

weather report

8°

noon
Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 5:23 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:36 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:25 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 25 degrees

• Humidity 79 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds west at 6 mph

• Barometer 30.25 inches and rising

• Record High today 72° (1991)

• Record Low today -17° (1993)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 8°

Low Thursday -12°

Precipitation .3

This month .28

Year to date .82

Above Normal .25 of an inch

The Topsis Forecast

Today: Scattered flurries and sprinkles after 11 a.m. Partly cloudy, high near 40 with a low near 20.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Areas of blowing snow, partly cloudy, high near 41, low around 18. Sunday: Sunny, high near 43, low around 23. Monday: Mostly clear, high near 44, low near 25. Tuesday: Partly cloudy, high near 47, low around 26. Wednesday: Sunny, high near 48.

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

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.23 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.35

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$3.90 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.72

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$3.67 bushel

Soybeans — \$6.59 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.66

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$7 hundredweight

Sunflowers

NuSun crop — \$15.35

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

Goodland Star-News

Goodland Star-News

Goodland Star-News

Goodland Star-News

Goodland Star-News

Goodland Star-News

Goodland Star-News

Goodland Star-News

Goodland Star-News

Goodland Star-News

Goodland Star-News

Goodland Star-News

Goodland Star-News

Goodland Star-News

Goodland Star-News

Goodland Star-News

Goodland Star-News

Goodland Star-News

Goodland Star-News

College wins first accreditation

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

The Northwest Kansas Technical College heard what it wanted to hear from a visiting team in the final step for its initial accreditation as a degree-granting college in a report Wednesday at the college student union.

Dr. David H. Devier, dean of Cincinnati-Clermont College of Batavia, Ohio, said the team will recommend the college be accredited.

“We are recommending this institution get its initial five-year accreditation,” Dr. Devier said. “We were very, very pleased with the efforts and self study. Excellent work.”

He said the recommendation was based on research, the college’s extensive self study report, interviews with students and staff and the two-day visit. The team will prepare a report, he said, and a review panel will go over the report with someone from the college and the team chair. The accreditation should be issued in about a month, he said.

The team’s recommendation has two parts, Devier said, assurance



The evaluation team reported to a crowd including students and staff of the Northwest Kansas Technical College on its recommendation that the school get its initial accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities. The team included (from left) Dr. Roger Stacy from Northern Oklahoma College, chair Dr. David H. Devier of University of Cincinnati-Clermont College, Linda G. Johnson of Southeast Technical Institute and Dr. Kathy Brock of Iowa Community College.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

and advancement. The assurance makes sure the school has met five criteria. The first is that the core parts

of the mission of the school is met. “The mission was well understood and accepted,” Devier said.

“The school has a wonderful board of control.” The second involved preparing

for the future by expanding its recruitment area and staff. The tech college reviews its strategic plan every six months, he said, expands programs and attempts to embrace diversity.

The panel suggested the school think about providing inexpensive child care and increased part-time and night enrollment to increase diversity in its student population.

The third area is to fulfill its educational mission. The panel felt that a follow up visit needs in this area. The college’s methods of assessments are new and need to mature, and the dean recommended the visit to see what progress in made in assessments

The fourth area is to enhance its student’s educational experience. The college has a program to transfer hours to Fort Hays State University, he said, has learning activities for staff and advisory councils.

The fifth area is the college’s commitment to learning.

“The school gets a commendation for the relationship of the college to

See COLLEGE, Page 7



Trucks and other vehicles waited in a line on the side of K-27 on Monday afternoon waiting for eastbound I-70 to open. An early-morning accident and blowing snow made travel difficult. The eastbound lanes were reopened about 7:30 p.m. after the wind went down and the state was able to plow the road east of Colby.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Accident closes eastbound I-70 for 15 hours

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Blowing snow and an wrecked semi-trailer rig blocked the eastbound lanes of I-70 east of Colby about 3 a.m. Monday morning, and the road stayed closed for about 15 hours to clean up the accident and drifts.

The closure backed up trucks and cars from Colby to Limon, Colo. The eastbound lanes reopened about 8:30 p.m. Monday, and by that time there were no places left in Colby or Goodland to park semi rigs.

Despite the closure, heavy trucks which

apparently slipped by the barricades kept arriving at the west Goodland exit all day. The drivers were stopped by state troopers and told they could not go farther east.

Kristen Brands, district public affairs for the Kansas Department of Transportation, said the eastbound lanes were closed because of the accident. She said conditions were worst east of Colby because of the blowing snow and high winds.

