

weather
report

54°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:29 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 4:29 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:36 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 50 degrees

• Humidity 35 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds north at 15 mph

• Barometer 30.19 inches

and falling

• Record High 77° (1989)

• Record Low 4° (1937)

Last 24 Hours*

High 62°

Low 39°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: clear, low near 25, light southwest winds.

Saturday: sunny, high near 70, southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: dry, low near 25, high near 55.

Monday: chance of rain or snow, low near 25, high near 40.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.10 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.04

Loan deficiency payment — 41¢

Corn — \$1.52 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.62

Loan deficiency pmt. — 37¢

Milo — \$2.13 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$3.80 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.87

Loan deficiency payment — 1.02¢

Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.90 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.01

Confection current — \$11/7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$15 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco

Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea

and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon
wire

Late news
from the
Associated
Press

1 p.m.

Bill would merge
safety agencies

TOPEKA — Creating a department to oversee five public safety agencies, including the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, is an idea that is picking up steam among legislators.

On Thursday, the Legislative Budget Committee voted 5-0 to have a bill to establish a Department of Public Safety drafted for lawmakers after they begin their annual session Jan. 10.

Aside from the patrol and KBI, the proposed department would oversee the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, the State Fire Marshal and the Emergency Medical Services Board, all of which would remain as separate agencies.

Senate President Dick Bond voted for the proposal, saying he thinks putting the agencies under a single department would be more efficient.



School Superintendent Marvin Selby (top) discussed the options and obstacles to moving the elevator from the floor of the auditorium of the Max Jones Fieldhouse. Board members Mike Campbell (stairs), Dick Short, (left) and Ben Duell considered the options.

Photo by Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News

Accurate census important to city

By Charlie Baker

The Goodland Daily News

A complete, accurate count in the 2000 federal census could mean a lot to Goodland, but civic leaders are worried that the city will miss the boat again, like it did in the 1990 census.

"The magic figure is 5,000," said City Manager Ron Pickman after a meeting for community leaders Thursday night at the 4-H Building at the Sherman County Fairgrounds.

The 1990 census counted Goodland at 4,983, just 17 below the 5,000 mark that would qualify the city for additional federal grants.

Leaders are worried that not every-

one will be counted, hurting the city's chances to move into the higher population bracket. Ron Harding, Goodland Chamber of Commerce manager, pointed out that, since each house gets one form, some places where two families share a house might not be accurately counted. He said Hispanic families particularly might be missed.

Willadonna Anderson, manager of recruiting for the U.S. Census Bureau from Hays, spoke to a group of about 10 Sherman County leaders on the importance of getting an accurate count. The group included Harding, Pickman, County Commissioner Gary Townsend, School Superintendent Marvin Selby, County Attorney Bonnie Selby

and County Clerk Janet Rumpel.

"The census is a constitutional mandate," Anderson said. "The figures are used for statistical purposes."

Anderson said that federal money for everything from flu shots to senior citizens is awarded according to census figures.

Anderson said the bureau will be looking for people to hire for temporary positions during the census, including crew leaders, counters and translators.

On Jan. 1, there will be a letter sent out to every household, saying the census is coming, and to be sure to return the census form by April 1.

New elevator stays
on 4-2 board vote

By Charlie Baker

The Goodland Daily News

The elevator stays. The Goodland School Board voted 4-2 at a special meeting Friday to leave the elevator in Max Jones Fieldhouse where it is.

School Superintendent Marvin Selby began the meeting by telling board members he had asked the bricklayers to stop their work, so they would not get cement on the roof of the fieldhouse if the board decided to move the shaft.

Selby said he had spoken with Glen Strait, architect on the project, and Strait had faxed some tentative plans for alternate locations for the elevator.

One of the plans placed the elevator in the opening from the auditorium to the wrestling area. The other plan put the elevator near the same place, only back against the wall to the wrestling room and locker room.

"He and I (Strait) estimated the additional cost of moving the elevator would be about \$40,000," Selby said.

The cost of putting the elevator in its current position is about \$55,000. So, the cost of putting the elevator in another location would be about \$95,000.

Board member Kathy Russell said she thought once the structure was complete and painted, it would blend in.

"When we looked at it from the back," she said, "it looked pretty bad. But looking at it from the front, and picturing it finished, I think it will blend in."

Russell pointed out that the bleachers will stick out farther than the elevator shaft.

Member Mike Campbell said he thought that the elevator depreciated the value of the fieldhouse.

