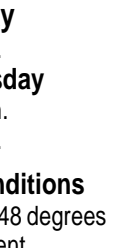


weather report
72°
noon Monday



Today
• Sunset, 7:41 p.m.
Wednesday
• Sunrise, 5:44 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:43 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil temperature 48 degrees
• Humidity 33 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds south 5-6 mph
• Barometer 30.00 inches and falling
• Record High today 91° (1986)
• Record Low today 27° (1967)

Last 24 Hours*
High Sunday 67°
Low Sunday 32°
Precipitation none
This month none
Year to date 4.34

The Topside Forecast
Today: mostly sunny, high near 86, low near 51, winds north-northwest 8-10 mph. Wednesday: mostly sunny, high near 95, low around 54, winds west-southwest 6-8 mph.

Extended Forecast
Thursday: mostly sunny, high near 93, low around 52. Friday: mostly sunny, high near 91, low near 51. Saturday: partly cloudy, high around 87, low around 52.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon
Wheat — \$3.68 bushel
New Crop — \$3.66
Posted county price — \$3.52
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$3.11 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.97
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2.85 bushel
Soybeans — \$9.80 bushel
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$6.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$11.80 cwt.
NuSun — \$12.05 cwt.
Confection — \$16/\$9 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$15
(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



Cowgirls handle cold
Freshman Nicole David pitched the second game of the Cowgirls' junior varsity doubleheader against Holcomb on Thursday. See photo on Page 12.

Women build a house

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

Two women with power tools are "breaking traditions" at the Northwest Kansas Technical College, and one has been rewarded with a \$250 scholarship for her efforts.

Emily Pelster and Rachael Frasier have been swinging hammers and operating power saws, helping to build the college Carpentry Department's project house.

Both entered the competition for the Kansas Breaking Traditions Scholarship, and Pelster was the northwest regional winner. The region includes from Marshall, Riley, Geary and Morris counties west to Cheyenne, Sherman and Wallace counties.

The scholarship is sponsored by the Kansas Board of Regents, said Patti Purvis, technical college publications and events coordinator. It goes to students in roles not considered traditional for their gender.

The scholarship is not just for women, she said; it has been awarded to men in such programs as nursing and medical assistant. A guy in the cosmetology program entered the competition last year, Purvis said.

The Goodland college did have two winners last year, Andra Schwindt in communications technology and Jason Gilbert in medical assistant. Purvis said this is the fourth year in a row a student from the college has received a "breaking traditions" scholarship.

By encouraging students to try non-traditional roles, Purvis said, the scholarship helps them get what are often better-paying jobs. And the scholarship program tries to break stereotypes, she said.

Those in the non-traditional roles stand out and are sometimes ridiculed, Pelster said on her application for the scholarship, but she advised others not to let that keep them from a profession they would love.

"If you have a passion for something," she said, "don't allow anyone to take that from you. Yes, people are going to point and make comments and do their best to break you."

"It's not that easy to step away from what society believes is acceptable work for both genders, but it's a lot harder to live a life unfulfilled, in my opinion. You will never be happy as long as you live within the boundaries that others have placed on you."

"Cutting your own path can be difficult, but this world would have never made such advances in technology if people had been afraid to

See WOMEN, Page 3



Rachael Frasier (top) scraped up some drywall compound to put on the walls in the carpentry department's project house. Emily Pelster (above) smoothed some compound onto another wall in the house.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

County challenged to buy more at home

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

The county's economic development director challenged commissioners Friday to have department heads buy more at home and pointed to what she termed a \$400,000 "revenue leakage."

"I have had a number of local business people come into my office over the past 18 months to complain about how the county does business," Applegate said. "I think you commissioners do a fine job on the big purchases, and I know that some of the large equipment purchases have to be made outside the county."

"The business people are asking why we are spending money on economic development when we are spending money out of the area."

"What I am talking about are the things the departments are purchasing outside the area when there are businesses in the county that have the same items."

Applegate said she had picked on four major items from the previous year and identified \$385,000 that was spent out of the area. She suggested the commissioners could encourage the department heads to look at how they are making buying decisions.

Commission approves hospital bonds

The refinancing of the Goodland Regional Medical Center moved another step forward Friday with the approval of bond resolutions by the Sherman County commissioners.

To clear up any questions, the commissioners held a conference phone call with Jay Jolly, hospital administrator, and Jim Precht, hospital finance officer.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked Precht what the total amount of the bonds was going to be. The resolution says \$1.5 million, but Precht said this could grow to a total of \$1,945,000 if the remaining \$445,000 in bonds can be sold. The total is not to exceed the \$1,945,000, he said.

