

The Goodland Daily News

Volume 68, Number 4

Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

THURSDAY

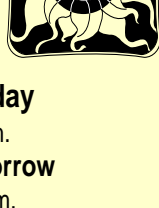
January 6
2000

50¢

weather report

37°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 4:39 p.m.
- Tomorrow
- Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:40 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 37 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds northwest 14 mph
- Barometer 30.31 inches and falling
- Record High 68° (1965)
- Record Low -13° (1974)

Last 24 Hours*

High	42°
Low	15°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear; low 10; winds west 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny; dry; high 50; winds southwest 15-25 mph; low 20-25.

Extended Forecast

Saturday through Monday. Saturday: dry; high 55-60; low 20-25. Sunday: dry; high 50, low 20-25. Monday: dry; high 50-55; low 20-25. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.11 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.97
Loan deficiency payment — 48¢
Corn — \$1.62 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.70
Loan deficiency pmt. — 29¢
Milo — \$2.39 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.90 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.97
Loan deficiency payment — 92¢
Millett — \$3.80 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.84
Confection current — \$11/\$7 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$13 (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.

Graves plans issue task force

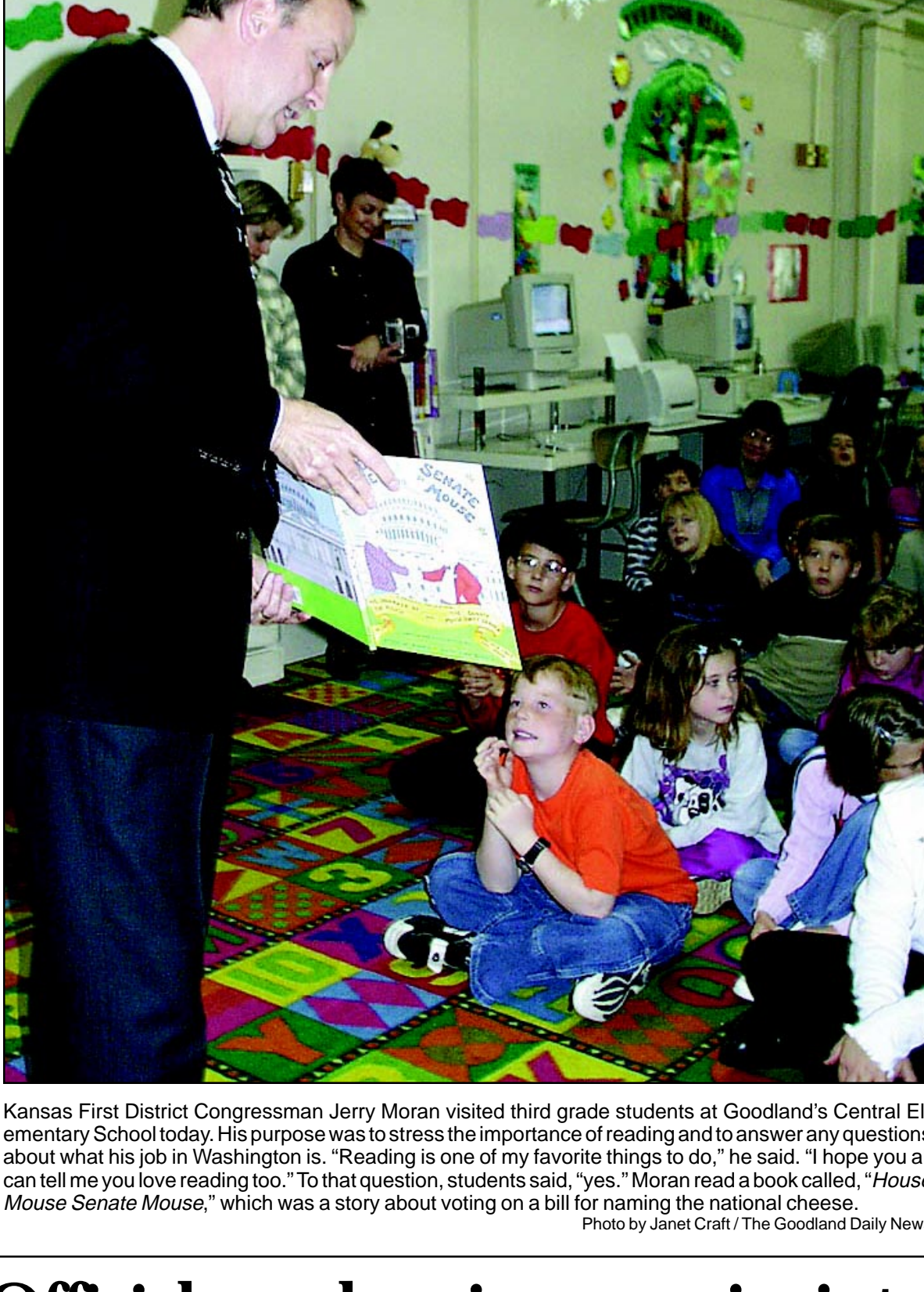
TOPEKA (AP) — Gov. Bill Graves has decided the best way to improve Kansas during the 21st Century is to appoint a really big task force.

