

weather report

73°

at noon



Today

Sunset, 5:17 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 6:45 a.m.

Sunset, 5:18 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temp. 37 degrees
- Humidity 14 percent
- Sky Clear
- Winds SW 26
- Barometer 29.43 inches and falling
- Record High 76° (1962)
- Record Low -17° (1981)

Yesterday's Data

High 61°
Low 34°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas

Tonight: 70 percent chance of rain, turning to snow; accumulation of 1-2" expected; low 20-15; winds N 25-35. Tomorrow: 30 percent chance of snow, turning partly sunny; high mid 30; winds N 25-30.

Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday: Dry all three days; high Friday, 55; high Saturday and Sunday 65; lows 25-30 each night.

24-hour weather information is broadcast at 162.400 MHz.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.57 bu.
Posted county price — \$2.47
Loan deficiency payment — -2¢
Corn — \$1.86 bu.
Posted county price — \$1.82
Loan deficiency payment — 17¢
Milo — \$2.80 cwt.
Soybeans — \$4.39 bu.
Posted county price — \$4.35
Loan deficiency payment — 54¢
Millet — \$4.50 cwt.
Sunflowers
oil current — \$8.65 cwt.
oil 1999 crop — \$9.55 cwt.
conf. current — \$19/\$11 cwt.
conf. new — no bid
Pintos - \$13 (new crop)

Local markets courtesy of Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun and Collingwood Grain
Local bean market courtesy of Prairie Pea and Bean

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press
1 p.m.

Amtrak task force endorsed

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas would conduct a feasibility study for expanding rail passenger service in the state, if a resolution endorsed by the House Transportation Committee is adopted by both houses of the Legislature.

The resolution calls for creation of a nine-member legislative task force to study the preservation, enhancement or establishment of passenger rail service, including possibly joining with other states in a regional compact.

The resolution grew out of discussions with the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative, which has longrange plans to bring high-speed passenger rail service to Kansas City's historic Union Station.

Rep. Ed McKechnie, D-Pittsburg, who has met with Oklahoma and Texas officials promoting restoration of passenger service in their states, outlined the proposal before the Senate and House transportation committees.

Students take 'A Corny Project' to Topeka

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

Students from Goodland and Brewster will be traveling to Topeka to display their technology programs at the Ninth Annual Education Technology Fair. The fair will be held Thursday at the State Capitol.

Each school participating in the fair has produced a different project to demonstrate at the capitol for the governor and the legislature. The project from Brewster is called "Web Pages Across the Curriculum," and the project from Goodland is "A Really Corny Project."

Twenty students from Mary Frazier's class at North Elementary have been working for several months on the project they will be demonstrating.

The students have produced a virtual field trip about the corn harvest, which other schools can access from their classrooms.

Photos about the corn harvest were taken at the Tim and Connie Livengood farm and the students followed the process from the start of the harvest through the delivery of the grain to the elevator. Each student had a part in explaining the steps of the harvest, and they also got to ride on the combine.

Frazier said the students also created a video and audio which can be accessed on the Internet. The students also visited Fred and Jeannie Schields farm.

"The students had to do more than just produce the web site and the video," Frazier said. "They had to write to the governor and state representatives to invite them to the fair. They also had to create business cards to hand out to those visiting the fair."

"It was a lot more than just putting the presentation together," she said.

North Principal Steve Raymer said there were 80 schools across the state who submitted proposals for the fair, and 23 of those were accepted.

The class left for Topeka this morning, will spend the night in Topeka and are to meet with Governor Graves at 8 a.m. tomorrow. The fair runs through the day, and the students will be back in Goodland tomorrow evening.

Frazier says the students have been real enthusiastic about the project, and have learned a wide variety of things through the whole process. The project can be seen on-line at <http://members.xoom.com/FRAZIERS/>

Students in Frazier's class are: Jase Ayers, Brandon Baker, Chris Baumfalk, Amanda Buhr, Armando Chavez, Joshua Colby, Ashley Dalton, May Davis, Courtney Deines, Chelsea Gray, Miranda Johnson, Olivia Lovington, Bobby Miller, Bryant Nemecek, Kali Rietcheck, Jared Robinson, Megan Rubio, Tyler Selbe, Jed Snethen, Sara Studer and Alex Weis.



Students from North Elementary are heading to Topeka today where they will demonstrate their "A Real Corny Project" at the Educational Technology Fair tomorrow. The project is the work of the fifth grade students in Mary Frazier's class, and includes a virtual tour of a corn harvest. Photos and information from the project are now on-line. Jed Snethen holds corn ears (bottom, left), Megan Rubio and Courtney Deines (top) are the "Cornygirls" and Tim Livengood (below) explains how the combine header works.

Photos from the virtual tour <http://members.xoom.com/FRAZIERS/>



Commissioners set lid removal election for April 6

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

Sherman County Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution Tuesday placing the lid removal question on the April 6 election ballot. The resolution was passed in response to citizen petitions which requested a public vote on the question.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel reported there were 260 valid signatures of the over 280 turned in by the group who circulated petitions requesting the charter proposal be placed on the ballot.

She said there has been no indication of any petitions being carried on the special four mill tax levy question for the Goodland Regional Medical Center. The deadline for turning in citizen petitions is Tuesday, Feb. 16.

