

# The Goodland Daily News

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Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas, 67735

## weather report

68°  
at noon



### Today

Sunset, 7:15 p.m.  
**Tomorrow**  
Sunrise, 6:21 a.m.  
Sunset, 7:16 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil Temp. 41 degrees
- Humidity 28 percent
- Sky Clear
- Winds E 12
- Barometer 30.04 inches and steady
- Record High 87° (1978)
- Record Low 16° (1961)

### Yesterday's Data

High 69°  
Low 30°  
Precipitation none  
month .57 year 2.30 (-.13)

### Northwest Kansas

Tonight: Cloudy with 70 percent chance of thunderstorms; low 40-45; winds SE 20-25. Tomorrow: Cloudy 30 percent chance of precipitation; high 60-65; winds SW 20-30.

### Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday: Dry; highs 65-70; lows 35-40.  
24-hour weather information is broadcast at 162.400 MHz.

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$2.47 bu.  
Posted county price — \$2.42  
Loan deficiency payment — 3¢  
Corn — \$1.77 bu.  
Posted county price — \$1.80  
Loan deficiency payment — 19¢  
Milo — \$2.69 cwt.  
Soybeans — \$3.86 bu.  
Posted county price — \$4  
Loan deficiency payment — 89¢  
Millet — \$4.25 cwt.  
Sunflowers  
oil current — \$7.90 cwt.  
loan deficiency payment — \$1.48  
oil 1999 crop — \$8.45 cwt.  
corn current — \$17/\$11 cwt.  
Pintos — \$12 (new crop)  
*Local markets courtesy of Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun and Frontier Equity  
Local bean market courtesy of Prairie Pea and Bean*

## afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press  
1 p.m.

## Bombs falling through truce

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — NATO stepped up its "surgical" airstrikes after rejecting President Slobodan Milosevic's cease-fire offer, while a Cypriot government official said today he was close to arranging the release of three U.S. soldiers captured by Yugoslavs.

Sandy Berger, President Clinton's national security adviser, said he was aware of former Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou's efforts to free the Americans.

"We certainly would welcome the release of the three American soldiers but I can't confirm that is going to take place," Berger said on NBC's "Today" show.

In Athens, Foreign Ministry spokesman Panayiotis Beglitis said Greece will provide a plane to transport Kyprianou, who flew to the Greek capital today, to Belgrade. Beglitis said if the release was secured, the three Americans would be handed over in Cyprus.

# Voters oust veterans, nix taxes

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

Voters replaced two veteran Goodland City Commission members Thursday, added one new face to the school board and soundly rejected county commissioners' pleas to be exempted from the state property tax lid.

Thomas L. Rohr was the top vote getter on the City Commission ballot with 767 votes, followed by Curtis Hurd who had 695 votes. The third open seat was won by incumbent Jim Mull, who had 626 votes.

Commissioner Barbara Aten received 457 votes, E. Wayne Hilton had 396 and Commissioner John Golden received 370.

The votes were close in the school board race. Jane Philbrick was the top candidate with 1,022 votes, and Kathy Russell was second with 971 votes. Both were re-elected for four-year terms.

With 956 votes, Eric Gray was third, and will be a new face on the board. Voting was very close for the fourth position, which will be Ben Duell with 949 votes to be re-elected to the board.

Board member Ron Schilling received 939 votes, and Richard Schwasinger received 695.

The Sherman County charter question asking voter permission to remove the tax lid was defeated by a more than 3-1 margin. A total of 1,312 voted against the issue while 362 voted in favor.

"The people have spoken, and we will do the best we can," said Commission Chairman Gary Townsend, adding that the commissioners will be looking at ways to work within the limits.

"I am confident we can find a way to continue to operate for at least the next two years," he said. "Who knows what will happen at that time, but we asked for a direction from the citizens and we now know our direction."

In the Kanorado election, Hazel Estes was re-elected as mayor with 45 votes. Bob Handle received six.

Two council positions were also up for election, and Jacob Fritz had 37 votes and Jay Pettibone had 35. Phil Hooker received 24 votes.

The Brewster School Board elected four members, but only one had a contest.

In the at-large position Leroy Moore (73 votes) won re-election over Renee Faber (47 votes).

The other three positions were Gregory Mills, 98 votes; Joan Jamison, 94 votes; Rebecca Luckert, 97 votes.

Brewster Mayor Mike Baughn received 53 votes, and was unopposed. There were two open council positions with Ronald J. Ribordy receiving 49 votes and Gene Schoenberger receiving 43.

On the state constitutional amendment which would have allowed cities and counties to exempt

oil and gas production properties from local taxes, Sherman county voters turned it down with 1,028 saying No and 430 Yes.

Turnout for the election was termed average by County Clerk Janet Rumpel.

"We have had some that were better and some that were worse," she said.

A total of 1,749 voters turned out, 41.7 percent of those eligible to vote.

The Sherman County Courthouse had an unusual event for election day when the power went out in part of the building about 3:30 p.m. The lights were out for about 45 minutes while a 200-ampere fuse was replaced.

The lobby area and a portion of the offices on the main floor were affected, making it a bit difficult on those coming to vote. Rumpel said no one was turned away, but it did disrupt the offices and some computers.



## Tech school opens up for kids and the public

Heath Dorzweiler of Hays (above), a student at the Northwest Kansas Technical School, demonstrated the art of welding to (left to right) Jaelynn Andrews, Shandi Stupka, Angela Bennett, all of Colby, and Adam May of Stratton, Colo., Tuesday at the Northwest Kansas Technical School's Career Awareness Day.

