

## weather report

**43°**

10:30 a.m.  
Monday



### Today

• Sunset, 5:56 p.m.

### Tuesday

• Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:55 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 52 degrees
- Humidity 97 percent
- Sky overcast
- Winds north 12 mph
- Barometer 29.95 inches and rising
- Record High today 88° (2005)
- Record Low today 8° (1917)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Sunday	73°
Low Sunday	40°
Precipitation	0.00
This month	0.33
Year to date	8.94
Below normal	9.17 inches

### The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy in the morning, then overcast. High of 84, winds from the west 5 to 20 mph then shifting south southwest. Clearing off in the evening low of 46.

### Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Partly cloudy with a 20% chance of rain. High around 75. Clear in the evening with a chance of rain. Low around 34 and breezy. Thursday: Overcast changing to mostly cloudy. High around 46 and breezy. Partly cloudy in the evening. Low around 28 with a windchill as low as 19. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

## Dust storm causes accidents



High winds and dust helped cause several accidents Thursday on Interstate 70. At 11:12 p.m., wind blew an empty semi-trailer rig over near mile marker 37, about a mile east of the Brewster exit. The driver, Jesse Blaine of Iowa, was uninjured. At 11:25 p.m., a 2002 Toyota Camry struck the back of a 2001 Ford Expedition at mile marker 62, near Mingo in an accident blamed on poor visibility. The driver of the

Camry, Brenda Kenney, Lansing, was taken to Citizens Medical Center. Officials there said they could not talk about her injuries. The other driver, James Chincholl, Parker, Colo., was not hurt. State troopers reported that Chincholl apparently slowed because of thick dust and Kenney's car struck it from behind.

Photo by Sam Dieter/The Colby Free Press

# City selected as E-Community

By Kevin Bottrell

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The city of Goodland has been selected to become an E-Community by NetWork Kansas.

City Manager Doug Gerber made the announcement to the city commission at their Oct. 15 meeting. Entrepreneurship Communities get access to resources through NetWork Kansas including database tracking, services for local businesses and economic needs assessments. The city has been in an application process and was recently selected as a finalist.

The city also has \$100,000 in tax credits to sell by Dec. 15. A donation to the city gets a 75 percent credit on state income tax. Gerber said 100 percent of the donation can also be used as a deduction on state taxes.

There is a minimum \$150 donation. Individuals and business can make donations for the tax credits, Gerber said, however banks cannot. The donations do not have to be made

by local individuals or businesses. He said the credit carries forward indefinitely.

Gerber said that the \$100,000 the city gets through the donations is seed money, which can be used for loans or to help business with startup costs. The credits are not a magic potion, he said, but combined with utility and land incentives, they help to make Goodland and attractive place for businesses.

NetWork Kansas is a support network for small business created by the state legislature in 2004. Other E-Communities in the region include Colby, St. Francis and Atwood.

In other business, the commission:

- Heard a presentation from Goodland School District Superintendent Bill Biermann and School Board Members Gary Slough and Mike Cochran on a possible sales tax proposal. The board has been considering a remodeling, upgrading and reorganization project that would affect the entire district.

Biermann said the district is looking at consolidating students into West and North

Elementary Schools and the high school. An architect was hired in April and community meetings were held. The project has been estimated at \$12 to \$16 million, but Biermann said no firm plans have been made yet. That amount would be about 12.6 mills over 10 years.

Recently, Biermann said, the district has begun thinking about trying to get a sales tax passed to pay for part or all of the project as opposed to a property tax levy. A state sales tax put in place to fund education is going away next July, he said, and the district felt people might be open to replacing it with a local tax for the district.

"A 1/2 cent sales tax would reduce the levy by half," he said. "3/4 cent pays for the whole thing."

However, the district cannot put it in place by itself. A sales tax would have to go on the ballot at next year's city election. Biermann said they were not there to ask for support or even a decision on the city's part, but rather

to inform the commission on the latest development.

One of those recent developments is that Gov. Sam Brownback may work to extend the sales tax as a replacement for lowering the state income tax. Biermann said November tax revenues will play a large part in that decision. If the tax does stay on the books, Biermann said the district may still try for one, but it would be less.

The good news, Biermann said, is that the state will be paying about 22 percent of the project.

Biermann said the district just got through with a failed bond election and would rather not go through that again, but the need is still there. The district will have to work on how to effectively communicate it to the public.

"We all agree it's a need, not a want," Slough said.

Gerber reminded Biermann that some lead

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## local markets

10:30 a.m.

