

weather report

67°
noon
Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 4:53 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:09 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:52 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 50 degrees
- Humidity 33 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds southwest 15 to 20 mph
- Barometer 30.08 inches and falling
- Record High today 87° (1922)
- Record Low today 10° (1997)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	72°
Low Wednesday	38°
Precipitation	—
This month	.63
Year to date	13.89
Below Normal	4.63 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. North winds 10 to 15 mph. Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Isolated sprinkles and flurries. Lows in the lower 30s. North winds 10 to 15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Partly sunny in the morning then becoming mostly sunny. High in the lower 50s, low in the lower 30s. Sunday through Tuesday: Mostly clear. Highs around 70, lows in mid 30s. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

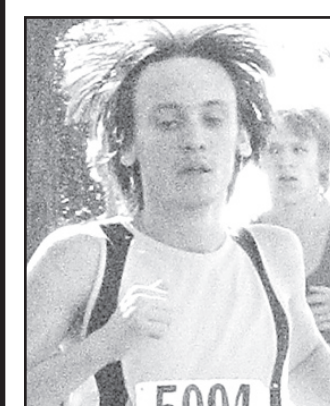


Noon

- Wheat — \$7.53 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$7.59
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Corn — \$3.23 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.17
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Milo — \$3.07 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$8.37 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$8.58
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scolor Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

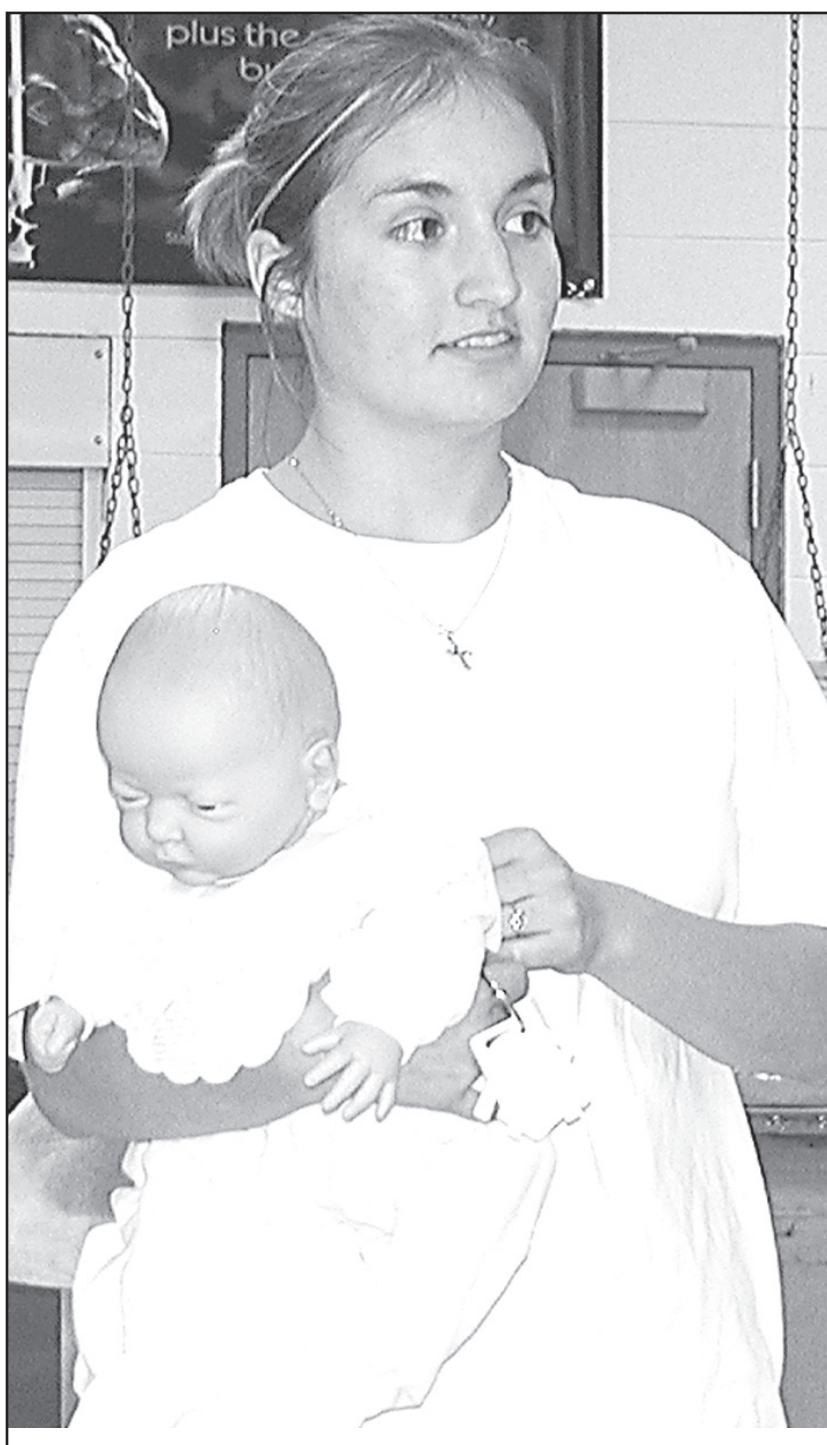
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Cowboys finish season

