

weather report

82°
noon
Monday

Today

• Sunset, 7:29 p.m.
Wednesday
 • Sunrise, 6:09 a.m.
 • Sunset, 7:27 p.m.

Midday Conditions
 • Soil temperature 76 degrees and rising
 • Humidity 50 percent
 • Sky partly cloudy
 • Winds north 17 mph
 • Barometer 30.03 inches

Last 24 Hours*
 High Sunday 92°
 Low Sunday 63°
 Precipitation none
 This month 2.66
 Year to date 17.27
 Above normal 1.47 inches

The Topside Forecast
 Today: Partly sunny with a high near 80, winds out of the north-east at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 49. Wednesday: Sunny with a high near 83, winds out of the south at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 53.

Extended Forecast
 Thursday: Sunny with a high near 87 and a low around 58. Friday: Sunny with a high near 92 and a low around 61. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 92 and a low around 65.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$5.65 bushel
 Posted county price — \$5.71
 Corn — \$3.59 bushel
 Posted county price — \$3.71
 Milo — \$3.30 bushel
 Soybeans — \$9.12 bushel
 Posted county price — \$9.68
 Millet — \$5 hundredweight
 Sunflowers
 Oil current crop — \$15.80 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 Goodland Star-News

Three youths at rodeo finals

Laine Herl qualified for the National Little Britches Rodeo Finals in steer wrestling and finished 17th. He was one of three youths from Goodland competing at Pueblo, Colo.. See story, photos on Page 12.

President pleased with first year

By Tom Betz
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Dr. Mills

Classes are in session at Northwest Tech and Dr. Ed Mills, college president, can be seen with a big smile as he tells everyone who asks that the first day of classes there were 352 students and that is 100 more than were at the college at the end of the school year in May
 Dr. Mills has finished his first year as president and is pleased with the success of that year, and feels things are really beginning to move forward as classes began the middle of this month.
 He admits part of the excitement is having the Northwest Tech Mavericks and the first season of athletes on campus. He said when they held the opening session in the multipurpose room of the Student Union the atmosphere was almost electric.
 “Having athletics is changing the perspec-

tive on campus,” he said. “This will give our students a spirit and life we did not have.
 “It is good for the campus and the town to add the Mavericks. It is great for this community to have a collegiate sports presence and an opportunity to grow in the future. I think it ought to be pretty exciting when we start using Max Jones for our matches.
 “Steve Lampe is already talking about next year and said he has had people telling him he ought to add another women’s sport next year. We are already talking about what the possibilities are and it would probably be softball or volleyball.”
 He said after the opening day the numbers went up as high as 358 or 359 and then dropped to 348, but were back up to about 350 where Mills thinks they will stay.
 He said the wrestlers are great students and have been on campus about a week and

have been willing to help out where ever they could.
 He said they now have a complete women’s golf team and eight out for rodeo.
 “We are pushing 35 athletes,” he said. “They are courteous and are a wonderful asset to the student body, This is changing the campus in a very positive way.
 “It has given us a richer campus culture.”
 He said the increase in students has had another effect in filling up some programs.
 “We have 30 students in business where last year we had four,” he said. “It is now a two year program. It has become a business management and leadership program. We are looking for collaboration from a university to make it a two-plus-two to lead to a bachelor degree.”
 Mills expects the business program to continue to grow and with a new freshman class next year to have 60 students in the program.
 “What we have to do is convince these

young people to work with us for the first two years and then be able to transfer into a larger university,” he said. “We changed the program from the secretary prep into a business management course, and with the new instructor Dennis Misurell. There is another guy who is enthusiastic about what he is doing and that is bringing excitement to his class.”
 Mills said he doesn’t have the numbers yet, but believes the number of women has grown as well as the percentage of Hispanic students.
 “We are anxious to see what that is going to look like,” he said.
 He said the diesel and auto technology class are full, and each will have about 50 students.
 One of the problems with an increase in students is a lack of housing, but Dr. Mills said that has been helped by the donation of The Buffalo Inn, that is in the process of being

Mural depicts varied activities

Chief artist Elwyn Vatcher mixed more paint while working on the next window for the mural on the side of the Goodland Churches Thrift Store at 10th and Main Ave. Vatcher said he hopes to be done with the windows soon, and is hoping for some help on the section below where scenes of the different building fronts are to be painted. Building owner Rod Cooper is helping pay for the mural work, (See story and photos on Page 9.)

Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Development council reorganizes office

By Tom Betz
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Anyone calling the Sherman County Economic Development Council office will be in for a surprise as the city of Goodland staff is answering the calls, while the council works to reorganize the program without an office manager.
 At a meeting on Thursday the council accepted the resignation of Helen Dobbs as office manager, and said City Manager Doug Gerber had stepped forward and agreed to help answer the development council’s phone until the reorganization was worked out and a new person hired.
 Gerber said when people call the development council the phone call is forwarded to the city and a city staff member answers the phone. He said the person answering will be saying “City of Goodland,” but once it is determined to be a development council call he said the person is directed to the right person or the information is taken to be given to a council member.
 Ten of the 11 members of the council were present for the meeting on Thursday and talked about how to cover the other office needs until a person can be hired.
 Shelly Thompson, council treasurer, said she had spent a few hours with Dobbs before she left, and was willing to help pick up the mail and keep track of the bills.
 She said she had been contacted by several people who were trying to turn in applications for the third round of business and home improvement grants with a deadline on Friday.
 Gerber said he had been surprised at the number of phone calls the city has taken for the development council over the first two days, and said many were people asking about the business and home improvement grants.
 Council member Nancy Cole volunteered to help with the improvement grants as she is a member of that committee. She said she would

collect the applications and go take the before photos of each property. She said she would contact the other committee members and set up a time to review the applications in the next week.
 Other members of the committee include Dave Daniels, Charlene Cole, Jan Haigler, Rochelle Kling and Commissioner Cynthia Strnad.
 The council decided to designate the \$25,000 for the grocery store sign for next year’s budget so the money would be available, but it would be earmarked for that project.
 Council Chairman Walt Linthacum asked who could help handle the council e-mails and Council member Dana Belshe said he would work on that.
 Council vice-chairman Jerry Fairbanks said he would handle the renewal process for the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, and check on the micro loan projects.
 Council member Danny Archer said he would help with replacing Dobbs on the Shine On Sherman County steering committee.
 Thompson said the council liability insurance is due for renewal this month, and the council voted to pay the premium of \$500.
 The council agreed to notify the boards that Dobbs has been serving on that she no longer represents the development council.
 Council members talked about the future, and decided to work on a plan to hire a new office person in the near future.
 In the interim people calling the development phone number will be handled through the city, and Gerber said he will work with the council to make sure the people calling get the information or help they need.
 Council members present included Archer, Cole, Thompson, Fairbanks, Larry Keirns, Linthacum, Haigler, Kling, Belshe and Marciea Weaver. Council member Mike Hamilton was absent.

County, hospital delay ambulance transfer

By Tom Betz
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The Goodland Regional Medical Center ambulance service will not become the Sherman County ambulance service in January the county commissioners and Jay Jolly, hospital administrator, agreed at the meeting on Monday.
 County Commissioner Chuck Thomas said the county would keep working on the ambulance transfer and hope to get it ready by budget time next year. He said the transfer was more complicated than they expected and the county cannot be ready by January.
 “I hope we can map out a plan for how we are going to do this and the time frame,” Jolly said. “We need to have it ready next year as the contract to run the service ends on Aug. 31 next year.”
 Jolly said Jim Precht, hospital financial director, has provided some more figures showing the fair market value of the ambulance equipment, but did not include the depreciation. The capital purchase value of the equipment was \$304,000, Jolly said, and \$187,400, is fair market value.
 He said the biggest issue facing the county is the operating budget and staffing the ambulance service.
 “What we at the hospital can do may be a bid different than what the county can do,” he said. “We need the county to take the lead on the costs. We can give you a budget template and massage the numbers, but that is more complicated than the equipment.”
 “One of the things is the employees and their transfer,” Thomas said, “as they actually work at the hospital in between duties. We would like to see that continue in some form.”
 “It helps keep their skills up,” said Commissioner Cynthia Strnad.
 Jolly said the biggest decision is how many full time employees the county feels it will take to operate the service.
 “We have been running it with two full time and some part time,” he said. “If the county can keep the volunteer group that would help. We have some who volunteer, but there are some times when we need to have a nurse on a trip. We know the county does not have a nurse and we would have to work that out.
 “For those who volunteer for the ambulance and are full time at the hospital what do we do, and for those who volunteer for the ambulance and volunteer at the hospital again, what do we do. We need to figure out how to detail that.”
 Thomas asked about the case where a nurse had to go on a trip and asked if the hospital would pay them.
 “I am not sure about that,” Jolly said, “but I think we would keep the nurse on at the hospital, but everyone else we would have to work out what to do for those people.”
 He said he thinks the volunteering at the hospital for those who are full time on the ambulance can continue at least to some degree. He said the hospital is looking at some financial challenges, and are feeling some pressure.
 “We are supposed to see more reimbursement from medicare,” he said, “but I will believe it when I see it.”
 He said the hospital is seeing less people on an inpatient basis, and seeing more on an out patient basis.
 He asked if the commissioners had thoughts

on how to go forward on the ambulance transfer.
 County Clerk Janet Rumpel said if the county is going to take over the ambulance in September next year the commissioners need to put some money in the budget for those three months. She said the commissioners could put in a ball park figure and take it out of the health services sales tax at this time. “Those three months would give us some idea of the cost,” Thomas said.
 Commissioner Max Linin said that would not work as the budget would already be done.
 Rumpel said the hospital would have to budget the first nine months and the county would have to budget the last three months for next year and then budget for the full next year.
 Thomas said it seemed like a good idea to leave the ambulances housed where they are now, and have office space at the hospital. He said the county could decide later if the ambulances should be moved.