

The Goodland Star-News

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Fourteen Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

MIDWEEK
Tuesday, Feb. 24
2004

75¢

weather report

43°

noon Monday



Today

• Sunset, 5:32 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:25 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:34 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 36 degrees
- Humidity 46 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds east 12 mph.
- Barometer 30.08 inches and falling

- Record High today 73° (1981)
- Record Low today -16° (1960)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	56°
Low Sunday	27°
Precipitation	None

The Topside Forecast

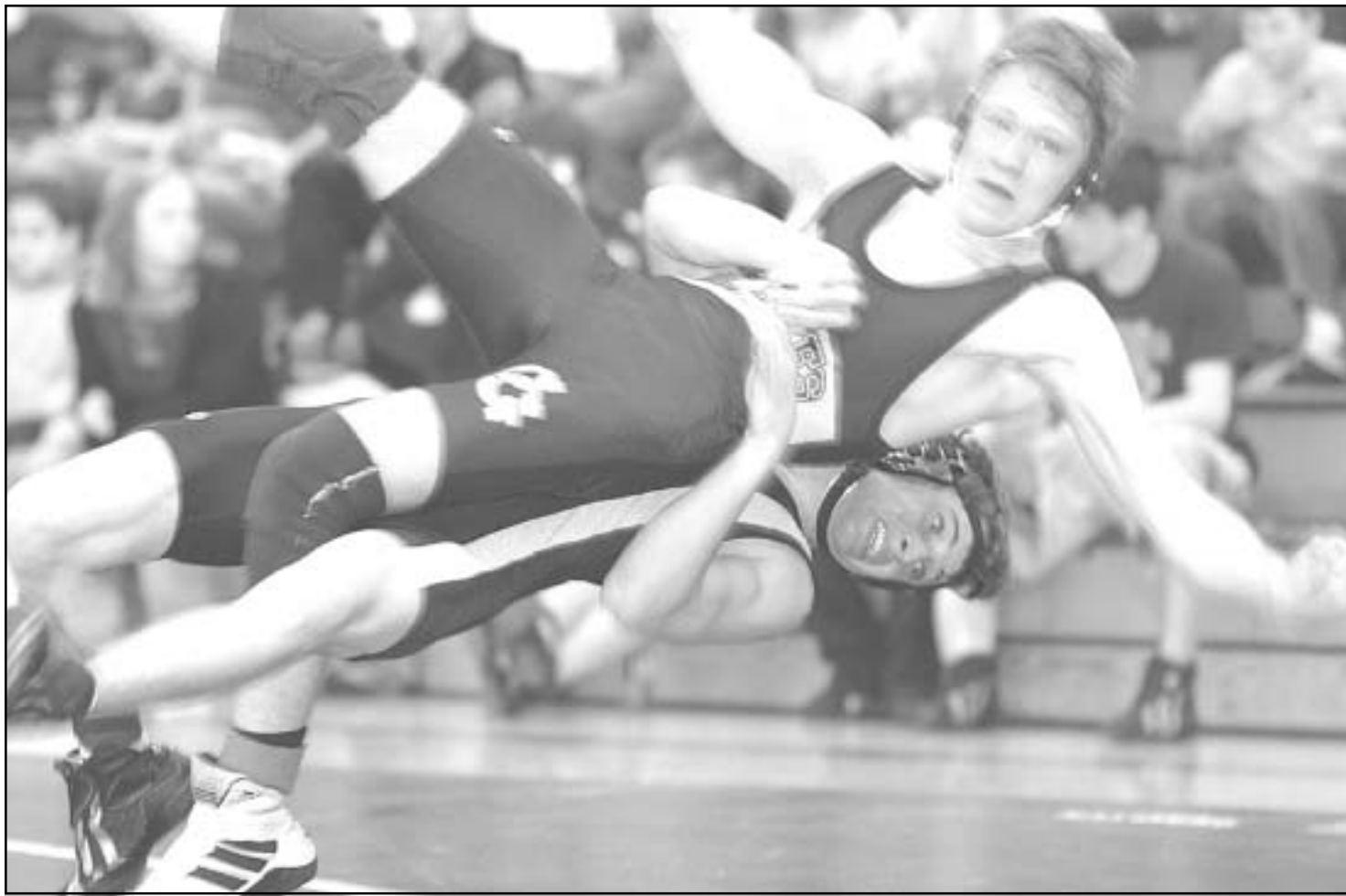
Today: partly cloudy, high near 43, low near 21, winds east southeast 3-8 mph. Wednesday: partly cloudy, high near 48, low around 23, winds south 9-14 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: partly cloudy, high near 57, low around 27. Friday: partly cloudy, high around 59, low near 30. Saturday: cloudy with a chance of rain changing to snow at night, high around 47, low around 23. Sunday: partly cloudy, high around 45.

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

Cowboys win regional title



Junior Dexter Deeds (underneath) threw Jesse Stephens of Council Grove High School to the mat during their semifinal match at 125 pounds in the substate wrestling tournament in Abilene on Saturday. Deeds won the match by major decision 16-6, then

defeated Wamego's Madison King for the gold medal. The Cowboys won the regional tournament and a trip to state for seven wrestlers. Story and more pictures on Page 10.

Photo by Dennis Saint/The Goodland Star-News

Building named for city employee

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The new Aircraft Seal and Gasket plant at 1006 Center was named the Ed Wolak Building during a dedication Thursday morning.

