

weather report



25°
noon
Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 5:19 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 6:42 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:21 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 31 degrees
- Humidity 52 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds southwest 12 mph
- Barometer 30.07 inches and steady
- Record High today 78° (1962)
- Record Low today -13° (1981)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	16°
Low Wednesday	-6°
Precipitation	trace
This month	0.36
Year to date	0.75
Above normal	0.23 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near 40, winds out of the west at 15 mph and a low around 21. Saturday: Sunny with a high near 53, winds out of the west at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 26.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny with a high near 59 and a low around 25. Monday: Sunny with a high near 50 and a low around 23.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$8.49 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$8.37
 - Corn — \$6.27 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.40
 - Milo — \$6.12 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$12.76 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$13.43
 - Millet — \$5 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$30.30 cwt.
 - Confection — no bid
 - Pinto beans — \$18 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scouler Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



City agrees to fire service survey

By Tom Betz

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A representative from the Sherman County Fire Board was at the commission meeting on Monday to ask the city to share the cost of a professional survey of fire services both in the city and across the county.

Darrel Cloyd fire board member from Kanorado said the idea of hiring a non-biased professional to do a survey of fire services came up at a fire board meeting when the discussion turned to the need for a larger fire station. He said the idea was to look at the possibility of the city and county building a single larger fire station and sharing services.

Cloyd said he searched for information and found a couple of possibilities. He said he did not get information from the one form Cincinnati, but did get information from the one from Savannah, Ga.

He said Harold N. Starling, president of National Fire Services Office, said he had done hundreds of these surveys and has been working in Eagle, Colo.

Cloyd said Starling said he would recommend the city and county start with a fire service assessment before deciding on building one fire station.

The estimated cost of the survey is \$3,500 with a minimum of two

County to split survey cost

By Tom Betz

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Sherman County commissioners agreed Tuesday morning to split the cost of a fire service assessment with the city and suggested Darrel Cloyd of the rural fire board be the contact person.

Cloyd said he had been to the city commission meeting on Monday and the commissioners had approved paying half of the cost of the fire service assessment.

Commissioner Larry Enfield asked Cloyd if the rural fire board had money in their budget.

Cloyd said he thought the fire board had the money and said it would be a maximum of about \$2,500 for the county side.

He said the National Fire Services Office of Savannah, Ga., would be the consultants and would have

two consultants make two trips to Sherman County. He said the firm will need \$1,500 up front for the survey and \$2,000 when the study is completed. He said the other cost is for the travel and motels for the two trips estimated to cost \$750 each or \$1,500 total.

Cloyd said the questions from the city were if this was a contract to consolidate services.

"It is not," he said. "This is a way to look at every option to see how we can improve our fire fighting readiness. If part of that includes shared services or combined services that will be in their recommendations. This is an unbiased and professional review to see how we are doing and how to improve."

Enfield asked if the city was in favor of the study. Cloyd said City Manager Doug Gerber said in the

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the city and county after the assessment is completed.

City Manager Doug Gerber said he knew the city and county had talked about combining the departments, but felt they got hung up on words and people.

"I think cooperation is what we need to look at," he said.

"I want what is best for the county," Cloyd said.

Daniels asked what this assessment is going to tell the city anything different than the ISO survey.

Chief James said this is different than the ISO. He said it might tell him if anything is missing. He said he is getting close to getting the ISO insurance rating down to 4, but is a 5 right now. He said the assessment might help. The goal is to get the city down to a 3 rating.

Gerber said he thinks it would be good to get the recommendation from someone other than Brian.

"I think he does a good job as chief," he said. "I think people have a problem with the city fire department from the past."

Cloyd said this has not been done as long as he has been on the fire board.

The city commissioners agreed it was a good plan and would split the cost if the county commissioners approved the plan on Tuesday.

