to approve the feasibility study and it passed. Board member Randy Coleman said he abstained because he felt there were a lot of ifs, and was not sure where the \$22,500 for the study was coming from.



Great kite flying weather

Easter Sunday afternoon had just enough wind to make the kite fly high for Grace Richardson, 5, with the help of her mother, Christy Richardson. The Richardson family was in town visiting great grandparents Bob and Leora Jones who live across Caldwell Ave. from the park. Grandpa Jones found a comfortable spot to watch the kite flying from on the grass. The National Weather Service said the high Sunday was 68 degrees. The forecast for today and tomorrow is for gusty winds with a 40 percent chance of rain or snow showers through Wednesday morning with a high in the upper 40s. It is forecast to be sunny Thursday through Saturday.

Photos by Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Have you mailed
your Census form?
Sherman County return rate at 56 percent.

