

Frigid temps move out of area

By Tom Betz

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State offices in eastern Kansas reopened on Thursday after being ordered closed by Governor Sam Brownback for three days because of a frigid winter storm that closed offices, schools and some businesses across the state.

In northwest Kansas the storm dropped the temperatures on Monday to the minus degree mark and with high winds took the mercury even further down on Tuesday night into Wednesday morning tying the overnight low of -13 degrees from 1989.

Schools across the northwest section were closed on Tuesday, but most reopened on Wednesday as the storm moved further east. Reports of drifts out in the county were one to two feet. Snow depths in the area were not extremely high with 1.3 inches reported in Goodland and similar amounts around the area, but the depths got a bit deeper to the east with reports of up to 16 to 22 inches in the Kansas City and western Missouri area.

Chris Foltz, forecaster at the National Weather Service in Goodland confirmed the cold temperatures over the two days of the storm, and said when the winds were blowing at 34.7 mph on Tuesday the wind chill was about -38 degrees. He said the wind chill is figured on the steady winds, but had recorded wind gusts up to 44.9 mph.

Foltz said the temperatures were warming up today, but said he is watching two storms that could bring a chance of snow on Sunday night and on Monday into Tuesday. Foltz said he thinks the chance of snow on Sunday is about 20 percent, and feels this storm will probably be more to the south and west, but thinks the one coming in on Monday may have more of a chance of bringing snow to the northwest Kansas region. He said at this time he is saying 20 percent chance for the second storm, but feel it might increase as the storm develops over the weekend.

Monday the storm and winds began about 9 a.m. when the winds went from 7.4 mph up to 23 mph and light snow blowing out of the north. The light snow amounted to .06 of moisture and brings the total for the year to .39 inches. For February Foltz said the weather service reported a trace on Tuesday. The total for the year is .1 inches below the average of .49 for Thursday.



A student (above) appeared to be heading to practice Monday afternoon along 12th St. in the snow. A customer (right) was happy the First National Bank door was on the south somewhat protected from the fierce north wind.

Photos by Tom Betz and Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News

The low on Monday was a -2 degrees dropping to a -12 degrees on Tuesday and -13 degrees on Wednesday. The -12 on Tuesday was not close to the record of -21 degrees in 1951. The high on Tuesday was 1 degree a long way from the record high of 78 degrees in 2003. The high on Wednesday was 10 degrees well below the record high of 72 degrees from 1934.

The forecast for today is a warm up to 43 degrees with a low tonight expected to be 23 and a high of 47 degrees on Saturday and a low in the mid 20s. The high for Sunday is expected to be 34 degrees with a high on Monday of 22 degrees as the next storms arrive.



School board plans more community meetings

By Pat Schiefen

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The Goodland School Board decided in its last meeting in January that there might be one or two more community meetings to discuss the \$14.9 million school bond issue at the election on Tuesday, April 15.

School board member Mike Cochran said, "It is good to hear both sides."

Board president Chuck Wilkens said, "The more we communicate with the public the better."

Board member Amy Sederstrom said she thought a short summary and a question and answer period

would be what needed to be presented with Program manager Cristy Joy of Architecture Etcetera, Construction Manager Mike Ayars of Ayars and Ayars and Bond Consultant Dustin Avey of Piper Jaffray there to help answer questions.

The bond committee and possibly school board members were to be at the Sherman County Health Fair last Saturday.

The board and Superintendent Shelly Angelos have been working on how to make the Goodland School District more economical. What started as a task force in May of 2008 to look at the facilities and

declining enrollment. The task force came up will recommendations including everything from building a new kindergarten through 12 to which buildings might be closed.

The district was then faced with uncertain funding starting in the fall of 2008 from the State because of less than expected revenues. Superintendent Angelos has worked to cut out as much as possible out of the budget.

The board decided to close North Elementary School in February of 2010. An earlier recommendation the year before from architects Horst, Terrill and Karst of Topeka

recommended that the junior high be closed and the students moved into the high school. The architects examined all the district's buildings and said they were all structurally sound but needed updating. There was never enough support from the school board to do that. The board was concerned with just moving the students without making a separate place for them at the high school.