Senior Dustin Pennington closed out his high school cross country career, finishing the 5,000-meter regional cross country meet in 21 minutes, 22.82 seconds, Saturday in Marysville. See photo on Page 10.

Baby teaches parenting skills



Goodland High School student Melanie Pierce holds a "think it over baby" Monday during a presentation to the school board. The infant simulators are used in Gwen Cebula's parenting class to help students learn about the realities of parenting.

Photo by Ramona C. Sanders/The Goodland Star-News

Laughs over a big belly, fake baby and a Survivor-style movie were part of a presentation Monday by Goodland High School teachers and students to school board members.

The presentation was held in the high school cafeteria during the second part of the regular school board meeting attended by all seven members and Superintendent Shelly Angelos.

Board members, parents and teachers were entertained as student Whitney Shields modeled an "empathy belly," which simulates pregnancy and is used in Gwen Cebula's parenting class.

"It's a little reality in life about pregnancy and taking care of children," Cebula said of the class.

The device, which costs \$900, gives students an idea of the discomfort of pregnancy. A tight band is worn around the waist before the weighted bladder and baby pouch are added. Cebula said she requires the students to wear it during the hour-long class period.

"It's really heavy," Whitney told the audience.

Cebula also presented a computerized infant simulator called a "think it over baby." The simulated baby looks, burps, coos and even throws up just like a real baby. Realistically, it cries until its

need are met. Cebula said it's programmed to cry 24 to 25 times in a 48-hour period, which is the time the student is required to keep the "baby."

"This realistic, hands-on approach has become a proven method to teach teens the responsibility of life," Cebula said, adding, "they realize what having a baby would do their academic and social life."

The baby cries until an appropriate key representing its need is inserted. Cebula said the computerized infant can tell her if the baby is neglected, shaken or exposed to cigarette smoke.

Student Melanie Pierce demonstrated how the baby works. She shared her own simulated parenting experience.

"Mine didn't cry very much," she said. "but the first time it did, I panicked. It needed its diaper changed twice, which I thought was weird."

Her comments elicited knowing chuckles from the parents in the audience.

Cebula said it helps students develop parenting skills and she has had students who are either pregnant or are already parents take the parenting class to learn those skills.

See STUDENTS, Page 8

Kindergarten down; district shrinks by 11 kids

Ramona C. Sanders

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Fewer students are coming into the Goodland School District, Superintendent Shelly Angelos reported to the school board Monday. The annual school count in September showed the district has 11 fewer students than the last school year.

"The significant drop is in our kindergarten," Angelos said.

Angelos told the board the Goodland Learning Center gained 16 students but the elementary schools and junior high and high school continue to see declining enrollment.

During the meeting, an external audit for the last school year was presented by Cynthia Bieberle of Colby-based Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, CPA. Bieberle reported the district has paid off past debt and that its expenditures did not exceed any of its fund balances.

"As of June 30, there was no debt," Bieberle

said. The only irregularity Bieberle reported was lunch funds in the amount of \$7 that were incorrectly reported by North Elementary School. She attributed that to reporting procedures and provided the board with procedures that give the district better oversight of its funds.

