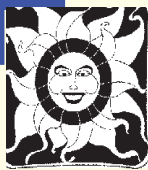


**weather report**

**41°**

10:30 a.m.  
Tuesday



**Today**

Sunset, 4:32 p.m.  
**Wednesday**  
Sunrise, 7:06 a.m.  
Sunset, 4:31 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil temperature 33 degrees
- Humidity 41 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds southwest at 10 mph
- Barometer 30.15 inches and steady
- Record High today 74° (1980)
- Record Low today -11° (1916)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High Monday 51°  
Low Monday 23°  
Precipitation none  
This month .41  
Year to date 19.33  
Below Normal .27 inches

**The Topside Forecast**

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 43, winds out of the southwest at 10 mph and a low around 22.  
Wednesday: Sunny with a high near 54, winds out of the west at 15 mph and a low around 29.

**Extended Forecast**

Thursday: Sunny with a high near 60, winds out of the west at 15 mph and a low around 30.  
Friday: Sunny with a high near 59 and a low around 33.  
Saturday: Sunny with a high near 56 and a low around 29.  
Sunday: Sunny with a high near 45 and a low around 24.

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

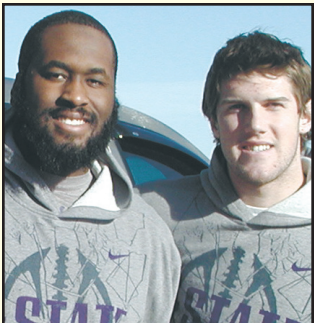
**local markets**

10:30 a.m.

- Wheat — \$6.47 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$6.24
  - Corn — \$6.14 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$5.95
  - Milo — \$5.83 bushel
  - Soybeans — \$10.62 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$11.01
  - Millet — \$11.50 hundredweight
  - Sunflowers
  - Oil current crop — \$28.30 cwt.
  - Confection — no bid
  - Pinto beans — \$28
- (Markets by Scouler Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

**inside today**

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



**Connection to bowl game**

Three K-State Wildcat football players stopped in Goodland on Monday on their way back to Manhattan. The Wildcats will be in the Cotton Bowl on Friday, Jan. 6. See photo, story on Page 10.



## Dialysis receives more donations

By Pat Schiefen

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Jay Jolly, chief executive officer of Goodland Regional Medical Center, reported at the regular Board of Directors meeting on Monday night on the fund raising efforts for the new dialysis unit. He said the tri-state group from Burlington donated \$17,000 for the unit. The Northwest Kansas Medical Foundation gave \$75,000 and there were individual donations of \$5,000 and \$1,000.

"There is a lot more of a need out there than expected," Jolly said.

The doctor in charge of the unit will be able to see some patients who need nephrology care, Jolly said. People who have nephrology

(kidney) problems but are not on dialysis yet will be able to utilize his services.

We have a two-year investment of time and energy so far in starting up the unit, he said.

Jolly said he had not heard from the Sherman County Commissioners on the changes of wording for the contract for the hospital to run the ambulance service.

Human Resources Director Dale Schields gave an update on employee turn over for the year. He said the turn over rate for a facility like the hospital runs between 10 and 15 percent. This year it is running at 14.98 percent which is on the high end. For several of the previous years the rate had been on the low end.

Board president Patty Eckhardt said she

had wondered about the employee turn over rate.

Shields said the staff is concerned about job security as well as the physical and emotional environment at the hospital. We have been trying to do more for the employees facility wide.

Dietician Sarah Linton is going to part time to spend more time with her three small children.

Pam Sheldon of the physical therapy department is going to part time, said Schields. She is setting up her own massage clinic.

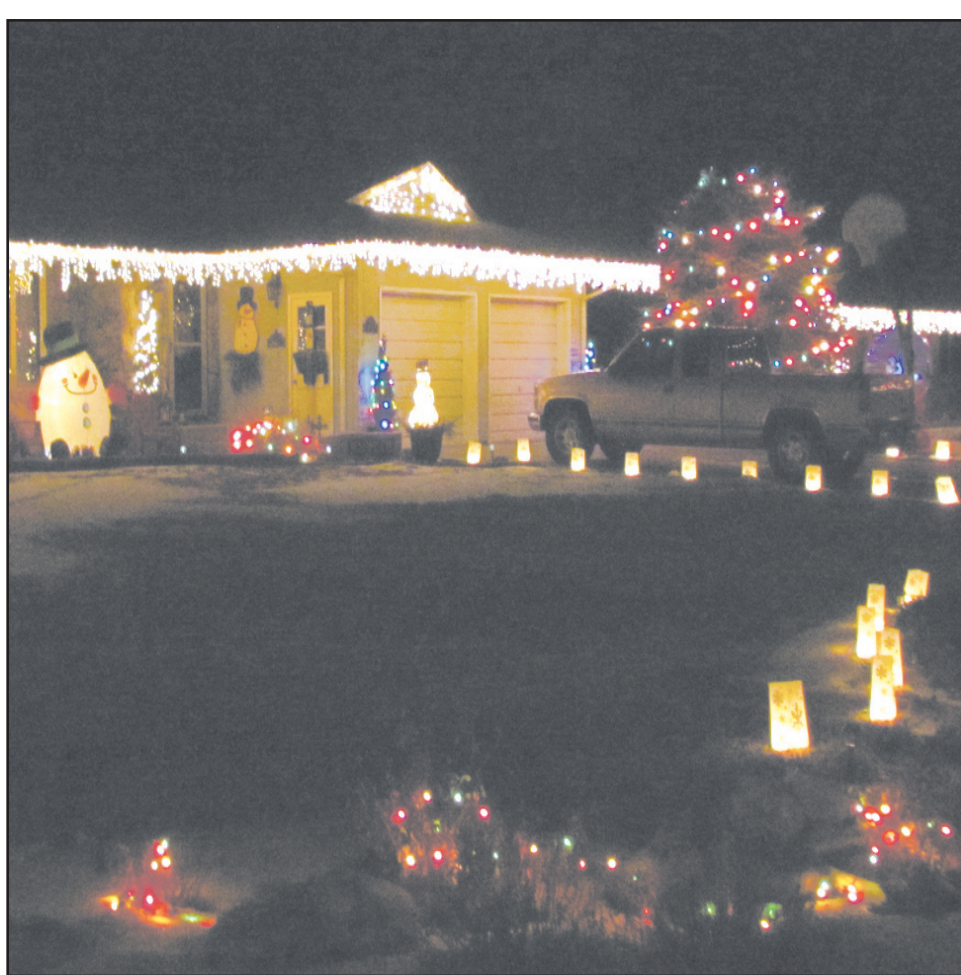
The board approved the 2012 Quality Improvement Plan. It was reported the only changes from last years was changing from paper reporting to electronic reporting.

