

weather report

75°
noon Monday

Today

• Sunset, 8:01 p.m.
Wednesday
• Sunrise, 5:25 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:02 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 66 degrees
• Humidity 39 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds northwest 18 mph
• Barometer 29.79 inches and rising
• Record High today 97° (1964)
• Record Low today 29° (1992)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 83°
Low Sunday 43°
Precipitation none
This month 0.26
Year to date 4.60

The Topside Forecast

Today: partly cloudy, high around 70, low near 45, winds northeast 11-30 mph. Wednesday: mostly sunny, high around 78, low around 49, winds west southwest 7-13 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: mostly sunny, high around 84, low around 58. Friday: mostly sunny, high around 91, low near 49. Saturday: mostly sunny, high near 83, low around 50. Sunday: mostly sunny, high around 80. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon
Wheat — \$3.55 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.42
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.84 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.72
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2.54 bushel
Soybeans — \$8.13 bushel
Posted county price — \$8.42
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$6.75 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$10.95 cwt.
NuSun — \$11.20 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



10 track stars head for state

Senior Josef Felver won this heat of the 100-meter dash at the Northwest Kansas League tournament on May 14 in Oakley. Ten members of the Goodland track team will heading to state. Story, photo on Page 11.

Technical College graduates 200

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Nearly 200 students were sent out on their careers Friday following graduation from the Northwest Kansas Technical College.

The graduates received advice from Reginald L. Robinson, president and chief executive officer of the Kansas Board of Regents, during the commencement address.

Counselor Paul Chaffin announced that the Student of the Year was Chris Biel from the electronics and computer department. Chaffin said it was a close race, and the board had trouble choosing just one.

The other candidates were department Students of the Year, Eric Lobmeyer, auto body repair; Abel Ontiveroz, automotive technology; Lorie Gohl, business technology; Gerardo Lazo, carpentry; Landon Tucker, communications technology; Chris Gilbert, communications network; Shayla Cochran, computer graphics; Crystal Murray, cosmetology; Benjamin Michael, diesel technology; Jamie Montes, electrical engineering; Ben Lacy, engineering; Kristin Sander, medical assistant; and Chris Schmidt, welding.

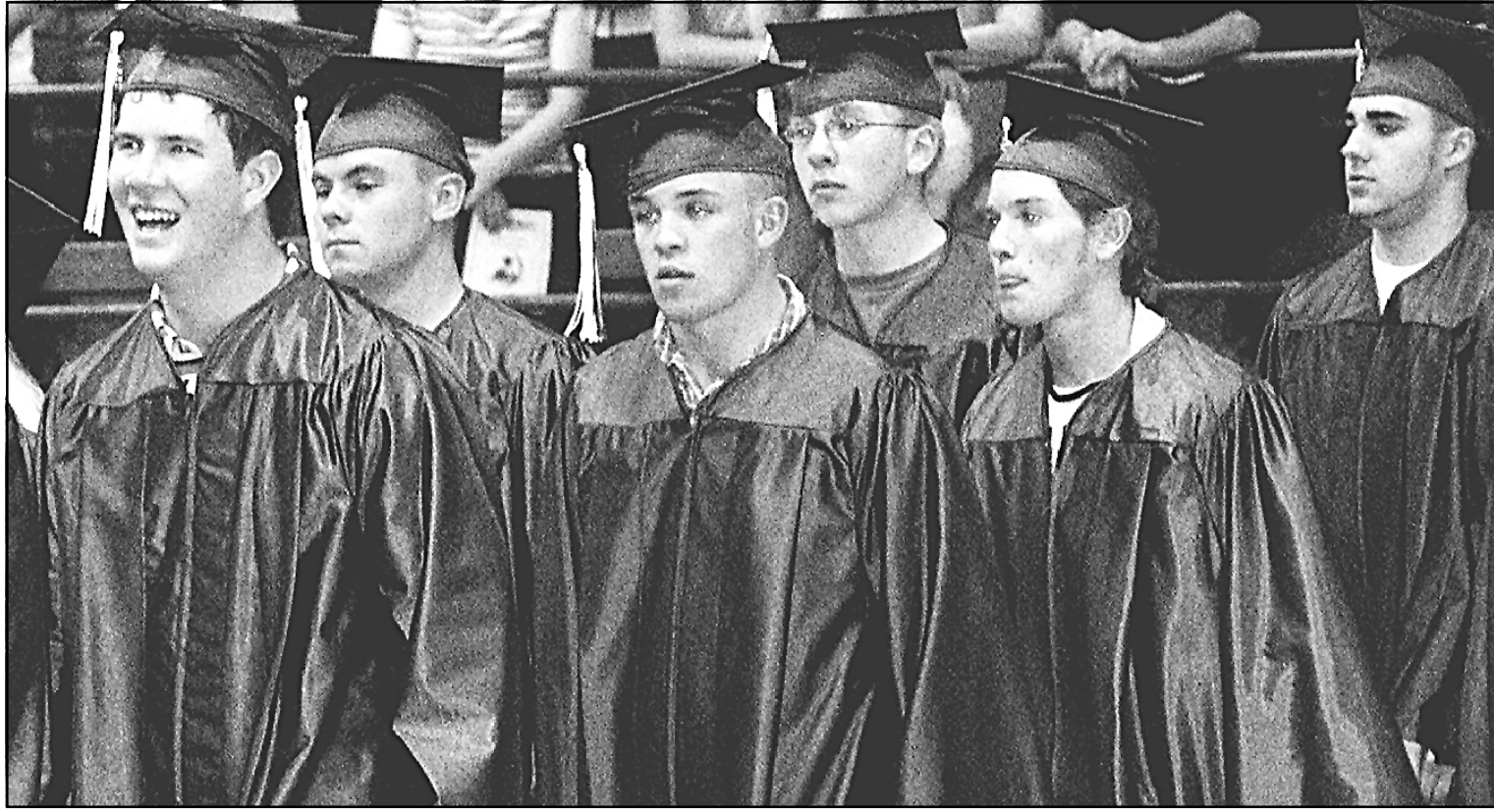
President Ken Clouse recognized Sharon Kenny, a cashier in the cafeteria for 26 years with the college; Judy Escudero, cafeteria manager for 25 years; and Mark Smith, a 25-year board member. All are retiring.