“I know this is confusing,” Brands said, “because the public is used to the state closing westbound I-70 into Colorado.

“Due to the accident on I-70 and the visibility, we kept the eastbound lanes closed as long as we did.

“We never did close any other routes, U.S. 24 or U.S. 83. Colorado did have U.S. 24 closed west of Kanorado.”

Brands said that while troopers were working the accident, the highway crews could not plow. She said taking traffic off the highway sometimes makes the road conditions worse.

“Traffic helps clear out some of the snow by creating a wheel path,” she said. “There

was a section near the accident that was worse than other sections.”

Tuesday afternoon, two groups of extra-wide-load trucks, with accompanying lead and tail pickups, stopped in Goodland. Drivers of the wide loads were told by troopers they could not proceed east on Wednesday because the shoulders were not clear. Thursday morning, Hays dispatch told troopers the eastbound lanes of I-70 still were not clear enough to allow the wide loads to proceed.

See CLOSURE, Page 7

House committee passes at-large election bill

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

A bill to allow all Sherman County citizens to vote on county commissioner got unanimous approval after a House committee hearing Monday, and should be on its way to the Senate by today.

Commission Chairman Chuck Thomas said Tuesday committee

members ask a few questions and Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Randy Allen of the Kansas Association of Counties each made short presentations.

Thomas said the Election and Government Organization committee, chaired by Rep. Mike Burgess of Topeka, passed the bill unanimously without any changes. Tho-

mas said he was told the bill should be passed by the full House in about three days.

The bill would allow Sherman County to have an election to decide whether all voters, rather than just those in one district, should vote in county commissioner races.

Thomas said Burgess said he did not see anything controversial about

the bill and recommended it be put on the consent calendar.

House rules say when a bill is placed on the consent calendar, it remains there for at least two days before being considered for final action. The bill was on the consent calendar for a second day on Thursday, and should be voted on Friday.

Unless a member objects before

the final vote, the bill will be passed without debate and sent on to the Senate.

Thomas said the committee did not feel there was any controversy because it was only Sherman County asking for the change, and the committee members agreed the

See BILL, Page 7

Cooking show planned for Tuesday

The wait is almost over for the Taste of Home Cooking School. The show, sponsored by The Goodland Star-News, will be at 6:30 Tuesday at the Max Jones Fieldhouse, with tickets available at the door.

Culinary specialist Kristi Larson will not only be preparing recipes, but someone from the audience will win the recipe in its serving dish. Ten recipes will be prepared, including a luscious chocolate-strawberry bombe.

Booths will offer ideas on decorating, cooking and health and representatives from Taste of Home Entertainment, Homemade Gourmet, Tastefully Simple, Health Essentials, Home Inter-

iors, Signature Home Styles and Pampered Chef. Taste of Home cookbooks will be available for purchase.

Everyone at the show will get a goodie bag stuffed with recipes, samples and discount coupons. Drawings for door prizes will be staged during the two-hour show, including 20 bags of groceries to be given out.

Taste of Home Cooking School is proud of its association with Taste of Home magazine. The publishers of this popular magazine have put together the “Cadillac” of cookbooks. Packed with over 1,200 classic recipes and 300 practical kitchen tips, this comprehensive reference to great cooking will be

awarded to three lucky winners.

“Taste of Home is about great food and real people who take pride in what they cook and have fun doing it,” said Larson “People treasure Taste of Home recipes, but they value equally the connection they feel with other cooks just like themselves who want their families leaving the table full, happy and raving about their meals now and for generation to come.”

Doors will open at 5 p.m. for guests to visit vendor booths. Tickets are available at The Goodland Star-News office, 1205 Main, or at the Colby Free Press, Saint Francis Herald, Norton Telegram, Oberlin Herald and the Western Times.

State representatives plan morning visit

The area’s state representative and state senator plan a “town hall meeting” for 7 a.m. Saturday at Hanks Cafe on 17th Street in Goodland.

Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer of Grinnell and Rep. Jim Morrison of Colby will tour five towns Saturday to talk about the legislative session and hear from people about issues they feel are important.

The duo will stop in Goodland from 7 to 8 a.m. at Hanks, then travel east, stopping at the Quality Inn in Colby at 8:45 a.m. (Mountain Time). They will be at Trish’s Steak House in Hoxie at 10:30, Frontier Stage in Hill City at 12:30 p.m. and the Palco Café at 2 p.m.

Regionals start today

A.J. Stephens pinned Skyler Huffman of Oakley in a dual at home last Friday. The Cowboys start regional action today in Pratt. See photo, story on Page 12.

