

weather report

46°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:40 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:41 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 31 degrees
- Humidity 31 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds southwest 15 mph
- Barometer 30.11 inches and falling
- Record High 72° (1965)
- Record Low -13° (1988)

Last 24 Hours*

High	38°
Low	17°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy; low 20; winds west 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny; dry; high 50; winds south 10-20 mph; low mid 20s.

Extended Forecast

Sunday through Tuesday, Sunday: dry; high mid 50s; low mid 20s. Monday: dry; high 40; low 20-25. Tuesday: dry; high 40-45; low 15-20.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.14 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.93
Loan deficiency payment — 52¢
Corn — \$1.63 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.70
Loan deficiency pmt. — 29¢
Milo — \$2.45 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.01 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.95
Loan deficiency payment — 94¢
Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.05 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.95
Confection current — \$11/\$7 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$13 (new crop)
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Energy Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Despite pleas, boy to go home

MIAMI — Responding to pleas that he overrule immigration authorities, President Clinton today said they followed the law in deciding to send a 6-year-old boy back to his father in Cuba.

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush on Thursday asked Clinton to reverse the Immigration and Naturalization Service's order that Elian Gonzalez return to Cuba, a decision that set off a storm of protests by Miami's Cuban community.

"I believe they followed the law," Clinton said at the White House when asked about Bush's request. "This is a volatile and difficult case.... We need to keep this out of the political process as much as possible."

Elian was found Thanksgiving Day clinging to an inner tube at sea after his mother, stepfather and eight other people drowned while trying to reach Florida by boat.



Tracey Purvis (above right), instructor in the Engineering Technology Department at the Northwest Kansas Technical School, pointed out something on a drafting paper to Senator Sam Brownback while he toured the school on Thursday. Stephanie Fries (right), an engineering technology student at the school, showed Senator Brownback what the class was working on at a computer screen in the classroom.

Photos by Janet Craft/
The Goodland Daily News



Legislators try to decide where education fits in picture

By David Miles

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — Legislators pointed with pride last year to their approval of two year's worth of increases in spending on public schools.

Now they face leaner budgets caused by a shortfall in state revenues and must either reconsider their much-touted decision or cut spending from other programs during the 2000 legislative session, which begins Monday.

In 1999, the Legislature approved increasing the base amount that public elementary, junior high and high schools spend on each student by \$50, to \$3,770 for the current school year. It also committed to raising that figure another \$50 in the 2000-01 school year, to \$3,820.

Gov. Bill Graves has proposed a revised state budget that calls for a per-pupil spending increase this school year of \$37, or \$13 less than the amount legislators approved.

The governor plans to announce his recommendations for the next school year when he delivers his State of the State address Monday.

Some education officials said not fulfilling the promise of a \$50 increase this year would harm school districts, which approved their budgets before the academic year began in August.

While many districts have rainy day funds to tide them over, some could be forced to delay the purchase of textbooks or new buses.

"We are very much alarmed that any cut at this time is going to have a detrimental impact on school districts," said Mark Tallman, a lobbyist for the Kansas Association of School Boards.

At \$2.2 billion, the Department of Education's budget is the largest in state government because it includes aid to the state's 304 school districts. Its budget accounts for half of all state general fund spending.

Because of the amount the department spends, deciding how much to money to give to public schools is the biggest budget decision legislators face

each year.

Education Commissioner Andy Tompkins said he remains hopeful that the Legislature will finance the two-year spending increase.

"On the one hand, I'm always concerned about the budget," Tompkins said. "On the other hand, I do feel that there's been a continued commitment to support schools."

Tompkins has found sympathy among legislative leaders, who say they are determined to keep their pledge.

"I think we ought to do what we can to get the schools up \$50 this year," said House Speaker Robin Jennison, R-Healy. "At this point, I wouldn't make any suggestions as to what we ought to do with the \$50 for the next year."

House Minority Leader Jim Garner, D-Coffeyville, said some school districts signed two-year contracts with teachers based on the Legislature's funding promise.

Garner said that's one promise legislators must keep.