Lee Yarbrough of Goodland (right) was trying out a computer in the Business Department booth, watched by (standing left to right) Wade Taylor and Mario Tafoya, both of Goodland. Jill Minchow of Colby (seated), a student at the school, was helping in the booth.

The young people were among the 525 sixth-grade students from 14 schools who attended the event to see some of the different job opportunities available to them.

The school's Spring Open House will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday. Director Larry Keirns said the public and prospective students interested in information about the programs, enrollment, housing or financial aid are welcome to attend. He said it is a perfect opportunity for parents and families to visit the campus.

There already are 575 students enrolled at the Technical School for the 1999-2000 school year. The school boasts 90 percent placement of graduates.

Photos by Janet Craft / Goodland Daily News



# Legislators can't reach terms on roads, budget

By Carl Manning

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Lawmakers labored in vain to strike agreements on the state budget and a massive highway improvement plan as visions of tax cuts began to fade.

With legislators in the final week of their regular session, House and Senate negotiators traded ideas Tuesday on the final shape of the \$9 billion budget to finance state government after July 1. They will return April 28 for what promises to be a long wrap-up session.

Passing a budget is the only thing lawmakers must do before they call it quits for the year. All other bills take a back seat, including all those grand ideas of cutting taxes — something Gov. Bill Graves and many House members used as campaign fodder last year.

"Tax cuts that cost money will be delayed until we decide if we've got any money. At this point, there's not a dollar on the table to fund tax cuts," said Rep. David Adkins, R-Leawood, his chamber's lead negotiator on tax relief.

For two days, conferees from the two chambers huddled around the bargaining table to strike a deal on the budget but made little progress.

A stalemate continued on education, although Senate negotiators said they could compromise on expenditures for the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled.

House conferees proposed a \$57-per-pupil increase in education spending, which is \$10 per pupil less than what the House previously passed, but \$7 per pupil more than what the Senate says it's willing to accept. It would raise per-pupil spending to \$3,777 and would cost \$3.9 million more than the Senate proposed.

Senate Ways and Means Chairman Dave Kerr, R-Hutchinson, who runs the conference committee, said the increased spending could jeopardize the highway improvement plan.

House negotiators proposed increasing per-pupil spending by \$50 each year in 2001 and 2002. Kerr, R-Hutchinson, called the three-year proposal a "diversionary tactic."

While hung up over education, House and Senate bargainers edged to an acceptable amount for helping the retarded and disabled. Senators said they would be willing to add \$4.9 million to that area of the budget.

The transportation stalemate is causing more problems than just whether highways will be paved. Because of the amount involved, lawmakers want to see what — if any — plan will develop before giving money to other programs. House negotiators said they're will-

ing to cut the amount of money siphoned from the state general fund in future years to pay for a new highway program. The offer got a thumbs down from the Senate conferees.

Rep. Gary Hayzlett, R-Lakin, the lead House bargainer, wanted a test vote in the Senate — an idea that likely will be shot down, if considered at all.

Raising motor fuel taxes a nickel a gallon and increasing vehicle registration fees 20 percent to 30 percent is the way the Senate wants to finance its \$13.76 billion program. It also wants to issue \$900,000 in bonds.

But the House rejected any tax increases in its \$13 billion version, opting to finance it with money earmarked for tax cuts and destined for other state programs. House negotiators tried to sweeten the offer by plugging in \$750 million worth of bonding into their plan.

## Chamber to honor farmers

Goodland's annual Farm/City Celebration will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Elks Lodge, featuring Gary Hall, president of the Kansas Farm Bureau, as the main speaker.

The Goodland business community will treat farmers at the annual banquet, and a Sherman County Agriculture Person of the Year will be recognized.

Hall became the 10th president of Kansas Farm Bureau in November 1994. He represents the third generation of family activity in the Dickinson County Farm Bureau.

His family, wife Susan, son Steven and daughter Edie manage a multi-generation grain-and-livestock operation in Central Kansas.

Hall previously served as Kansas Secretary of Agriculture, and currently serves on the board of Agriculture Future of America and chairman of the Grain Industry Alliance.

He was appointed by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman to serve as a member of the federal agriculture trade advisory committee. The committee advises the Agriculture Department on negotiating objectives and bargaining positions related to U.S. trade policy.

The Farm/City Celebration is organized by the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee. Members are Chairman Mike Bretz, Terry Nemechek, Jeff Deeds, Dana Belshe, Brad Cowan, Rob Tomsic and Ron Harding.

Co-sponsors of the banquet are the Chamber, Sherman County Extension Service and Sherman County Farm Bureau.

## Cattlemen target 'lies'

DALLAS (AP) — Got a beef with the beef industry? You might want to keep it to yourself unless you want a visit from a new Texas beef task force.

The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association is setting up a hotline for people in the beef industry to call if they hear anyone disparaging their products.

Rob Hosford, spokesman for the Fort Worth-based association, said the hotline and a related task force will focus mostly on the news media that air or print comments from beef critics.

"If we hear XYZ radio station carrying something about the beef industry, procedures and products that is derogatory, unfounded and untrue, with this task force we will send someone over there to re-educate..." Hosford said.

The hotline was inspired by a billboard posted briefly in Amarillo last month that stated "Jesus was a vegetarian." The animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals had planned to leave the sign up for 30 days, but the billboard company took it down after four days.

Bruce Friedrich, PETA's vegetarian campaign coordinator, said he was not surprised Texas beef leaders have taken this approach.

"Clearly, they are running scared," Friedrich said. "All the propaganda in the world can't sanitize their product. Eating animals is catastrophic for the environment. We all know that."