Snow removal big job on Monday afternoon



Storm drops 6 inches of snow

Snow removal was a big job on Monday afternoon and some places used tractors to clean driveways and parking lots such as at the First National Bank (top left). At the First Baptist Church on Main (top photo) Don Smith and Pastor Travis Blake tried to stay ahead of the blowing snow on Monday afternoon.

However, not everyone was in a hurry and decided to wait until the snow stopped falling.

Another quick moving winter storm dripped the temperatures into the minus range on Monday and Tuesday and brought wind chills with winds gusting to 39 mph.

The National Weather Service in Goodland reported 5.9 inches of snow with .34 inches of moisture. The moisture beats the .32 inches on the same date in 2009.

To date the total moisture is now .75 inches .24 inches ahead of the normal of .51 inches.

Winds were average 15 mph with max of 33 mph and gusts of 39 mph. -6 overnight with wind chill of -23.

The temperature moderated on Wednesday as the storm moved east, and the forecast for the weekend was warm sunny skies with the highs reaching to 60 degrees.

College planning expansion of iPad program

By Tom Betz

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Northwest Tech is the first two-year college in the country to get into the Apple iPad in a big way by issuing each student and faculty member one to use and the city heard Monday about some possible expansion in the coming year.

Ben Coumerilh, director of technology, presented the commissioners with the background on the iPad project and how it has gone the first year. He said the students and faculty have really embraced the iPad and are finding many ways to use them in class and in the hands-on work they perform.

He said Apple has been pleased with how the project is going, and is considering doing a documentary on the college this year. He said the college has invited some members of the community to join in the iPad project handing out some to people in the media organizations (including this reporter) and the city manager and economic development director plus a few others.

Coumerilh said the college hopes to develop a program to develop mobile applications that can be used on the variety of devices including the iPhone, iPod and iPad. He said Apple and a California company have said they are interested in the college advancing into this program.

Coumerilh said if the program is approved by the Kansas Board of Regents it would be the first such program dedicated to creating mobile applications. He said if the program is approved he would expect to have about 15 students in the first class to start probably in the fall.

He demonstrated several mobile apps and said more than 460,000 are available for the different mobile devices, and 65,000 for the iPad specifically. He said about 350,000 mobile devices are being added around the world on a daily basis.

Coumerilh said one of the benefits of the iPad project has been a 50 percent reduction in the amount of paper the college uses on an annual basis.

City Manager Doug Gerber said he was talking with Coumerilh about being able to create a way to put the commission packets and agenda on the computer to be accessed by a mobile application.

Mayor Josh Dechant said he thinks it is super neat, and feels the sky is the limit for what the college can do with the development program.

"Technology has converged to make a lot of things possible we thought about doing several years ago," Coumerilh said.

Commissioner John Garcia said he felt it was good the iPad was user friendly and feels the college has great instructors to be able to make the best use of the technology.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he thought there are many things that could be tied in to help the community.

"Put an iPad in the hand of a 2-year old and you will not believe what can happen," Gerber said.

Gerber and Coumerilh said they would work on the electronic agenda project and

hope to bring some ideas and possibly iPads for the commissioners at an upcoming meeting.

In other business the commissioners: • Opened with the swearing in of Kevin Rasure to fill the commission vacancy until the April 5 election.

Rasure thanked the commission for allowing him the opportunity to serve, and commended the candidates for commission who had come to the meeting. The city will hold a Primary Election on Tuesday, March 1, to reduce the number of candidates from seven to six.

Commissioners Dave Daniels and Annette Fairbanks are seeking re-election and Gary Farris, Bill Finley, Randy Topliff, Chris Zimmerman and Jeff Deeds.

• Mayor Dechant read a proclamation declaring February as Girl Scout Cookie Month. About 18 Daisies, Brownies and Cadets were at the meeting to hear the proclamation.

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Cowboys at Colby

Cowboy Brock Wilkens jumped high for a rebound on Saturday at Burlington. The Cowboys play at Colby tonight at 7 p.m. See story, photo on Page 10A

