

Have you voted?

Polls are open until 7 p.m. at VFW Hall

The Goodland Star-News

MIDWEEK
Tuesday, March 1
2005

75¢

Volume 73, Number 17

Twelve Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather report

40°

noon Monday



Today

•Sunset, 5:38 p.m.

Wednesday

•Sunrise, 6:18 a.m.

•Sunset, 5:39 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 38 degrees
- Humidity 33 percent
- Sky clear and sunny
- Winds north 16-21 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.06 inches and steady
- Record High today 77° (1967)
- Record Low today -11° (1922)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	50°
Low Sunday	23°
Precipitation	none
This month	.25
Year to date	.34
Normal	.80

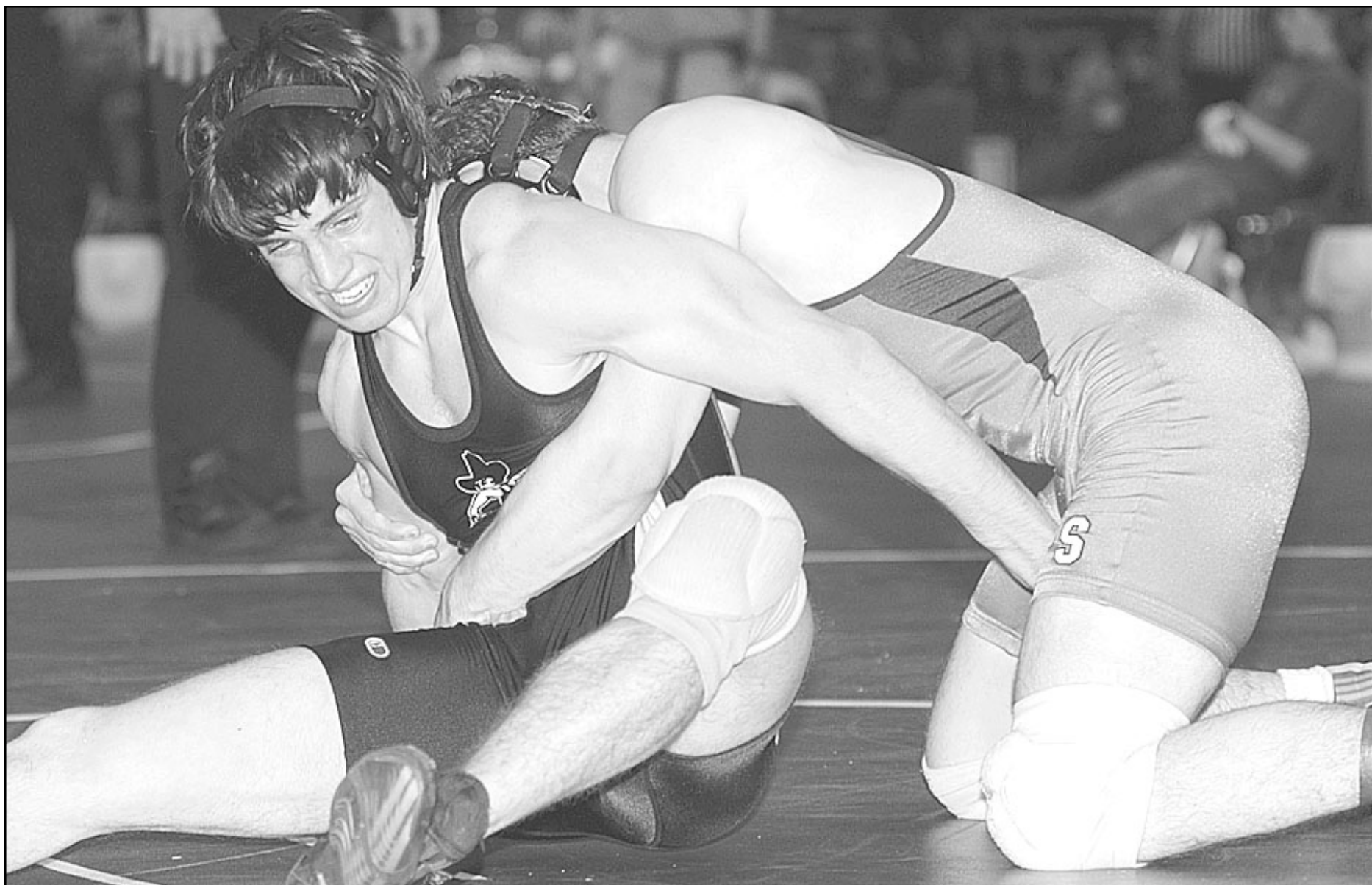
The Topside Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high near 54, low near 25. Wednesday: partly cloudy, high near 55, low around 27.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: partly cloudy, high near 53, low around 27. Friday: partly cloudy, high near 58, low near 26. Saturday: partly cloudy, high near 55, low around 26. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Cowboy wrestlers third at state



