

Happy Thanksgiving

The Goodland Star-News

1205 Main Avenue, Goodland, KS 67735 • Phone (785) 899-2338

WEEKEND

Friday, Nov. 23
2012

\$1

Volume 80, Number 94

8 Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather report



55°
10 a.m.

Wednesday

Today
Sunset, 4:27 p.m.
Saturday
Sunrise, 6:41 a.m.
Sunset, 4:26 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil temperature 45 degrees
• Humidity 22 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds south 7 mph
• Barometer 30.00 inches and falling
• Record High today 72° (1925)
• Record Low today 0° (1941)

Last 24 Hours*
High Tuesday 69°
Low Tuesday 29°
Precipitation none
This month trace
Year to date 9.02
Below normal 9.99 inches

The Topside Forecast
Today: Sunny with a high near 48, winds calm switching to the south at 5 mph and a low around 24. Saturday: Sunny and a high near 62 and a low around 29.

Extended Forecast
Sunday: Sunny with a high near 54 and a low around 26. Monday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow, a high near 39 and a low around 19. Tuesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 40.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local markets

10 a.m.
Wheat — \$8.24 bushel
Posted county price — \$8.07
Corn — \$7.42 bushel
Posted county price — \$7.26
Milo — \$7.02 bushel
Soybeans — \$13.18 bushel
Posted county price — \$13.34
Millett — \$14 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$25.10 cwt.
Confection — no bid
Pinto beans — \$28
(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



Mavericks beat Colby

The Northwest Tech men's basketball team ended their first home game in style with a last-second 73-70 win over Colby.

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County, city agree on fire station

By Kevin Bottrell

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After many rounds of negotiation, the city and county fire and ambulance station is a go.

At their regular meeting Monday, the city commission approved a contract with the county for use of the IGA building on a 4-1 vote.

City Attorney Jerry Fairbanks and County Attorney Brock Abbey had been working on

the contract to input some changes that had been recommended to the county, chiefly removing the word "rent," allowing for renewal after the initial 30 years are up and adding a clause that says the city and county will seek mediation before resorting to a lawsuit if there is a dispute. The city commissioners found several additional places where the word rent needed to be removed.

Mayor John Garcia voted no on the contract. He said the renewal clause was his only

objection, he felt an additional 30 years would be too long. He said remodeling the building into a fire and ambulance station would be a win-win for the city and county.

At the county meeting Tuesday, the county commissioners approved the contract unanimously. They also approved the bid from Miller Construction. The original bid was for about \$777,000. The commissioners changed some items such as eliminating a sprinkler system, putting in fewer cabinets and adding

an office for the county information technology specialist. Commissioner Larry Enfield estimated the changes have saved at least \$117,000.

Contractor Mike Miller said he will need to get a contract signed with project engineer Dan Hall, but he could begin ordering some material right away. In the bid, Miller said he could have the ambulance side of the building ready by February, with the rest finished next summer.

Students celebrate Thanksgiving



West Elementary first graders had their Thanksgiving feast on Monday in which all of the kids dressed up as pilgrims or Indians and feasted on the traditional fare of turkey, potatoes and gravy as well as fruits of all kinds, salads, jerky, sausages and cheeses. Students pictured are Ellie Goodwin (from left to right), Evanie Conde, Cole Linton and Aaron Owens. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Postal Service to move sorting in February

By Sam Dieter

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The Colby Post Office will stop processing mail early next year as the U.S. Postal Service implements plans to consolidate operations. All mail from Colby and surrounding towns such as Goodland will be shipped overnight to North Platte, Neb., for sorting.

"The post office does not have the mail volumes to justify the size and capacity of our operation," said Brian Sperry, a regional spokesman for the service based in Denver. "We must match our network to the size of our workload."

The mail processing is scheduled to move on Feb. 26, Sperry said. North Platte is about 120 miles north of Colby on U.S. 83. The Colby facil-

ity will still function as a regular post office. Most letters will take the same time to deliver, Sperry said, because the post office maintains a standard of being able to deliver a letter anywhere in the country in one to three days.

There will, however, be two fewer employees working at the Colby office, after the consolidation process Sperry said. In Colby, Postmaster Jean Johnson said the post office might already be down to the number of employees who should be working after the consolidations. The service tries to reduce the number of employees through attrition — retirements and resignations — and not layoffs, Johnson said, which means there is no set date for the number of employees dropping.

A \$15,000 buyout deal is being offered to any

employees in the postal unions, Sperry said.

Sperry said his understanding is that first-class mail will continue to move overnight, at least if it makes the right truck to North Platte. Publications might take longer to deliver, he said, two to nine days instead of one to nine, but overnight first-class mail between area codes starting with 677 should be unaffected.

"First-class mail is our bread and butter, it's what pays the bills," Sperry said, adding that first-class volume declined by 5 percent last year and is projected to decline 47 percent by 2020.

To offset losses suffered from the rise of digital mail, the post office wants to consolidate 140 processing operations nationwide next year. The list was released quietly after 6 p.m. Friday.

No injuries in Oakley grain bin collapse

By Sam Dieter

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Part of the Frontier Ag grain elevator in Oakley collapsed Tuesday, destroying two bins and spilling about several thousand bushels of corn, which knocked over nearby railroad cars and blocking the Denver-Kansas City line of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Pappy Lies, emergency manager for Logan and Gove counties, said that no one was hurt when the concrete tubes at the southeast end of the elevator collapsed about 1:22 p.m. (Mountain Time). Corn spilled out onto a nearby Union Pacific railroad track, derailing eight or nine empty alcohol tankers and closing the track.

Lies said another six tank cars west of the spilled corn were full of liquid nitrogen, but those did not derail. The elevator is just west of downtown Oakley. Access through the downtown area was open, but some streets around the elevator were blocked off.

In the collapse, the bottom part of the two bins was destroyed and top part was hanging at an angle. Grain spilled out onto the cars, which were tipped over by the flow and buried.

Troopers from the Kansas Highway Patrol, deputies from the Thomas and Gove county sheriff's offices, emergency managers from Logan, Thomas and Russell counties, Oakley city police and firemen, the Kansas Department of Transportation works and others came to help, Lies said. On Tuesday afternoon, they were blocking off nearby streets to hold back bystanders. People were walking up to the scene or pulling up in cars took at the damage. A Highway Patrol airplane flew over the area.

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Goodland A team wins home Scholars Bowl meet

The Goodland High School Scholars' Bowl team took first place at their home meet Nov. 15.

The Goodland A team took first place. Quinter got second place and Brewster got third place. Eleven schools competed, with Goodland also fielding a B team.

The Grant Junior High Scholars' Bowl team will have its home meet at 3:30 p.m. Monday. Next action for the high school team will be at 3 p.m. (Mountain Time) in Tribune on Tuesday.

In Scholars' Bowl, two teams of five — with alternates — compete against each other to answer questions from topics such as foreign languages, social sciences, language arts, math, science and fine arts. For math questions, the students are given a time limit to figure out the answer to a math problem. Students use a buzzer if they have the answer. A correct answer is worth 10 points. There is no penalty for an incorrect answer, but the other team has a chance to answer. The team with the most points at the end of the match wins.



The Goodland High School Scholars' Bowl A team competed in a Nov. 15 at Goodland High School. match against Weskan during the Goodland Invitational meet on Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