The board voted 7-0 to accept the audit report.

During the superintendent's report, Angelos gave the board a one-page information sheet that will be distributed to parents to explain the new format for first term report cards to be distributed late October and early November.

Angelos discussed a new procedure to improve special education services.

"We've taken a good hard look at ourselves and said, 'hey how can we improve?'" said Angelos. "An area we feel we could definitely improve is the

See SCHOOLS, Page 8

Council nominations, update to be Tuesday

The annual meeting for the Sherman County Economic Development Council will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the Goodland Elks Lodge.

Development Directory Jeremy Jennings said the program would include an update on activities over the past year. This is Jennings first meeting as he was hired at the end of September.

Jennings said he is looking forward to meeting people and talking about the things the council can do to improve businesses who are here and to attract more.

Members of the Shine on Sherman County Youth Committee will be present to talk about the skate park design and money raising efforts.

Council Chairman Don Newell said nominations will be opened

for two positions as Harlan House, farmer and rancher, and Gary Slough, S&T regional manager, will be ending their terms.

Newell said House has been on the council since the beginning, and under the bylaws he can only serve two three-year terms. Slough said he has enjoyed his time on the council, but did not want to seek a second term.

Newell said the nominations will be opened from the floor at the annual meeting and nominations will be accepted at the development council office until the meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 20. The two council members will selected that night so the nominees can be approved by the county commissioners before the council reorganization in January.

Moonlight Madness spooks, goblins contest planned for Tuesday

Spooks and goblins will invade Goodland's downtown on Tuesday from 5 to 7 p.m. for the sixth annual Moonlight Madness celebration and costume contest.

Several downtown stores will be open until 7 p.m., with specials for shopping, and there will be treats for the kids who stop by to show off their costumes.

The basement of El Dorado Western Wear, 1101 Main, will be the site of the Moonlight Madness costume contest.

The Madd Hatter will provide music beginning about 5 p.m. and costume judging begins at 5 p.m.

There will be three age groups,

with cash prizes for first, second and third in each. The 4-and-under group will be judged at 5 p.m., 5 to 8 at 5:30 p.m., and 9 to 12 at 6 p.m.. The Goodland Kiwanis Club has donated the prize money, Big Brothers and Big Sisters will help judge.

Businesses participating in the event or handing out candy include Jacque's Hallmark, SmitteO's VideO, J.C. Penney, Farm Bureau Insurance, Mr. Jim's His and Hers Shop, Stitch 'N Place, Madd Hatters, ElDorado Western Wear and *The Goodland Star-News*.



Paving has been completed on the north end of the new K-27 road south of town. Permanent striping and finishing work will continue over the next month, state highway department Contract Engineer Michael Terry said.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

K-27 paving completed

Asphalt paving was complete on the newly constructed portion of the K-27 highway project south of Goodland on Monday and opened to traffic.

Contractors were working on the in-town portion of K-27 just south of Interstate-70, and had a detour and cone zone set up said Construction Engineer Michael Terry of the Area Two Construction Office of the Kansas Department of Transportation in Atwood.

"We pushed traffic to the southbound lanes while the northbound lanes were being paved," Terry said.

Terry said the permanent striping

would be complete by the end of the week by a sub-contracting firm, NES Traffic Safety of Wichita.

The prime contractor in charge of the \$14.5 million dollar project, which began in spring of last year, is Western Engineering Company, Inc. of Harlan, Iowa.

"The traveling public will still see contractors out working off the roadway," Terry said. "Crews will be working on box-drainage structures, milling up the old roadway, dirt work and seeding for the next two months. However, this work will not affect traffic."

Terry said the project remains

on-schedule.

The speed limit will be posted back to its original 65 mph limit on the new section by Monday, but travelers should exercise caution and be aware of contractor crews who are working throughout the construction zone.

The new roadway has 12-foot driving lanes with three foot paved shoulders and three foot turf shoulders. The old section of K-27 did not have paved shoulders.

For questions, contact Kristen Brands at (785) 877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org. or Terry at (785) 626-3185 or mterry@ksdot.org.