Graves announced Wednesday he will name 100 of what he called the state's best and brightest citizens to his Vision 21st Century Task Force. He said the appointments will be made by the end of the month.

The task force's chairman will be Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer. The task force will work as seven subcommittees, and its report is due Dec. 1. Graves said the task force members would "help identify and prioritize key public policy directions for the next decade."

"He wants to generate some dialogue on key issues," Sherrer said. "It's just a way of keeping these issues in discussion and being proactive."

Reading about how a bill becomes law



Kansas First District Congressman Jerry Moran visited third grade students at Goodland's Central Elementary School today. His purpose was to stress the importance of reading and to answer any questions about what his job in Washington is. "Reading is one of my favorite things to do," he said. "I hope you all can tell me you love reading too." To that question, students said, "yes." Moran read a book called, "House Mouse Senate Mouse," which was a story about voting on a bill for naming the national cheese.

Photo by Janet Craft / The Goodland Daily News

Officials say keeping promise is top priority

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — Gov. Bill Graves and legislators keep insisting that providing extra money for universities and community colleges is important to them.

However, some administrators remain uneasy about the future, only months after a much-ballyhooed reorganization of the state's higher education system.

Legislative leaders ranked the reorganization as one of their top accomplishments in 1999 and perhaps the one that would prove the most important in decades to come. The changes came with a promise of an extra \$21.2 million in state tax dollars.

Yet university administrators spent much of the fall figuring out ways to trim money from their budgets, and the state Board of Regents increased tuition because of its fears about how cuts would affect programs.

The 2000 Legislature convenes Monday, and last year's promise is a big issue in tight budget times. Some higher education officials view this year's decisions as critical to the long-term health of their institutions.

"Other states are going to eat our lunch if we don't start recognizing the way they've made an investment in education," said Robert Hemenway, chancellor at the University of Kansas. "Your economic success as a society is going to depend on how much you invest in education."

The higher education system's budget, at more than \$1.4 billion, is the third-largest in state government, behind those for the Department of Education, which provides aid to public schools, and the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

The extra money promised by the Legislature represents only 1.5 percent of the higher education system's current budget.

But the promise of extra money helped win legislative approval of the reorganization, which put all higher education institutions under the Board of Regents, rather than having community colleges and technical schools un-

der the State Board of Education. The change is supposed to make the system run more efficiently.

The extra money also is supposed to be spent for specific purposes during the state's 2001 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Community colleges would receive the majority, \$11.8 million. Most of the money would be used to decrease their property tax levies.

State universities would receive nearly \$8.4 million. They would use the money to increase faculty salaries, which the regents long have viewed as inadequate, especially when pay for Kansas instructors is compared to instructors in other states.

The final portion, nearly \$1 million, would go to Washburn University of

Topeka. The money is supposed to help Washburn keep a lid on its tuition rates.

"My highest priority this year is trying to somehow preserve what we did with the regents last year," said House Speaker Robin Jennison, R-Healy. "I do think what we did last year was very significant and it's important to keep it moving forward."

The overall budget picture has made keeping the promise more difficult.

The state ended its 1999 fiscal year on June 30 with \$73.4 million less than expected in its general fund, the largest source of money for government programs and where the state deposits most of its tax revenues.

In September, Graves announced he would propose cuts in the current state budget, which prompted universities to

begin reviewing their spending. On Tuesday, he proposed \$7.8 million worth of reductions.

At Emporia State and Fort Hays State, officials decided to put off equipment purchases to save money.

Emporia State also imposed a 90-day delay for hiring. Ray Hauke, vice president for administration, said some janitorial crews will be spread thin because the university won't be filling those maintenance positions.

At the University of Kansas, Hemenway declared a hiring freeze. He told departments if they could reduce their spending enough, he would allow them to begin hiring again.

"You're probably going to notice there are bigger classes because we have less money to hire faculty," he said.