Talking to Norman Zogg, one of the group who organized the tax lid petition drive, he said they had talked to a number of citizens who did not want to object to the special hospital levy because it is needed to keep the hospital open. "We decided not to work on that issue," he said.

Gary Townsend said he, County Attorney Mike Irvin and Rumpel were invited Friday to speak at the Goodland Lions Club meeting held Monday on the lid removal question. He indicated the Lions seemed responsive, and said the hope is to have similar sessions with other groups throughout the county before the election.

The commissioners discussed how to handle the question of salary increases for the year, and decided to implement the new increases effective with the second pay period of February. There was quite a bit of discussion on whether to use a flat percentage or flat monetary amount. After the lengthy discussion the commissioners decided to allow the department heads to use a flat monetary amount plus additional "inventive" raises in a combination.

Last year the commissioners allowed each department to request "merit" raises for employees during the year, but felt this was not effective because it was not easy to determine if all employees had been reviewed during the year.

With the new motion, the department heads are to develop their recommendations and have them to Irvin by Feb. 26. The commissioners then will review the entire list probably a their meeting on Tuesday, March 2.

In another administrative action the commissioners agreed to develop a policy to handle requests for administrative leave. The basic policy will be that the commissioners will review each case on an individual basis, but they will pay the employee salary if a leave is granted.

Mary Messamore met with the commissioners behind closed doors on personnel matters, and when the meeting resumed she asked permission to consider a shift differential for her department. The commissioners agreed to allow her to develop a salary schedule based on her recommendation.

In other business:

• Approved sending all county department heads to a seminar in Wichita, April 7-8. The seminar "The Basics of Employment Law" is sponsored by the Council on Education in Management.

It will cost the county about \$4,000 for all nine department heads to attend, but the commissioners felt it was an important seminar and worth the money based on recent experiences by the county.

• Approved allowing Curt Way, road and bridge superintendent to develop a county policy concerning special warning signs in the county. The policy will reflect the information from a KU professor which is against having such signs.

• Discussed with Tom Harrison the possibility of developing a road between Kansas Avenue and Highway K-27. The county said they might be interested if the question of the power line can be resolved. "If we hadn't run into problems with the city not wanting to move the power poles two years ago there might already be a road there," said Commissioner Kenny Davis. Harrison said he thought the right-of-way situation may have changed recently. The commissioners said they would review a request if it brought to them, but took no further action on the

motion.

• Agreed the purchase of parking signs for the fair grounds, but declined to purchase a cab for the small tractor. Also approved purchasing, from Dana Belshe, a wooden storage shed for \$700.

• On a 2-1 vote the commissioners approved KAMAL, which is a corporation operated by Ron Lucas, to handle the county mowing contract this year at a cost of \$24.50 per swath mile. Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld voted No on the motion. There was a higher bid from Darrell Schrader.

• Approved the annual weed report, and talked to Daryl West about plans for testing "chemical mowing." West said he had selected four separate areas to do the testing. He also said he has been contacted about some prairie dog problems in the past few days.

• Signed the Civil Rights forms for the current renovation project at the courthouse.

The next regular commissioner meeting will be 8 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 16.

Two GOP senators announce they will vote to acquit

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the Senate deliberated privately on President Clinton's fitness to remain in office, two Republican senators announced today they would vote against conviction on both articles of impeachment.

Sens. James Jeffords of Vermont and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania said they would not support allegations of perjury and obstruction of justice.

Specter, citing the laws of Scotland, said there could be "three possible verdicts: guilty, not guilty, not proved."

"Given the option in this trial, I sus-

pect many senators would choose 'not proved' instead of 'not guilty,'" the Pennsylvania Republican said in a statement that he planned to deliver on the Senate floor.

Jeffords said Clinton had committed shameful acts but his offenses "do not reach the high standard of impeachment."

As Jeffords' position was announced by his office outside the closed Senate proceedings, Democrat Tom Harkin of Iowa left the chamber to read reporters the statement he planned to make when his turn came on the floor.

Announcing, as expected, that he would oppose both articles, Harkin said the House had presented "a counterfeit case" based on the efforts of "an out-of-control independent counsel with a blank check." He predicted that only one-third of the Senate would vote for the perjury article.

Meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said that "if at all possible" he would like to set a vote for 5 p.m. EST Thursday on whether to convict Clinton on the perjury and obstruction of justice charges — votes that by all signs will fall far short of the two-thirds

majority needed to oust the nation's 42nd president.

"If we still have speeches and we can't do it then we will certainly go over to Friday but I think we need to begin to talk about that goal," Lott said at the opening of today's trial session. The Senate sergeant at arms then closed the doors so the debate could begin in private for a second day.

Both inside and outside the chamber today, GOP senators raised doubts about support for a censure or rebuke of the president if he is acquitted on the two articles of impeachment.

"There's been very little mention of censure," Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said before today's proceedings. "To me, the push for censure is losing steam."

Frist indicated that the debate Tuesday was lawyerly on the article alleging that Clinton committed perjury before a grand jury — an accusation some Republicans have suggested they may not support in the final vote.

One of Frist's GOP colleagues, Slade Gorton of Washington, disclosed in the four-hour debate Tuesday he opposes the perjury article but supports the article accusing Clinton of obstruction of justice.