Senior Dexter Deeds (left) scored a reversal against Josh Peterson of Abilene in the third period of their semifinal match at 135 pounds. Deeds appeared to win

the match 8-7 but it was ruled that the official was premature in awarding him a point for an escape with about 10 seconds left in the match, leaving the score

7-7. Peterson scored a takedown 14 seconds into overtime to win 9-7. Deeds won his next two matches to place third. Photo by Dennis Saint/The Goodland Star-News

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.38 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.28
Corn — \$1.93 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.95
Milo — \$1.65 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.47 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.46
Millet — \$5.25 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$10.45 cwt.
NuSun — \$10.55 cwt.
Confection — \$19/\$13 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$25
(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



Cowboys gear up for sub-state

The Cowboys and Cowgirls will be heading out to the state basketball tournament tonight. The Goodland girls finished with 15-5 overall and the boys finished 15-5 overall. Story on Page 12.

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland School District has lost eight students last month alone, and nearly 30 this year, Superintendent Marvin Selby told the school board Monday, Feb. 14.

That means the schools have lost more than 300 students in a decade, or roughly one-fourth of the student population. If the schools still had those students, the district would have as much as \$1.2 million more for the next budget.

"I'm surprised it's 300 over the decade," said board President Jane Philbrick in an interview later. "That's not good news for anybody in Goodland."

Based on the current state aid of

Declining Enrollment

Year	Count	+/-	%
1992-1993	1265		
1993-1994	1257	-8	-0.63
1994-1995	1261	4	0.32
1995-1996	1257	-4	-0.32
1996-1997	1266	9	0.72
1997-1998	1217	-49	-3.87
1998-1999	1202	-15	-1.23
1999-2000	1198	-4	-0.33
2000-2001	1128	-70	-5.84
2001-2002	1093	-35	-3.10
2002-2003	1059	-34	-3.11
2003-2004	1021	-38	-3.59
2004-2005	1008	-13	-1.27

Full time equivalent

\$3,863 per student, the district could be facing a loss of about \$116,000 next year, though Selby said higher enrollment weighting might cut that

some.

"We'd certainly like to get that turned around," the superintendent said.

He said over the years, the school has cut the art program and teachers to make up for the losses.

"We've made cuts every year," he said. "It's just getting harder and harder."

Starting with 977 actual students on Aug. 30, Selby said, the district had lost 29 students this year, ending with 948 students on Jan. 28.

"We are disappointed that we've lost as many as we have," said former board President Dick Short.

"I don't think anyone's happy with it," said Philbrick, adding that the school board can't do much

about people leaving town. "I wish we had a way to stem the flow."

"We've had a major drought over the last five years, and it's taken a toll on agriculture," board member Ron Schilling said, "and agriculture is the backbone of our community."

Schilling said he is looking forward to more rain, which could make this a good year for farmers.

