

weather report



21°

10:30 a.m.
Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 4:45 p.m.
- Sunrise, 7:06 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:46 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 36 degrees
- Humidity 39 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds northwest 23-31 mph
- Barometer 30.09 inches and falling
- Record High today 72° (1996)
- Record Low today -17° (1997)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 40°
- Low Wednesday 12°
- Precipitation trace
- This month .02
- Year to date .02
- Below normal 0.11 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 49, winds out of the west at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 18. Saturday: Sunny with a high near 55, winds out of the west at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 24.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny with a high near 54 and a low around 29. Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 44 and a low around 19. Tuesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 36 and a low around 20.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local markets



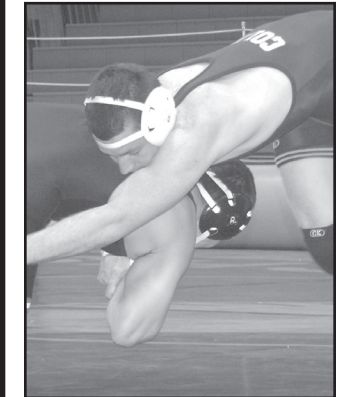
10:30 a.m.

- Wheat — \$6.13 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.38
- Corn — \$5.91 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.27
- Milo — \$5.63 bushel
- Soybeans — \$10.27 bushel
- Posted county price — \$11.25
- Millet — \$11.50 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$27.45 cwt.
- Confection — no bid
- Pinto beans — \$28
- (Markets by Scoullar 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



Mavericks lose 40-0

The Northwest Tech wrestling team lost 40-0 to Colby Community College on Saturday. The Mavericks will be in Colorado this Saturday to compete in the Mines Open at the Colorado School of Mines.

School facilities meetings begin

By Pat Schiefen

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The first of seven scheduled Goodland school facilities meetings was held Wednesday morning and Thursday afternoon. Superintendent Bill Biermann also met with the City of Goodland employees Monday afternoon to get their feedback, after being invited to do so by City Manager Doug Gerber.

Biermann said when he was hired the intention was not to pursue a bond issue, but as things have developed he said knowing what buildings the district plans to use makes a difference. It helps with decisions such as whether or not to purchase new heating boilers, he said, something the district did for Central Elementary School recently.

Biermann said as he and the board of education members have visited with people they have asked their thoughts about the failed bond issue in April. Two things stand out such as

people do not want any new buildings and that \$15 million was too much money. They wanted to take care of what we have.

He said that as he thought about the meetings he decided not to present a lot of figures but to set the meetings up more like a conversation.

The district needs to get to three buildings from a budget and efficiency stand point for kindergarten to 12th, Biermann said. Currently, the district has four building. Under the new plan, West Elementary would have kindergarten through second. North Elementary would have third through sixth grade. Seventh and eighth grades would move to the high school.

Moving those two grades to the high school is not about money, eh said. Currently at Grant Junior High there is not much more than the base curriculum offered. A move to the high school would allow students more electives and non-

traditional choices.

It would also give the district the flexibility to redesign learning for the seventh through 12th.

"I am not going to promise not mix the seventh and eighth graders with the other high school students," said Biermann. "I think the lunch room and physical education need to be age appropriate."

The high school has the capacity for 600 students but currently has 250, said Biermann. There are things that need to be renovated such as the electrical service into the high school is maxed out and more technology or even more air conditioners can not be added.

The next hurdle would be where to put the sixth grade, said Biermann. The class is currently too large to fit them into any

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Local man found dead in Wyoming

A Goodland motel manager was found dead last week in his motel room in Riverton, Wyo.

Few details are available yet, but Fremont County Coroner Ed McAuslan has identified the man as Amar Merchant, 35, of Goodland. Merchant was the manager of Motel 7.

His body was found in the Rode-way Inn in Riverton at 11:10 a.m. Jan. 5. McAuslan said preliminary autopsy results indicate the cause of death as pneumonia, but the final report won't get back to him for four to six weeks.

Authorities have said there is nothing suspicious about the death, but the investigation is ongoing.

County to review insurance at meeting

By Tom Betz

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Sherman County commissioners will meet at 1 p.m. today to review insurance quotes for a self-funded plan plus look at quotes for vision and long term care.