Kenny said she has a lot of memories from her time at the college, and she thanked the people who made them. She said it has been a fast 25 years.

Smith said he is honored and proud to be associated with the college. He served as chairman for 10 of the 25 years and is currently the secretary. Escudero was not able to



Robinson



The expressions (above) told it all as the nearly 200 graduates of the Northwest Kansas Technical College filed into Max Jones Fieldhouse Friday afternoon. Emily Pelster (right) applauded as she waited for her turn to accept a diploma as one of the first women to graduate of the building construction program.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran / The Goodland Star-News

attend because of a pinched nerve in her hip.

Clouse presented gold watches to the retirees.

In the commencement address, Robinson said we live in a world that has a high level of anxiety.

"We are facing an overwhelming array of choices every day," he said, giving the example of a man shopping for jeans. The man doesn't just have to choose his size, he also has to choose regular fit or relaxed fit, acid wash or regular wash.

There used to be only three television channels, Robinson said, ABC, NBC and CBS, and sometimes PBS. Now there are hundreds.

"Choice is good," he said, "but I wonder if too much choice can fuel

anxiety."

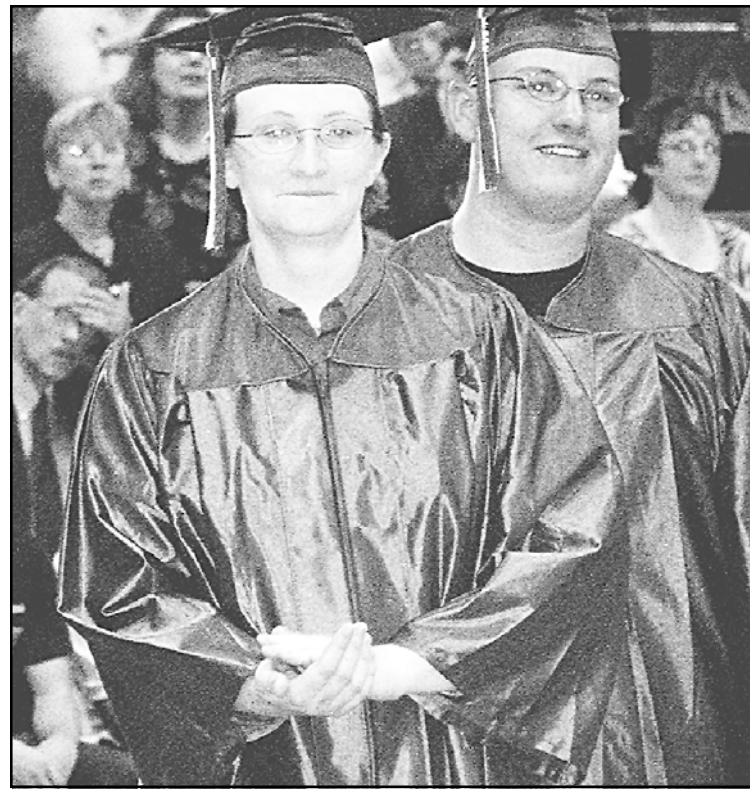
Robinson said his first piece of advice for students is to know what they want and not to compare with other people to decide.

"Know yourself," he said. "To think own self be true."

He told them not to be led or coerced or feel they have to find the same old, tired solutions that have been used before, but to think "outside the box."

"As you live out the script of your life," Robinson said, "don't be afraid to depart from the script."

He advised the graduates to smile, be nice, read a book once in a while, call a family member just to say "hello" and to write someone a note, not an e-mail, once in a while.



County departments defend purchases

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County department heads told the commissioners last Tuesday they were doing their best to buy in the county, but that they felt business people needed to talk to them about what is available here.

