

weather report

64°

noon

Monday

Today

Sunset, 5:52 p.m.

Monday

Sunrise, 7:10 a.m.

Sunset, 5:51 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 56 degrees

• Humidity 39 percent

• Sky cloudy

• Winds northwest 32-43 mph

• Barometer 29.20 inches and rising

• Record High today 87° (1922)

• Record Low today 10° (1997)

Last 24 Hours\*

High Sunday 71°

Low Sunday 37°

Precipitation 0

This month 0.23

Year to date 19.14

Above normal .82 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny, breezy. Patchy frost in morning. High around 60. Areas of frost after midnight. Lows around 30. Northwest winds 10-15 mph. Wednesday: Sunny, breezy. Areas of frost in morning. High in upper 50s. Widespread frost through the night. Low in the mid 20s.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Sunny with widespread frost in the morning. High in the lower 60s. Friday: Mostly clear. lows in the mid 30s highs in the lower 70s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$5.80bushel

Posted county price — \$5.91

Corn — \$4.91 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.17

Milo — \$4.76 bushel

Soybeans — \$10.89 bushel

Posted county price — \$11.02

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$19.80 cwt.

Confection — no bid

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

Cowboys win big one

Cowboy senior Kelly Pearson juked a Phillipsburg Panther player for a big gain in the second quarter on Friday. The Cowboys won 48-28 and play Thomas More Prepon Thursday. See story, photos on Page 8.

# Public provide input at forum

By Tom Betz  
nt.betz@nwkansan.com

The crowd of about 110 people who attended the school district public forum on Thursday found themselves split into six groups to examine pieces of the future plans for changing the school buildings. Board President Chuck Wilkens opened the meeting and turned it over to Superintendent Shelly Angelos after the roll call. Five board members were present including Wilkens, Mike Cochran, John Hendrich, Amy Sederstrom and Gary Slough. Board member Jane Philbrick was absent and the position of Andrew House, who was killed in an accident on Sept.21, remains vacant.

Angelos provided a history of how the school board has arrived at the decision to engage an architectural firm to develop a plan for the renovation of North Elementary into a K-6 school and the high school into a 7-12.

She said the process had begun more than three years ago with a citizen task force, and that the task force recommended reducing the number of school buildings. She said the board took the recommendations and had an architect examine the building for structural soundness. In that report provided to the board in February 2009, the architect said the buildings were all sound, but had a list of minor and major upgrades that needed to be done for each building.

The board discussed the recommendations, and held a public forum to get input from the public. Following the forum the board had difficulty getting a majority to approve the next step. The board kept talking and looking at different options, and came to a decision to close North Elementary and to begin the process of moving the junior high grades to the high school.

The board reviewed three proposals from architects about how to move the district from the board decision to a bond election in April to ask the voters to approve the next step.

Angelos said a small group of citizens and staff members toured

Members of the audience at Thursday's school public forum split into groups to talk about various issues involved in the project being considered to remodel North Elementary into a K-6 and move

the junior high to the high school for a 7-12. Gennifer House led the existing building group (above) and Dale Schields led the junior high group (below).

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

the school buildings Thursday afternoon taking about three hours to get into the nooks and crannies of each.

She turned the meeting over to Christy K. Joy of Archi+Etc of Lincoln, Neb., the firm the board had selected to handle the design phase and to see the district through the bond election and to construction if the voters approve the plans.

Angelos said the board and community do not have the total numbers, and the purpose of the forum was to gather community input. She said the board has listened to the recommendations of the task force and professionals and are taking the next step in the process.

Joy introduced people from the firm who were present to help and to listen. Richard Hawks, Jr., Monte Taylor and Rob Mierau.

She said her people had met with the school staff and are having the staff fill out a survey. She said they had received 30 of those back, and had gathered some comments from the students.

She said the first meeting was to gather the input and a second meeting will be held in November to review the input and give the architects time to develop preliminary design plans for the project. She

said another meeting will be held in January to provide the numbers and the proposed designs.

The people gathered in the high school cafeteria were asked to select an area of interest and split into groups to talk about the needs and priorities for each area.