Precht told the commissioners they have some time left to sell the remaining bonds, but that the hospital can live with the \$1.5 million that have been sold so far.

Rasure asked what the interest rate is and how long the hospital has to pay off the bonds.

Precht said the interest rate is 4.45 percent, and that

See BONDS, Page 3

Hospital changes billing

Vowing to reform its billing and collection procedures, the Goodland Regional Medical Center board approved a new system which includes easier-to-understand, "patient friendly" bills that will make sense to the customer.

People who don't pay right away will get a phone call on their bills, the board was told at the meeting last Monday. The hospital's chief financial officer, Jim Precht, said the system includes a collection cycle based on a 30-60-70-day action schedule.

Of the hospital's current billing system, board member Doug Irvin said, "It stinks. You get a bill for \$6 ... then the next day a bill for \$7, and you're writing another check."

Besides being irritated by many small bills rather than one bill for everything, Irvin said the bills don't say what they're for.

"It just says balance forward," he said. "You don't know what you're being billed for."

Precht said hospital officials are working on that.

He said the finance committee discussed the hospital's collection policies and how they affect the rural health clinics at its last meeting. The committee agreed to recommend adopting the 30-60-70-day action cycle, he said, and asked for information regarding action steps, such as personal contact.

In other business:
• The board approved paperwork for the sale of public revenue bonds. The hospital has commitments to borrow \$1,445,000 on bonds at 4.45 percent interest for the first five years. There are still \$500,000 in bonds to sell.

• Director of Patient Relations Brenda McCants told the board she has received two complaints for the month of April and nine for the first quarter of this year. With an average daily census between 13 and 15, she said that was a low number of complaints. She said they were all due to interpersonal communication and had been addressed.

"It is a question of balancing the county budget," Chairman Mitch Tiede said. "We have encouraged our department heads to buy locally when they can."

"We tell them that every year when we discuss the budget," Commissioner Kevin Rasure added.

"Some of the departments get carried away," Tiede said, "but I know that road and bridge tries to do the best they can to use local vendors. There are some things that cannot be purchased here."

"Be assured the commissioners look at what is being purchased out of town."

Curt Way, public works manager, said his policy is to give the local vendors a 10 percent variance to buy as much locally as possible.

"It is the taxpayers' money," he said, "and we try our best to spend it here."

"I believe you do a great job with the large purchases," Applegate

See PURCHASE, Page 3

School board decides not to build new concession stand

The Goodland School Board has given up on plans to remodel or replace the concession stand and restrooms at Cowboy Stadium, settling instead for cosmetic refurbishing, including a new sink in the existing concession stand.

Superintendent Marvin Selby told the board at a meeting last Monday that remodeling the high school restrooms near the cafeteria to serve football fans would cost about \$43,000.

Selby said that was the estimate given him that afternoon by Glen Strait of Strait Associates Architects in Colby.

Remodeling the restrooms was part of an plan to open the cafeteria as a concession stand during games and events. The idea was that the district could save money by using the cafeteria for concessions and opening two of the school's restrooms rather than building a new concession building or renovating the facilities at the stadium.

Those estimates, also done by Strait, were \$116,000 for a new building and \$83,000 for renovation. The renovations would include modernization of the plumbing facilities and bringing the restrooms up to code with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Selby recommended that district instead do some "cosmetic" repairs to the concession stand rather than make extensive renovations or construct a new building. The work, including adding a sink, would be done over the summer.

He asked the board and the principals, all of whom were at the meeting, to come to the next meeting with items for this summer's job list.

Selby also briefed the board about a grant the district applied for that could help pay for after school programs for the next five years.

Jim Mull, principal at North Elementary, introduced three of his teachers who talked about some new ideas the staff had tried this year to improve math scores.

Mary Frazier told the board about the independent and individualized math program, by which students, using a computer, can progress through work at their own pace.

Melanie Daise said they are working with students having trouble keeping up in math in small groups. She said they get extra help with current assignments, plus some backtracking if needed.

Jona Neufeld demonstrated hands-on activities designed to give students a different perspective on learning math and help them understand it more easily. She showed the board some of the high-tech items used in the program, including electronic packs that have math games on them. She also had some low-tech tools, such as a card game called "Who Has?" which she had the board and guests play to see how students get to interact with each other and fun they can have doing it.