Kevin Sanderson reported the hospital was on schedule on implementing the new Information Systems Reporting. The change would meet the meaningful use requirement for the national health care reform legislation. Different modules of the system will be brought on line until all of them are on the system by December of 2012, he said. The hospital will receive enough money from Medicaid to pay for the new system.

Lynn Hoelting said the Goodland Family Health Center has been the busiest since 2005 if the current trend continues.

The board had met in executive session from 6:30 to 7:20 p.m.

The meeting ended at 8:35 p.m.



### Holiday lights great viewing

Christmas time brings out great lighting displays, and it worth taking a drive around after the sun goes down. Some of the decorations are visible during the day, but really sparkle at night. No matter what part of town you drive through, including Armstrong and Paxton additions one can find some great holiday decorations. Many of the decorations will probably be up through the New Year weekend.

The Christmas story is displayed in fantastic artwork placed around the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Photos by Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News



## State's first influenza cases found in Northwest

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment last week identified the first two influenza cases of the 2011-2012 flu season northwest Kansas.

On Wednesday, the Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories confirmed influenza in specimens from two adults from the same workplace in northwest Kansas. Neither patient had reported receiving an influenza vaccination. Five coworkers were also ill with symptoms of influenza.

Health officials remind Kansans if they've not already done so, they should get their yearly vaccination against influenza now.

Sherman County Health Department director Gene Kosmatka said flu vaccination shots are available from the health department and she said it is available at the Goodland Family Health Center.

She said people can come to the health department without an appointment to get a flu shot. She said the health department has done about 965 flu shots as of Wednesday.

She said it is a good reminder to parents of

college students to get them a flu shot while home for the holiday vacation.

Lynn Hoelting, director at the Goodland Family Health Center said the clinic does have flu vaccine both for children and adults. He said people should call the clinic at (785) 890-6075 to make an appointment. He said the Family Health Center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during week days.

Symptoms of influenza include fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, and muscle aches. Complications can include pneumonia, ear and sinus infections, and dehydration; influenza may also worsen other chronic conditions.

"Flu has arrived once again in the state. Although flu activity is now low, it normally rises during the holidays before peaking around February. Influenza can continue to circulate through spring, and the flu can be unpredictable," said state Health Secretary and State Health Officer Robert Moser, MD. "There is still time for everyone to get a flu vaccination to protect themselves, their loved

ones and the community."

Influenza vaccination is effective for reducing the chances of getting sick and of spreading influenza to others. Additional ways to avoid spreading influenza include covering coughs and sneezes, washing your hands, and staying home when sick.

All persons six months and older are recommended to receive an annual influenza vaccine. This is especially important for anyone at high risk of complications or who is caring for, or in regular contact with, an infant less than six months of age. Babies this age are too young to be vaccinated and are more vulnerable to the complications from influenza disease.

On average, five to 20 percent of the U.S. population contracts influenza yearly and more than 200,000 people are hospitalized with complications. Older people, pregnant women, young children, and people with certain health conditions are at high risk for serious complications. Serious complications of the influenza can lead to pneumonia and

even death.

Influenza was documented as a cause of death for 31 Kansans in the 2009-2010 influenza season; in the 2010-2011 flu season, there were 14 documented deaths from influenza. However, influenza is often not listed on death certificates because laboratory tests may not show influenza by the time pneumonia or other complications develop, said State Epidemiologist Charles Hunt. "The actual numbers of influenza-related deaths are likely much higher and can vary substantially from year to year," said Hunt.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that as many as 3,300 to nearly 49,000 influenza-associated deaths occurred during influenza seasons between 1976-1977 and 2006-2007, depending on the severity of the season.

For information on receiving the influenza vaccine, please contact your health care provider or the local health department. Visit [www.kdheks.gov/flu](http://www.kdheks.gov/flu) for influenza facts.