

weather report



35°

10:30 a.m.
Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 5:50 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 7:12 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:48 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 46 degrees
- Humidity 82 percent
- Sky clear and sunny
- Winds west 5 mph
- Barometer 30.20 inches and steady
- Record High today 86° (1943)
- Record Low today 10° (1925)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	44°
Low Wednesday	28°
Precipitation	0.26
This month	2.13
Year to date	18.58
Above normal	0.26 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near 57, winds out of the west at 5 mph becoming calm and a low around 33. Saturday: Sunny with a high near 64, winds out of the west at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 38.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny with a high near 57 and a low around 36. Monday: Sunny with a high near 68 and a low around 38. Tuesday: Sunny with a high near 65 and a low around 36.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local markets



10:30 a.m.

- Wheat — \$6.72 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.63
- Corn — \$6.24 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.20
- Milo — \$5.82 bushel
- Soybeans — \$10.95 bushel
- Posted county price — \$11.32
- Millet — \$5 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$27.30 cwt.
- Confection — no bid
- Pinto beans — \$28

(Markets by Scoular 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



Girl wins at regional

Kyndall King was one of several Goodland youth who went to Pueblo for the regional Punt, Pass and Kick competition. Ellee McDaniel won here division at Pueblo. See photos, story on Page 10.

People hope to save post offices

By Tom Betz

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A crowd of more than 70 Kanorado citizens attended a meeting on Tuesday concerning the Kanorado post office, and more than 40 attended a similar meeting on Wednesday about the Edson post office.

The two Sherman County rural post offices are among the 3,700 nationwide the U.S. Postal Service has proposed closing in an attempt to save money.

Robert G. Mikulecky, Jr., Abilene postmaster, was the postal service representative at both meetings. He said he probably could not answer all the questions, but an official record of the meetings would be made and all comments would be forwarded to the postal service headquarters for review.

In Kanorado, Sally Pettibone said at the beginning of the meeting that people were not there to complain about the post office and not there to blame Mikulecky.

"We are here to try to save our post office," she said.

At each meeting Mikulecky passed around a sign-up sheet for all those who attended.

He said the proposed closing was because the postal service was losing money, and this was one of the many ways they are looking to save money.

He said annual mail volume has declined by more than 43 billion pieces in the past five years and is continuing to decline. Total First-Class letter mail has dropped 50 percent and single piece First-Class mail — letters bearing postage stamps — has declined 36 percent.

He said if the post offices are closed they will be replaced by rural style delivery with each person putting up a mail box at their house or possibly across the street.

He said with the closure of the post offices the blue mail boxes in Kanorado and Edson may be removed.

He said the present Kanorado box holders will have an option to put up a mail box, or could rent a mail box in Goodland.

In Edson Mikulecky said the mail carrier will come out of Brewster.

He told both communities they will not lose their town name or zip code. He said in the past the communities would have lost the zip code and town name in the system,



A crowd of more than 70 attended the Kanorado Post Office meeting (above) on Tuesday at the Kanorado Senior Center, and more than 40 gathered at Cochran Farm Supply near Edson (left photo) on Wednesday to hear about the proposal to close the rural post offices and voice their hope to keep them open. Robert Mikulecky, Abilene Postmaster was the Postal Service representative who spoke at both post office meetings.

Photos by Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

but the postal service understands the importance of identity to the small towns.

Ron Schilling, who lives near Edson, said he had been asked to be a spokesman for the Edson attendees and said the people were there to save their post office. He said if the decision is made to close the Edson post office he would rather the mail come out of Goodland because it is in the same time zone and is the county seat.

Another person in the audience said he would rather the mail come out of Brewster.

A third voice from the audience said it would be better to help Brewster because it may be on the next closure list.

The postal service has lost money — \$30.2 billion in the past 10 years and \$10 billion this year, he said. The postal closings are a part of a large cost-cutting effort that includes reducing processing centers such as happened with Colby, asking to eliminate Saturday delivery, reducing transportation and reducing the staff by 20 percent. He said that closing small town post offices was not the only measure being

taken.

He said all the small post offices are losing money, and in the past the larger post offices were making money to carry the small ones. Today the large post offices are losing money as well.

If the decision is to close the post offices it is usually a 138 day time frame from the first notice to the closure. He said the results of the decision would be known by the first part of December, and a notice would be posted giving 60 days notice of the closing.

He said if the notice is posted the

community has 30 days to send an appeal to Washington to see if the post office did follow the proper rules.

"There is a glimmer of hope," he said, "they have put 120 back and not closed them. There is some hope. How they determine that I do not know.

"I think you took the first step by showing up tonight to support your post office.