Board member Danny Whalen said the problem is not just with Goodland. St. Francis, Hoxie, Atwood and other neighboring towns face the same decline.

"The small communities have been hit hard," he said.

Short said since every town has been affected, people might start looking toward more cooperation.

He said he would rather cooperate than see schools close down.

Selby said the district does an official head count on Sept. 20 to set its budget, and over the past few years the number has been going down.

Ten years ago, for the 1994-1995 school year, the district counted 1,261 students, four more than were counted in 1993. The district had lost 313 by the end of January.

At the start of the 1997-1998 school year, the district had 49 fewer students than the year before. The largest loss over the 10-year period was in 2000, when 70 students left the district.

See SCHOOLS, Page 8

New year, new member

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Members of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce are looking forward to next year with one new board member and a few new officers.

Karen Ginther, vice president and a loan officer of Western State Bank, was voted in as the newest Chamber board member in November.

Ginther is a native of Bogue, where she graduated from high school in 1963.

She married her husband, Gary, after banking and started a life-long career in banking in Bogue.

Two years later, Ginther gave birth to twins, Damon and Doug, and after another five years, she had a daughter, Chandi Bongers.

The Ginthers came to Goodland, where Gary attended the Northwest Kansas Technical College, earning a degree in automotive mechanics for two years,

then moved to Colby.

The couple lived there for five years and moved back to town in 1981 when Gary was offered a teaching job at the college.

Ginther started working at the bank, then called Anchor Savings, and has been there ever since.

Gary is retired now, Ginther said, but he taught at the college for over 30 years.

Ginther said she is excited to start working with the Chamber.

She has been a member through the bank since she started, and was even elected as the board's secretary.

"I think it's an honor that I was asked," she said. "If we all work together, I think this can be the best community around."

She has experience as president of the Carnegie Arts Center board, a member of the Sunflowers USA, or the Van Gogh, board, and a former member of the Topside Day Care board.



Ginther

Ginther is a member of the PEO sorority as well.

Donna Swager, Wheat Ridge Acres Retirement Home, was re-elected as president of the board.

Brian Linin, Frontier Equity Exchange, was re-elected to the board in November and then elected vice president.

Dan Rasure, of Rasure Do It Center, elected as a board member last summer, was elected as treasurer of the board.

Other board members are Debbie Reed, Hayden Inc.; Joshua Dechant, Bankwest; Darrick Leiker, High Plains Office Supply; Ken Clouse, president of the Northwest Kansas Technical College; and Tremon Kizer, band director at Goodland High School.

Reed, a previous board member, came in as runner up in the November elections, then took the seat vacated by Randy Schoenthaler, who is moving to Nebraska.

Courtney Warden will remain executive director, or manager, of the Chamber.

College open late to show off programs

The Northwest Kansas Technical College will keep its doors open late Thursday for anyone who wants to increase their skills or seek a career change.

The college, at 1209 Harrison, will be open from 5:30-8 p.m. Thursday. Instructors and staff will be on hand to answer questions and give people information about programs, housing, enrollment and how to pay for their education.

Donna Kroskey, director of admissions, and Shelly Jones, admissions representative, will answer questions on financial aid, scholarships, housing, enrollment and the departments.

The college is opening its doors not just to the people of Goodland, said Counselor Paul Chaffin. The evening event targets surrounding areas, like St. Francis, Bird City, Colby, Sharon

Springs and Weskan and into Colorado and Nebraska. It's designed to reach about a 60-mile radius, he said.

Single parents, high school students and older people interested in a career change should come see what the college has, he said. The college offers technical, hands-on education in 15 programs.

Students can broaden their education with an Associates of Applied Science Degree, he said. Small class sizes, hands-on education, short programs and low tuition costs are ideal for people looking to enhance their career potential.

The admissions staff hopes to help people make career choices, Kroskey said. Call the college at 899-3641 or visit its website at www.nwktc.org for more information.