"It has been the pride of this community for 30 years," he said. "I think we owe it to the people of the community to find another solution."

Campbell said he had heard nothing but negative comments about the shaft being in the auditorium.

Member Eric Gray responded that

the comments he has heard have been that people do not like the elevator where it is, but they do not want to spend any more money to move it.

Board President Dick Short said one concern he had was moving the elevator would take room away from the wrestling area.

Member Ben Duell suggested the board go to the fieldhouse to look the situation over.

"I think we should look at it," he said. "Now is the time to do any second guessing."

Member Jane Philbrick said she believed people would get used to the elevator, and it would not be a big deal after a few weeks.

After looking at all the options, Russell made a motion to leave the elevator where it is, and Philbrick seconded.

Russell, Philbrick, Short, and Gray voted for the motion; Campbell and Duell against.

The board also voted to allow Activities Director Dick Liess to schedule the band Christmas program at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 19, if no alternative date can be found.

Liess said that one advantage to having the program on Sunday afternoon is that it will be easier for some to attend.

"It should not be as cold at 2 in the afternoon," he added.

Duell said that even if you scheduled the event a year in advance, there would still be conflicts.

Selby asked Liess if a student missed the program, would it be counted against their grade. Liess said that was the band director's policy.

Duell made a motion to allow the program to take place on Sunday, but, to not count against their grade if a student could not attend.

The board passed the motion, 6-0.

The next board meeting will be on Monday, Dec. 13 at the district office. The board will have a group picture taken at 6 p.m., the meeting at 7 p.m., and dinner after the meeting.

K-27 project still on hold

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

New bids on the K-27 project between Broadcast Plaza and the intersection with Business U.S. 24 were opened in Topeka on Wednesday and while state transportation officials believe they allow the project to move forward, city officials say the cost it is still too high.

The Goodland City Commission held a special meeting at noon to reconsider the city participation in the project based on the new bids and voted 4-0 to reject the contract. With the negative vote, the project is still in limbo, City Manager Ron Pickman said.

Marti Matthews of the Kansas Department of Transportation in Topeka said the apparent low bidder on the project was Smith Sand Co. of Garden City at \$1,295,256. The other bidder

was Schear Construction of Emporia at \$1,715,674.

Matthews said Schear had been the lone bidder on the project back in August, when it appeared the project would have to be redrafted or abandoned.

After the first bids, the city commission was forced to reject the project because the bid was over \$800,000 above the contract the city had signed with the state setting the total project cost at \$1.3 million. The city portion of the project was to be \$260,000, which the city had budgeted.

Pickman said the hidden costs not included in the construction bid are for construction engineering done by the state and the state's administration fees which are added on top of the construction cost.

See K-27 PROJECT, Page 4

Clinton praises Russian
signal on outside access

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — President Clinton joined world leaders today in signing a treaty cutting the number of tanks and non-nuclear weapons systems across Europe. Clinton also said he was encouraged by Russia's willingness to allow more outside access to war-torn Chechnya.

"This is a significant move by Russia," Clinton said.

Clinton and 53 other world leaders, wrapping up a two-day summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, planned to declare their support for a principle Russia has long disputed: that outside intervention in a civil war can be justified if the conflict has the potential of spreading beyond its borders.

"We've got a lot of turns in the road in Chechnya before it's resolved," Clinton said. But he said the agreement here, and Russia's willingness to allow a European official to visit Chechnya, had made him more hopeful.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Thursday called this "an important next step in defining international norms," although she said it may be too early to tell how it will work in the case of the Chechen conflict.

The president spoke during a photo opportunity with Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern. They celebrated a breakthrough in the stalled Northern Ireland peace process. "I'm very hopeful," Clinton said.

Summit leaders signed a revised arms control deal, the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty of 1990. It will reduce agreed limits on tanks, artillery and other non-nuclear military forces throughout Europe, even as Russia is allowed to temporarily exceed its limits while its intensifies the war against Chechen rebels.

While signing the agreement, Clinton said he would not send it to the Senate for ratification until Russian forces have been reduced to the levels specified in the treaty.

Winds play havoc with decorations



Eddie Galindo (left) put some finishing touches on his holiday decorations Thursday, while Gregory Ferris, (center) and GeGe Galindo watched. He said he wanted to be one of the first to get his decorations up. The house is at 521 W. 15th, in Goodland.

Photo by Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News