"The U.S. Postal Service does not get any taxpayer money, and what

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School board given homework assignment

By Ava Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland school board members carried away a homework assignment from their Monday evening meeting — should the seventh and eighth grades be combined with the high school, and if so, what should be done with the sixth grade?

Answers are due by January.

School Superintendent Bill Biermann handed out the assignment to board members Diane Stiles, Mike Cochran, Amy Sederstrom, Jessica Cole, Teresa Sieck and Gennifer House. Board President Gary Slough was not at the meeting, which was led by Cochran.

There were few motions made at the meeting and all were unanimously passed: minutes of the Oct. 10 meeting were approved, financial reports of the activity fund and petty cash were reviewed, bills totaling \$59,855.64 were paid and with no members of the public present other than the press there was no public

forum. At the close of the meeting Michelle Coates, Amber Halderman and Timmie Smith were hired as substitute cooks and Diana Bailey was hired as an English as a second language tutor. The resignation of Jessica Wolf as a sixth hour cook at West was accepted.

House, as board representative to the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center, reported on a recent meeting of the center. There were 210 students in the Head Start program in August, she reported. Also at that meeting policies and procedures from the handbook were reviewed.

Board members spent the bulk of the meeting pondering the present status of Goodland education and what should be its future in the face of funding cuts and technological advances.

This line of discussion was touched off by Superintendent Biermann's report on a recent conference he attended in Colorado

Springs on College and Career Readiness. Education is not just about cost, he told the Goodland board. "It's about trying to encourage everyone to move forward." Current practice is to group students by age. "Why do all ninth graders take English I?" he asked rhetorically. The future may lie in grouping students with similar abilities and interests to move them through the system "at speed," he said. Rather than teaching to the middle range of students in classes, with some students becoming bored and other students becoming confused, the answer may lie in arranging groups that challenge all students at different levels.

Another facet of Goodland education which is being examined is the cooperative program between the high school and Northwest Tech. Currently six high school students — five full-time and one part-time — attend Northwest Tech, Biermann reported. The program is successful

and provides students with classes they are not able to get at the high school, such as welding, he said. The problem is the cost of the college program, which averages \$5,337 per student to the college in tuition and fees. Currently payment by the state to the Goodland school district is \$3,780 per student. Biermann said he was finding it difficult to justify spending fewer dollars on, say, a third grader, to send a high school student to Northwest Tech.

He said he had met with Northwest Tech college staff to discuss the problem.

Cochran noted that there had consistently been between four and eight students participating in the program over the years. It was also pointed out that classes students took at Northwest Tech did not duplicate what was available at the high school and only the first year

See SCHOOL, Page 5

Northwest Tech invites people to Campus Candy for Halloween

Northwest Kansas Tech will be hosting its annual Halloween Campus Candy from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday.

All events will take place in the Student Union on the Northwest Tech campus. Northwest Tech students will set up different activities for children of all ages. This event provides a safe environment for families in the community to trick-

or-treat, show off their costumes and play all kinds of games.

Bring your decorated pumpkin with you to this event and have Circle K judge them for a winning prize. Circle K will be judging a spook-tacular coloring contest.

HVAC department will be having a jack-o-lantern bowling game; Cosmetology, Respiratory Therapy and Medical Assistant students will

be handing out all sorts of goodies, while the Business department will be passing out haunted hot chocolate.

Come enjoy spooky dance music, treats and other freakishly fun festivities.

For more information on this event, visit the college website at www.nwktc.edu or call (785) 890-1517.

Moonlight Madness downtown tonight

Goodland's 10th Annual Moonlight Madness celebration and costume contest will bring out spooks and goblins from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. tonight for a night of hauntingly good fun, candy and costume contests.

Several downtown stores will be open late with specials for shopping, and many of the sponsoring merchants will have treats for the kids who stop by.

The annual Goodland Star-News and Goodland Merchants costume contest will be held at First Baptist Church, 1121 Main.

The doors at the church will open at 4:30 p.m., and the first round of judging will begin at 5 p.m.

Three age groups will be judged, with cash prizes for first,

second and third in each. The three-and-under group will be judged at 5 p.m., those four to eight years old at 5:30 p.m., and kids nine to 12 at 6 p.m.

The Goodland Kiwanis Club is donating the prize money, and Walmart is providing candy for all those who participate.

Businesses sponsoring Moonlight Madness include Carnegie Arts Center, 120 W. 12th;

Gambino's, 402 E. 17th; Dan Brenner Ford, 224 W. Business U.S. 24; T&J Wireless, 1018 Main; Cowboy Corner Express, 1613 Main; Z Wireless 716 W. Business U.S. 24; High Plains Museum, 1717 Cherry Ave.; Walmart, 2160 Commerce Road; First Baptist Church, 1121 Main;

and The Goodland Star-News, 1205 Main.