Cattlemen unveil profitable program

By Patty Decker

The Colby Free Press

BREWSTER — The Kansas Cattlemen's Association held its second membership meeting drive earlier this week in Brewster unveiling two programs designed to help producers generate profit back into the rural community.

According to Bill Bowman, executive director of the association, some 40 people attended the meeting to learn more about how producers can retain ownership along with an idea to develop a company to move that product.

"The program design," he said, "is to take the baby calf and retain ownership through the whole process."

At the feedlot stage, through the processing plant and to the consumer, he explained, cattlemen would still own the animals.

"The cattlemen would pay for distribution, processing and feedlot cost with profit then going back to him," he said.

And probably the most important element of this program, Bowman said, would be to provide the consumer with a healthier meat product.

"Our intention would be a beef product that is healthier by eliminating high antibiotics, hormones, and genetically-altered feed that the American consumer doesn't like," he said.

Simply stated, Bowman reiterated at the meeting that in this new way of marketing, producers will retain the ownership of their product (cattle) while at the same time looking at ways to improve feeding techniques.

"We want to educate all producers on how to have a consistently higher beef product," he said.

The second major goal of this relatively new association is a seven-phase business plan that in the end is looking toward a processing plant capable of carrying out the goal to help cattlemen retain ownership.

By having the control of its own processing plant, the association can help its membership capture the dollars they

are currently missing once their live-stock goes from the feedlot stage to the processing plant and finally to the retail market, he said.

"The spread between the farmer's share of food and the retailing of that food is getting wider and wider," Bowman said.

"Our plan has the potential to be the most innovative way to market from a producer's standpoint."

Outlining some of the requirements for a producer who is a member of the association, Bowman said that if a producer decides for whatever reason to sell his cattle to one of the bigger packing facilities, all they would ask is that they let them know first. By doing so, it would give the association's proposed packing facility a chance to buy the cattle first.

Association officials said they would like to see the proposed slaughtering facility located in northwest Kansas.

"The proposed plan for the facility would be environmentally friendly, clean, safe and the smartest plant available," Bowman said, "with up to 200 jobs that would require highly-skilled people."

Bowman said the plan would also include developing programs with Goodland Vo-Tech and Colby Community College to train a strong workforce.

Association officials plan to be in Colby on Friday, Jan. 14, to participate in the Small Business Development Center workshop offered through the Hays office. In addition, Bowman is meeting with David Coltrain with Kansas State University Cooperative Development on Tuesday, Jan. 25 to further develop the plans.

"Our membership drive is now underway and the idea of ownership staying with the producer is something we are hearing that people like," Bowman said.

"We see it as survival for rural America."

There are some 500 members of the Kansas Cattlemen's Association, which was organized one year ago.

"There are people in the association from 18 different states and if anyone likes our idea, we sure hope they want to join our organization," Bowman.

For information, call 877-692-2906.

Hospitals fill as flu makes annual trek

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — They are the familiar sights and sounds of winter: the sniffing nose, the dry, throaty voice and the grimace that follows a swallow of medicine.

Better get used to them, health officials say. The flu, which struck the West hard last month, has arrived like a storm along the East Coast, filling hospital waiting rooms and doctors' offices with patients.

"It's bad all over the country," said Dr. Robert McNamara, chief of emergency medicine at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia. "The flu shot apparently is not doing its job, and from all reports, it could be one of the worst seasons we've seen in years."

Patients at emergency rooms nationwide have found out as much in the last couple of weeks. At McNamara's hospital, patients line the halls on gurneys, waiting for rooms. Others huddle around rows of chairs waiting to be seen by a doctor. Other hospitals across the country are scrambling to add extra staff, while others are even turning people away due to overcrowding.

The latest data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that more than 99 percent of the cases reported so far are influenza type A. Most of the cases, officials say, appear to be the Sydney strain of the virus, which also struck last year.

The first substantial cases were reported in California and Arizona last month. Since then, 19 states — including Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Virginia — have reported widespread or regional flu activity, the CDC said.

Flu symptoms include fever, coughing and runny or stuffy noses, along with headaches, muscle aches and extreme fatigue. The virus is distinguished by its quick onset and affect over an entire body.

Artistic impression of car fire



Thursday afternoon Kenneth E. Ray, owner of a '77 Ford, had a fire under the hood of his vehicle at 18th and Cherry, and Goodland Daily News reporter Janet Craft was on the scene to record the event. However, when the film was developed the fire scene had been transformed into this photo which looks something like abstract art.

Photo by Janet Craft / The Goodland Daily News