The areas Joy suggested included high school, junior high, elementary school, existing building and high school site committee. People who

were interested went to different rooms to talk and select a person to be a spokesperson and bring back a list of priorities.

A group of people did not join any of the suggested groups and Ken Klemm, local buffalo rancher, asked if they could have another committee that the bond issue "was not the right thing to do."

Joy said that was doable and let Klemm and those who remained in

the cafeteria joined in that discussion.

The committees were given about half an hour to discuss their specific area and to develop the priorities to be brought back to the full group.

When the group reassembled each spokesperson explained the priorities and issues that each group felt were specific and important to consider in the planning and design.

Ken Klemm led the 'why not' group who stayed in the high school cafeteria during the open forum on Thursday.

## Citizens give architects ideas to consider in project design

By Tom Betz  
nt.betz@nwkansan.com

When the public forum started Thursday evening the high school cafeteria was full with about 110 people attending to hear and provide ideas to the architects who are tasked with helping the Goodland School District move ahead with a two-school concept.

Christy K. Joy of Archi+Etc of Lincoln, Neb., split the audience into five different groups to look at the high school, junior high, existing building, elementary school and high school site. A sixth group was created by those who felt the whole idea of moving ahead with a bond election was the wrong thing to do.

Each group had about 30 minutes to work on their specific area and to provide some priorities to be presented when everyone came back together.

Ken Klemm, area buffalo rancher, led the discussion in the "not the right thing to do" committee.

School board member John Hendrich said he did not feel it was the right thing to do to hire an architect at \$90,000. He said it would be better to put a figure out for the people to vote on and see if the voters will support it and then if it passes go ahead with the architect and design.

Klemm said the reason the people were at the forum was to help find a way to get the bond passed.

He said he took the school building tour and felt that North and West Elementary were duplicates and said they were lousy buildings and lousy design.

"I believe North needs to be sold as soon as possible," he said.

He said he believes the buildings are well maintained and said that was because of the maintenance staff.

He said he felt Grant is a solid building and that the district ought to work with that building and Central Elementary and the high school to handle the students.

One of the people in the room said she

feels Goodland will come back, and that it would be wrong to cut down to two buildings. She agreed with Klemm that the district ought to keep three buildings.

Klemm said there were some wild cards that people have to consider. One is population, second is more possible state budgets cuts and the impact of federal codes.

Hendrich said he had the recommendations from the architect the board hired more than a year ago.

"We don't need two plans," he said. "We have a plan and need to see if the people will support what we have."

Connie Grieve said if the people won't support the plan it sends the board a negative message that the community doesn't like it.

"What happens if it doesn't pass," said Josh Dechant.

## Kids welcome for haunting fun on Friday

Goodland's ninth annual Moonlight Madness celebration and costume contest will bring out spooks and goblins from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Friday for a night of hauntingly good fun, candy and costume contests.

Several downtown stores will be open late with specials for shopping, and there will be treats for the kids who stop by. The annual Goodland Star-News and Goodland Merchants costume contest will be held at Wolski's Photography, 1100 Main, (formerly Day 3 Digital Photography).

The doors will open at 4:30 p.m., and the first round of judging will begin at 5 p.m.

There will be three age groups, with cash prizes for first, second and third in each. The 4-and-under group will be judged at 5 p.m., those 5 to 8 at 5:30 p.m., and kids 9 to 12 at 6 p.m.

The Goodland Kiwanis Club is donating the prize money, and Walmart is providing candy for those who participate.

Businesses sponsoring Moonlight Madness include American Communications, 716 W. Business U.S. 24, Gambino's, 402 E. 17th, Dan Brenner Ford, 224 W. Business U.S. 24, and The Goodland Star-News, 1205 Main.

Northwest Technical College is planning a Campus Candy night for kids in the community from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday. Various departments at the college will have face painting, hot chocolate and candy will be handed out from departments at various locations on campus. Kids should start in the college admission building and they will have a map of locations for the kids to visit.

Kiwanis Circle-K is holding a pumpkin decorating contest in the student union. Those who have carved or decorated pumpkins can bring them to enter.

See IDEAS, Page 5