Monday morning the commissioners met early to talk to Rhonda Fernandez of Professional Insurance Consultants of Dodge City by phone about the Blue Cross and Blue Shield proposal presented in December by Charles Krull Blue Cross regional representative.

Krull presented the county with a self-funded insurance program which could save the county money over the next several years.

Fernandez told the commissioners

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The end of the Holiday season



City workers took down the last remnants of the Holiday season and wreaths from the street lights on Main Street. this week, using a bucket truck to remove the Christmas lights. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Groundwater district gets \$1.8 million grant

The Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service announced a \$1.8 million federal grant to Groundwater Management District 4 for the Agriculture Water Enhancement Program. The money is part of a \$3.8 million grant divided between the four Groundwater Management Districts that have active enhancement programs.

District 4, which includes portions of Sherman County, was awarded \$1,825,672.

The enhancement program effort in District 4 involves annual payments for converting irri-

gated acres to non-irrigated acres within the six, designated high priority areas in the district.

In District 4 this is the final year of a three-year program, and provides five annual payments to convert irrigated acres for six years. Last year, the annual payments averaged about \$210 per eligible acre.

The sign-up period is expected to remain open until mid March, and all funds have to be obligated by July 2, 2012.

Those interested in permanent irrigated acre

conversions and retiring the water right can use the Kansas Water Transition Assistance Program, which is available to piggyback with enhancement program. The assistance program is expected to have some money available this year for permanent water conservation, but the final funding level is not yet known. Landowners must have an enhancement program contract first to be competitive for a assistance program application bid.

For information, call (785) 462-3915.

Goodland Medical Center employees raise more than \$100,000

By Frank Albert

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Goodland Regional Medical Center employees have raised more than \$100,000 in their effort to support "Project Healthcare: Invest In Your Future," a campaign the hospital is working on in conjunction with the Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation.

Over 75 percent of hospital employees participated in the money raising effort organized by an Employee Development Council.

The council is headed by Ericka Wieck and Sonya Formhals, and members of the group include: Jennie Cowles, Steve Criswell, Jody Engel, Chris Fulwider, Lori Gaydusek, Tina Goodwin, Mindy Greene, Betty Hageman, Crystal Hernandez, Jessica Mollenkamp, Pam Sheldon, Terry Twombly, Kerri Vasquez and Tina Whisnant.

This group set an ambitious goal to raise \$100,000 toward the Dialysis Center, MediTech Upgrades, staff and physician recruitment and retention, remodeling and renovations as well as endowment for the future, all projects the Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation is

seeking to fund through its money raising campaign, Project Healthcare: Invest in Your Future.

In a celebration with all Goodland hospital employees before Christmas, Wieck and Formhals held up a \$5 bill and announced the money had reached the lofty goal. The council used a syringe instead of the usual thermometer to show the progress toward the goal of \$100,000.

Wieck said, "we are thrilled with the results, and hope Sherman County residents will see how committed the employees of Goodland Regional Medical Center are to providing the best possible health care, and these residents will step forward to help the Foundation with this very important project." "That the employees set and met a goal of \$100,000 is in itself fantastic," said Jay Jolly hospital chief executive officer. "We are honored to have such an outstanding employee body here, and hope area residents know how lucky they are to have such amazing people to take care of them when they are sick or injured."

Jolly is hosting regular "Leader

Lunches" at the hospital to discuss with residents national, state and specifically local health care issues and the plans of Goodland Regional Medical Center. Please contact the campaign office at (785) 890-2206 for more information.

Project Healthcare: Invest In Your Future is in the "Family" Phase. Family Co-chairs Dale Schields and Ying Huang are pleased that over \$500,000 has been raised to date, from those closest to Goodland Regional Medical Center.

"We feel it is imperative those of us closest to the hospital set the example for others to support the hospital," said Schields.

The campaign's first gift came from the Goodland Regional Medical Center Auxiliary which made a gift of \$35,000.

"Why would anyone else support this cause if we do not, and I'd like to think we have demonstrated our commitment to the community with this remarkable effort. We will be launching the Community Phase of our campaign in the next few months," Schields said.



Goodland hospital Employee Development Council leaders Sonya Formhals and Ericka Wieck hold the symbolic syringe showing the Goodland Regional Medical Center employee's contribution to the capital campaign "Project Healthcare: Invest In Your Future." The hospital employees reached their goal of \$100,000 in December. Photo by Tina Goodwin/The Goodland Star-News