"I think it would be a major failure for the state if we reneged on that," Garner said, adding that in 1999, "Members of both parties, Republicans and Democrats, left Topeka bragging on that accomplishment."

Senate President Dick Bond, R-Overland Park, said he thinks legislators will follow through on their two-year funding commitment but added that he is concerned about finding a way to pay for it.

"We're robbing Peter to pay Paul, and Peter is nearly broke," Bond said.

State government found itself in a budget bind after finishing its 1999 fiscal year on June 30 with \$73.4 million less in revenues than expected in its general fund, leaving legislators with the task of paring down spending.

For the current fiscal year, Graves has proposed cuts of \$67.4 million, or about 1.5 percent, in the general fund spending approved by the 1999 Legislature.

The general fund is the largest source of money for Kansas government pro-

grams and where the state deposits most of its tax money.

Not everyone thinks public schools face a financial crisis. In fact, at least one group suggests education spending already is too high.

The Kansas Public Policy Institute, a Topeka research organization in favor of limited government, released a study in December that said education spending during the 1998-99 school year totaled \$7,026 per pupil.

Brownback talks about election issues

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Kansas Senator Sam Brownback was in Goodland Thursday talking to Goodland High School juniors and seniors, touring the Northwest Kansas Technical School and lunching with Sherman County businessmen.

At the high school auditorium, Brownback spoke with the students about slavery in America and how John Brown, a Kansas resident, lit the fuse to end slavery in this country, which later led to the Civil War. He reminded students that all of that started in Kansas.

"What is Kansas involved in now?" Brownback asked.

He asked them what they felt were the issues for this year's campaign. Some of the issues brought up by Brownback and the students were the national debt, the moral code of the country, education, welfare, and retirement — pertaining to social security and Medicare.

But the students felt the key issue by a show of hands was the moral code.

"What does the country need to deal with today?" he asked the students.

One student said she felt school violence has gone down, but that the media has made it look otherwise.

Another student said she felt having a president who was to be a role model for the country, but who had an affair in the White House, was not good.

Afterwards, Brownback went on a tour of many of the departments at the Northwest Kansas Technical School led by Director Larry Keirns, and talked briefly with both instructors and students.

A noon luncheon held at the Student Union meeting room at the Northwest Kansas Technical School was attended by about 25 Goodland businessmen and women.

Brownback said there's an attitude of helplessness or hopelessness in the young people in America. He said a New York Times poll showed that half of the young people polled either were themselves or knew someone who was contemplating suicide.

He said that we need to find out what is troubling kids.

He talked again about what the issue will be in this year's campaign. Brownback said during one campaign year it was the economy, but now it's the culture.

It's an issue that can't be handled legislatively, he said, that's what families and churches or synagogues do.

Brownback then turned the discussion to the farm economy. He said the economy was good overall, with the exception of the farm.

He said there should be a bill in March to eliminate sanctions and he is hoping to get more trade and agriculture exports going, with agriculture being best benefited by increased exports to China.

He also said he has a bill up about faster Internet service for rural areas.

One Goodland farmer thanked Brownback about the emergency farm legislation in November that came into this county in quick order.

"A lot of people need those payments," said Brownback.

Another Goodland farmer said that if grain and cattle prices stay low, farmers were going to need that again in 2000.

However, another businessman said the emergency funding in November messed up the markets and that the bureaucrats in Kansas City were making a call on loan deficiency payments.

Another local farmer said he didn't have an answer, but felt that in the marketplace farmers go in with their hands out asking what will be given for their product rather than setting their own price. He felt the emergency funding was a band-aid fix.

In addition, another farmer said the freedom to farm bill was liked by farmers.

Brownback said he would like to push for an international set aside program. He said the United States has forced other nations to become more productive and in the process put land into production that shouldn't be. We are noisy about our policy and other nations listen.

He closed the meeting by reminding those in attendance to give suggestions to the Washington office as the legislators go into session.

Winter water workers



Workers from Allied, Inc. are working on replacement of water meters and lines on Center Street, and have had some of the intersections blocked this week as they replaced several control valves as well. Despite the chilly temperatures the work continues on the final portion of the city water project.

Photo by Doug Jackson / The Goodland Daily News