Wheat — \$8.53 bushel	Posted county price — \$8.33
Corn — \$7.60 bushel	Posted county price — \$7.50
Milo — \$7.28 bushel	
Soybeans — \$14.57 bushel	Posted county price — \$16.40
Millet — \$14 hundredweight	
Sunflowers	
Oil current crop — \$27.35 cwt.	Confection — no bid
Pinto beans — \$28 (new crop)	(Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

## Ladies' night out



This table was one of several set up with various items at the "Putting on the Pink" ladies' night put on by the Sherman County Health Department and Goodland Regional Medical Center on Oct. 10 at Northwest Kansas Technical College.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

# Costume contest planned for Oct. 30

Goodland's 11th Annual Moonlight Madness celebration and costume contest will bring out spooks and goblins from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 30, for a night of hauntingly good fun, candy and costume contests.

The annual Goodland Star-News and Goodland Merchants costume contest will be held at First Baptist Church, 1121 Main.

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

judging will begin at 5 p.m.

Three age groups will be judged, with cash prizes for first, second and third in each. The three-and-under group will be judged at 5 p.m., those four to eight years old at 5:30 p.m., and kids nine to 12 at 6 p.m.

For those looking for a safe, fun time on Halloween Northwest Tech is planning a Campus Candy night from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 31, on campus.

# Candidate debates to be on public station

A live debate between Ralph Ostmeier and Allen Schmidt will be aired at 6 p.m. (Mountain Time) Wednesday on Smoky Hills Public Television. It will re-air at 4 p.m. Sunday.

The program is part of Kansas Candidates, meant to help viewers become familiar the candidates' stances on issues related to the upcoming election. Chapman

Rackaway, Associate Professor of Political Science from Fort Hays State University, moderates each debate.

You can catch all of the debates online at [www.smokyhillstv.org](http://www.smokyhillstv.org). All debates will air as part of a Kansas Candidates marathon beginning at 1 p.m. on the Sunday before election day, Nov. 4.

# State's new Medicaid program explained at regional meeting

By Sam Dieter

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With KanCare, the state's new managed-care package for Medicaid clients, going into effect Jan. 1, state officials came to Colby this week to explain the new program.

Speaking to about 50 people Monday night at the Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College, four officials explained the plan before taking written questions from the audience. They repeatedly assured people that eligibility requirements will not change and things covered will stay the same—from mental health services and prescription medicine to transportation to the doctor.

Some benefits will even be added, such as preventative dental care for adults. And clients will no longer have to pay for part of their doctor's visits.

"It won't change the services you're eligible for," said Effie Swanson, from the state Department of Health and Environment. "It will just change who pays for it.

When the state implements KanCare on Jan. 1, the officials said Kansans receiving Medicaid and other state services will get them through one of three private companies: Amerigroup Kansas Inc., Sunflower State Health Plan or United Healthcare of the Midwest.

The state will mail information about KanCare to beneficiaries in November. Everyone will have from Tuesday, Jan. 1, to Thursday, Feb. 14, to decide which company they want to use. That decision will take effect the first day of the month after they decide and will stay in effect for the rest of the year.

Whether a client keeps their same doctor or other health care providers will depend on whether that provider is covered by the patient's chosen plan, they said.

In response to a question about what to do if a doctor is not covered under a new plan, LaVerta Greve, who also works for the health department, said the state has "challenged the managed care organizations" to provide

clients with the doctors they want.

"Let your MCO know and they will really work to get the provider that's not in it into your network," she said. If that does not work, she added, "They will work to get a provider that's in your plan to serve your needs."

One big change brought by KanCare will be the presence of coordinators who will help clients decide where they get their care. The state will assess each patient and assign coordinators to clients with especially pressing or complex needs, Swanson said. Clients with the most needs will be placed with a "health home," a network of providers who work with the coordinators.

"A health home is kind of a step up," Swanson said, "a little bit more management."

Medicaid clients receiving their care through a waiver for developmental disabilities, the officials said, will not be placed under KanCare for another year, at the start of 2014.

These clients include people with physical

and intellectual disabilities who use facilities such as the Prairie Developmental Center in Atwood. Many rely on targeted case managers, who became the subject of several questions.

The Developmental Disabilities Reform Act, Swanson said, will stipulate that people with developmental disabilities continue working with their case managers until 2014.

Angela de Rocha, communications coordinator with the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services, said that these case managers will either have to start working with one of the managed care companies or sign a contract to provide services with them if they want to continue working with their same clients after 2014.

"We believe that they will get better services once all their services are comprehensive from one place," de Rocha said.

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## One qualifies for tourney

Cowgirl Lacie Siruta qualified for the Class 4A State Cross Country Tournament with a ninth place finish at regionals this weekend.

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