When the board closed North it decided not to sell or lease it at that time. It was felt that that location was the best place to have a kindergarten to six facility. At the present time the district has enough

grade school students that one of the elementaries can not hold all of them.

The school board has been very concerned to make sure that plans as to what to do with vacated buildings has been included. They felt that Grant Junior High is really not salable so it would need to be demolished. The board would love to sell it if someone wanted it.

The most salable properties the district has is the Administration Building and West Elementary School. The two businesses adjoining

See SCHOOL, Page 5

Hospital finance committee reviewing prepay issues

By Tom Betz

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The Goodland hospital finance committee reported spending about an hour on the issues of private pay and prepay issues about information being handed out from the Family Health Center.

Chief Financial Officer Jim Precht said the discussion dealt with information being handed out that appears to be misunderstood or confusing about pre natal account through delivery.

Precht said he and Lori Gaydusek would be getting back to the finance committee in February with material to replace what is being handed out.

Finance Committee Chairman Patty Eckhardt said the committee recommended stopping what is being handed out. She said they were not sure the information was being given

out on a consistent basis as some of the clients got the information and some did not.

She said the information was about how the Family Health Center was handling the payment for pre natal doctor visits and through the delivery of the baby.

Precht said he would be a new version to the finance committee for their approval and review by the board at the February meeting.

Precht said in the December financial review the hospital had two major adjustments.

He said in July going into August the hospital had a Medicare cost report that was not in the program template. He said that resulted in a large underpayment and a large adjustment for the year and that it will be about \$100,000 each quarter.

He said the other journal entry deals with

the hospital health insurance. He said when going through the budget he said the data was hard to get on what the partially self-insured plan would be. He said he was taking the worst case approach, but the report is it was a very good year and expenses were only about half of what he had budgeted.

He said he does not know what might have been incurred but not yet reported.

"I never had that before," he said. "They told me in January we were not going to be that high."

He said the better figure would reduce the health insurance cost by about \$200,000.

He said the journal entries are a good change, but felt the hospital might be at risk for the health insurance amount. He said he was sure the auditors will fine tune that portion of the budget when they come out in March to do the audit.

Precht said he had word that First National Bank wanted to get out of the municipal deposits. He said he has been working to get that done and working with Bankwest and with People's State Bank. He said the checking account at the First National Bank has not been closed.

On the insurance renewals Precht said three companies have indicated interest. He said Double Eagle did not get a response and he asked Ecklund's Insurance to see what they could do about the professional liability and said they have two quotes out.

He said Double Eagle and Ecklund's are getting bids for casualty insurance. He said Double Eagle has one quote on the airplane insurance.

He said the finance committee would see those on Tuesday, Feb. 15.

weather report

27°

noon
Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 4:36 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:37 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 29 degrees
- Humidity 29 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds west 12 mph
- Barometer 30.23 inches and falling

• Record High today 68° (1935)

• Record Low today -15° (1985)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 10°

Low Wednesday -5°

Precipitation none

This month trace

Year to date .39

Below Normal 0.06 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 44, winds out of the west at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 23. Saturday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of snow at night, a high near 47, winds breezy out of the northwest at 15 to 30 mph and a low around 24.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow, a high near 35 and a low around 13. Monday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow, a high near 22, winds blustery and a low around 7.

(National Weather Service)

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* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$8.17 bushel

Posted county price — \$8.02

Corn — \$5.92 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.16

Milo — \$5.77 bushel

Soybeans — \$12.42 bushel

Posted county price — \$13.21

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$29.85 cwt.

Confection — no bid

Pinto beans — \$18

(Markets by Scouler Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

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Mavericks sign three

Three Goodland athletes signed letters of intent to play golf at Northwest Tech including Sammie Goalden (above) Tyler Jones and J.P. McCool. See story, photos on Page 10.

