

weather  
report

58°

noon

Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 6:23 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:49 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:22 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 57 degrees
- Humidity 72 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds south at 19, gusts at 24
- Barometer 30.31 inches and falling
- Record High today 90° (1993)
- Record Low today 19° (1952)

Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday 68°  
Low Thursday 44°  
Precipitation —  
This month trace  
Year to date 19.23  
Above normal 1.62 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, high near 84, low near 57, breezy with south wind between 15 and 25 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Mostly sunny, high near 85, low around 48. Sunday: A 30 percent chance of showers, mostly cloudy, high near 61, low near 39. Monday: Mostly cloudy, high near 57, low near 56. Tuesday: Partly cloudy, high near 60, low near 38. Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.44 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.89  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Corn — \$2.64 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.36  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Milo — \$2.24 bushel  
Soybeans — \$4.80 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.80  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Millet — \$6.50 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
NuSun crop — \$12  
Pinto beans — \$19 (new crop)  
(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



League meet  
Saturday

Kerek Mason was fourth at the Stanton County cross country meet on Tuesday, Sept. 26. The team is hoping Mason will be able to run at the Northwest Kansas League meet Saturday at Oakley. See story, photo on Page 11.

# Schools review, increase security

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

After school shootings in Colorado, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, Goodland school and police officials are looking again at security plans.

Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts said one concern is West Elementary, where the district houses first and second grades and preschool. West, at 912 W. 12, is closest to north-south highway K-27 and to I-70, he said.

He said school district officials assured him they have locks on the doors going outdoors from the classrooms. The doors are locked from the outside, he said, but open for emergency exit from the inside. People wanting to come into the school have to come in through the front door.

West Elementary School principal Verna Milnes said they are working on making sure the doors work properly and that staff has the

appropriate keys.

Superintendent Shelly Angelos said the district is actively reviewing its crisis policies. The administrators talked about using the same terms at each building because some teachers work at more than one building.

“We would appreciate anyone visiting the schools to check in at the offices,” Angelos said.

Sheriff Butts said he had offered to help the schools any way his department can. If anything occurs in the county that could cause problems for the schools, he said, he notifies dispatch, they notify the school district office and the office notifies the principals of the buildings.

Central Elementary School principal Sharon Gregory they have begun to look at ways of monitoring the parameter and what would be involved in locking it down.

“We are lucky as we do not have as many

entrances as the other schools,” Gregory said.

Principal of Grant Junior High Steve Raymer said they have a plan in place and are constantly reviewing it.

“With an older building there are lots of entrances,” he said. “The building was designed for friendliness.”

The high school has lock downs when the drug dog searches the buildings for drugs.

High School Principal Harvey Swager said any problems are funneled through the administration office. Teachers and students have been told what to do in an emergency and practiced their plans.

“We practice drills four times a year with lock down,” he said. “We talk about what to do to the students and have a general code to use.”

The high school has had the procedure since the school shootings in Columbine.

Still, he said, it’s difficult to make a school secure, especially on a sprawling campus.

“One problem with the high school,” he said, “is that there are four different buildings with lots of doors.”

“Incidents like that in Bailey, Colo., bring to the surface how vulnerable our society is.

“We want to leave the high school as normal as possible but prepare and be careful.”

Swager that if high school students see someone at the school who does not belong, he hopes they will tell the office.

“We don’t want to make such a big deal that students are frightened,” he added.

The country seems to be going through a spate of school shootings, he said, and it may not be over.

“Information travels so fast,” he said. “I would not be surprised to see another school shooting before Thanksgiving, and then it will die down after the break.”

Police Chief Ray Smee was unavailable for comments because he was investigating a case.



The two puppies played in a box after trash truck driver Brenda Starr found them. It was thought that the puppies were snooping in the trash.  
Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

## Puppies rescued from trash

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

When the trash truck driver got out to pick up some black bags by a wheeled plastic container around noon, she found two puppies.

“The puppies were so cute I was tempted to keep them,” said driver Brenda Starr, who works for In the Can, the county’s solid waste contractor.

Starr said she couldn’t tell if the puppies had been in the trash bag or had just gotten into the trash at 408 W. 15th that day, Wednesday, Sept. 28. The puppies were nosing around a trash bag, which had a hole torn in it, she said. There was animal feces in the bag, Starr said,

but the puppies were not covered in filth.

Starr said she put the puppies in a box and put them next to her in the truck.

She had second thoughts about keeping them and called the city animal control officer, Lane Terry. They met up in front of the City Administration Building, where Terry took them.

Terry said he decided to call Sandy Rodgers of the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter before he took the puppies to the city’s holding facility.

The puppies did not appear to be sick, Terry said, so he turned them over to the shelter.

When Terry talked to the people who lived at the house where the puppies were found, he said, he learned that the dogs did not belong to them.

Farther down the block, he found more puppies and the mother on a leash. The puppies were just old enough to wander off, Terry said. The people said the person that was supposed to taking care of them was not doing the job and the owner agreed to turn the mother and the other six puppies over to the shelter.

“The mother and puppies will be cared for by the shelter until they can find homes for them,” Rodgers said.



Lane Terry, animal control officer for the City of Goodland, held one of the puppies that trash truck driver Brenda Starr found. Terry turned the puppies over to the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter.

## City boards up dangerous garage

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The City Commission ordered a garage behind 1310 College boarded up Monday as a dangerous structure, and set a hearing to determine whether it should be demolished.

Officials said children have been playing in the abandoned garage and yellow police tape hasn’t kept them out. The hearing may be the first test for a new city ordinance designed to speed repair and demolition of dangerous buildings.

This would be the first hearing set since the commission approved an ordinance last month allowing the city manager or building inspector to bring unsafe and dangerous structures to it. The ordinance allows the city to notify the landowner of dangerous condition. A hearing may be held in front of the commission to determine if a structure should be demolished or repaired.

City Manager Wayne Hill said under the new rules, the issue comes to the commission first rather than going to court, which in the past has



The old garage behind 1310 College has been boarded up by the city as part of a resolution condemning the structure as a safety hazard. The city had attempted to use police tape to keep kids from playing it, but with the commission approval sheets of plywood were nailed up on Tuesday to close the doors.

Photo By Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

caused years-long delays.

“I have seen young kids playing around this garage,” Hill said. “I called Steve (Criswell, building inspector) and we feel this is something we need to take care of.”

Criswell brought the commission a resolution based on the new ordinance. He said a legal notice, which has to be published twice, calls for a hearing in front of the commission on Monday, Nov. 20.

“We are asking for permission to board this up,” Criswell said. “We have to have commission approval in addition to the resolution setting

See GARAGE, Page 9

## Old motel can be torn down

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

It took over two years, but Monday District Judge Jack Burr ruled the city could proceed to demolish the K Inn motel on the south side of business U.S. 24 east of Cherry.

“The Harsh case is taken care of,” City Manager Wayne Hill told the city commission on Monday. “Judge Burr ruled that Jeff Harsh, owner of the K Inn, has to take care of the property.”

The old motel has been closed for about four years.

City Building Inspector Steve Criswell said the city first filed a case in August 2004 calling the motel a nuisance and trying to get the district court to order the property cleaned up or

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