Questions about out-of-county purchasing were brought up at a commission meeting on April 30 by Carolyn Applegate, county economic development director, and at the May 4 meeting by Dennis Bentzinger of Med Enterprises.

Applegate said her research of four of the county departments showed that as much as \$300,000 a year was going out of the county. Bentzinger said he had seen an invoice for fire equipment which he could provide and had submitted a bid which was cheaper than what the county bought.

The commissioners decided to bring the department heads in last

Regional Enterprise program plans for next two years

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The regional Enterprise Facilitation program is in the third year, and with the addition of \$10,000 from each of the six counties and another \$40,000 grant from the state, the program will be assured of two more.

The program started as one of six in the state as experiment under Gov. Bill Graves. The West-

ern Kansas Enterprise Facilitation Consortium is the only one west of Hays. It covers Sherman, Greeley, Wichita, Scott, Kearny and Lane counties.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said Kearny, Scott and Wichita counties have approved the \$10,000, and that Wallace County would be invited to join the group.

Sherman County Economic Development Director Carolyn

Applegate was asked her opinion of continuing the program.

"I think it is a good thing," she said, "and I see a better deal since they changed employees. I would like to see this keep going."

"I was impressed by the people on the board," Commissioner Chuck Thomas said. "I was impressed with Wade Phillips and what he has to say. I think he has the experience to help these busi-

ness people."

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said it would be a good idea to review the current board members from Sherman County, saying there are several who may not be interested. She said a replacement needs to be appointed for the late Merlyn Stasser.

The commissioners unani-

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Tuesday for a discussion of purchasing policy, and were preparing a special memo and a form for explaining-out-of-county purchases.

"We have told you during the budget process that we have a policy to purchase locally," Commissioner Mitch Tiede told the department

heads. "We have seen a few instances where it appears things are being bought out of the county."

"We believe you are doing a good job, but we need to review what we are doing. There are reasons to purchase out of the county, but we want to ask you to keep everything local

as much as possible.

"There are some things that can't be bought here, we know."

Commissioners acknowledged that business people have a part to play.

"We can't beg business people to let us know what they can provide,"

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said.

"They should come see the department heads, and the department heads should go see them. It works both ways. That is my two cents worth."

"Communication is the key," said

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Teacher puts her effort into Heritage Renewal

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

West Elementary school teacher Pat Thompson personifies the concept "for God and Country."

She puts a lot of effort into Heritage Renewal, a grassroots organization dedicated to educating people about America's Godly heritage and activating them to take an active part in the political process.

"Forty-five million Christians did not vote in the last Presidential election," Thompson said. "Twenty-four million are not even registered. One of our goals is to educate people and get them to register to vote, study the candidates' voting record and exercise their right to make a



Thompson

choice at the ballot box."

Thompson said evangelist Charles Finney said it best: "God will bless or curse this nation according to the course Christians take in politics."

Heritage Renewal arranged for the Sherman Theatre to show "America's Godly Heritage" on Feb. 22, George Washington's birthday, to a packed house of over 200 people. Thompson said the group has tentative plans for an event around the Fourth of July.

Thompson was one of about 45 people celebrating the National Day of Prayer in front of the Sherman County Court House on May 6. She read the Prayers sent for Goodland's celebration by state Sen. Stan Clark,

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran and U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback.

This spring, she brought nine of her students to the Farm/City Celebration on March 15 to give a short musical program honoring life in America.

In January, Thompson was selected as the elementary Teacher of the Year by the Kansas Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. She received the award from Raymond Warren, chairman of the selection committee, on April 5 in a special ceremony in front her family, community leaders and the entire school.

Thompson also was recognized for her achievement on April 18 during the banquet for the 9th District of the Kansas VFW spring convention. She talked about why she became a teacher and some of her goals, which include keeping the

spirit of America and patriotism alive for future generations.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to win this award," she said after the banquet. "It was a great honor."

Thompson has been a teacher for 18 years, the last seven teaching first-graders at West. She said she taught kindergarten and first-grade for the first 10 years, then taught fourth grade at North Elementary for a year before returning to West.

She graduated from Fort Hays State in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science in education. She earned endorsements for social studies and composition that same year, for English in 1987 and as a reading specialist in 1989.

Pat and her husband, Leonard "Mac" Thompson were born and raised in Goodland. She said they met at a VFW Fourth of July cel-

ebration in 1962 which featured the singer Jimmy Reeves. They married on April 21, 1963.

Mac served in the U.S. Army from 1959 to 1962, mainly as a radar operator in a Nike/Hercules battalion in Alaska with the North American Air Defense Command.

The Thompsons had four sons: Marsh, Matthew, Mitch and Nathan. Marsh and Matthew were killed in a car accident in 1981. Mitch, a 1988 graduate of Fort Hays State, is in his 10th season at the hitting coach for the Baylor University baseball team.

Nathan is a junior majoring in kinesiology and a player on the baseball team. The Patriots finished their season 44-16 and won the National Christian College Athletic Association World Series played in Ohio this past weekend.