Over 100 people, including many of the city employees who worked with the former city public works director, attended.

Wolak had worked for the city for 28 years and had been public works director four. Before that, he was the light plant superintendent.

He died of a heart attack on Nov. 29 while working cattle on his father-in-law's ranch near Oakley.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the ceremony honored Wolak for his efforts in transforming the former grocery into a manufacturing plant for the California firm.

Pickman said he had enjoyed working with Wolak, his great attitude toward his job and his dedication to a job done well.

"He was a valuable member of the staff and an exemplary employee," the manager said, "the kind every boss begs to have. You wish you could have a 100 like him and feel lucky you got one."

"He liked to see a job done well. He never complained about anything and just went and did the work."

"I told him on Sept. 26 that we had about six weeks to get the building ready for the new company. 'Ed sort of looked a bit worried, but said



he would get the city crew started.

"He would come by every day to give me an update and say he knew they could get it done. There were some days he was concerned about delays, but they all got worked out with his help."

"He did not quite live long enough to see the completion, but I am sure he has been keeping track from his new office."

Mayor Rick Billinger spoke about the important part Wolak had played in coordinating the various city departments and his dedication.

"We will miss you, Ed," the mayor said.

Stan Wolak, Ed's father and a former longtime city employee, spoke about how much his son enjoyed working for the city, and his devotion to doing things right. He



Stan Wolak and Mayor Rick Billinger (upper left) spoke about the accomplishments of Ed Wolak at a dedication ceremony Thursday. City Manager Ron Pickman (above) unveiled a plaque dedicated to Wolak, who as public works director was in charge of remodeling the building for Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp.

Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

welled up with emotion as he thanked the city for remembering his son.

Billinger read a special proclamation passed by the City Commission naming the building after Wolak, and asked Pickman to unveil a plaque which is mounted on a beam inside the front door.

The plaque says: "In memory of Ed Wolak, dedicated city employee, April 1 1976 to Nov. 29, 2003; Director of Public Works and Utilities City of Goodland, Kan., Aug. 1,

1998 to Nov. 29, 2003."

Following the ceremony, the audience was invited to a reception in the commission room of the City Administration Building.

Less than an hour after the dedication, the building was the scene of another ceremony as Aircraft Seal and Gasket held a ribbon cutting to open its Goodland Division. Lt. Gov. John Moore represented the state Department of Commerce and Housing.

Chamber has new president

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Cesar Miller, owner of Goodland Medical Arts Pharmacy, has resigned from the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce board over a conflict with the Chamber's landlord.

Miller, who was board president, submitted his resignation Feb. 11, effective the next day. In his letter, he said the board's conflict with the landlord was affecting his ability to fulfill the duties of president.

Property Management, owned by Justin Bentzinger, owns the building at 1002 Main Ave. where the Chamber has offices. The conflict centers on \$1,800 in late rent fees and the lack of a long-term lease. The disputed lease provides for a \$50 fee every day the rent is late.

Reached Monday, Bentzinger, a former Chamber board member and interim manager, said he had no comment. Miller said he believes, on a positive note, his departure will decrease the tension between the Chamber and the landlord. He said he hopes everything will work out.

At its meeting on Feb. 10, the board voted to remain on a month-to-month rental until a new director is in place. Then the board will decide whether to sign a long-term lease or relocate the Chamber's offices.

Donna Swager replaces Miller as the board's president, and although the position was suddenly thrust upon her, she said she is enthusiastic about the future of the Chamber.

Swager said Terry Richardson of Homestead Realty replaced her as the board's vice president and that Ken Clouse, president of Northwest Kansas Technical College, was appointed to fill the board vacancy left by Miller.

In the search for a Chamber manager, Swager said the board was ready to make an offer Monday. The Chamber has been without one since the end of October.

"I'm excited about getting someone working in the office," said Swager. "The board is moving in the right direction, and I feel this year will be a good one."

Swager said this month's Business After Hours will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Friday at Wheat Ridge Acres Retirement Community, 707 Wheat Ridge Circle, where she is the director.

Legislators address health care

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland's legislators, State Sen. Stan Clark and State Rep. Jim Morrison, talked about health care, education, economic development and the state's new "destination" sales tax at a town hall meeting Saturday afternoon at Hank's Cafe.

With about 40 Goodland residents in the audience, Clark talked about changing the way the government pays for health care. Clark said Medicaid, the federal-state program which provides care for Social Services clients, is necessary, but the cost to the taxpayers needs to be reduced.

"Medical assistance is a necessary safety net we have to provide Kansans," he said. "How do we get a handle on it?"

Health Savings Accounts are part of a reform measure that passed Congress in November, he said. Contributions that are tax exempt to both employers and workers can be made to the accounts, Clark said, and the money can pay for routine medical expenses throughout the

See CLARK, Page 3

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.67 bushel
New Crop — \$3.57 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.49
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.75 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.67
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2.61 bushel
Soybeans — \$8.55 bushel
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$12.35 cwt.
NuSun — \$12.60 cwt.
Confection — \$16/\$9 cwt.
Pinto beans — Withdrawn
(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Season ends on low note

Junior Derrick Raymer scored two of his 13 points in the second half of the Cowboy's 63-61 loss to Hugoton on Saturday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. See story and photo on Page 9.