

weather report

68°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 6:13 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:25 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:13 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 39 degrees
- Humidity 20 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds west 16 mph
- Barometer 30.06 inches and steady
- Record High 86° (1942)
- Record Low 9° (1945)

Last 24 Hours*

High 47°
Low 25°
Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Clear, low 40, wind south-west 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Sunny, dry, high mid 70s, low 35-40, wind west 20-30 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: dry, high mid 70s, low 35-40. Friday: dry, high 60, low 30. Saturday: dry, high mid 60s, low 30s. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.17 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.09
Loan deficiency payment — 36¢
Corn — \$1.82 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.94
Loan deficiency payment — 5¢
Milo — \$2.77 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.64 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.69
Loan deficiency payment — 20¢
Millet — \$3.60 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.40 cwt.
Loan deficiency prmt. — \$3.54
Confection current — \$13/\$7 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$12 (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. Gates vows to fight judge

WASHINGTON — Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates vows to fight a federal court decision that his company violated U.S. anti-trust laws by mounting a "deliberate assault" on competition in the Internet browser market.

The ruling could lead to punishment including the breakup of one of the world's major corporations. "Microsoft placed an oppressive thumb on the scale of competitive fortune, thereby effectively guaranteeing its continued dominance," U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson wrote in a sweeping decision that said Microsoft violated the Sherman Act, the law used to kill monopolies from Standard Oil to AT&T.

The judge issued his ruling Monday after the stock market closed, but word that it was coming caused Microsoft to drop more than \$15 a share to \$90.87 1/2.

City puts strings on Chamber money

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

The city commission voted unanimously to allocate \$30,000 Monday for Chamber of Commerce economic development efforts, but decided that the chamber will have to present specific requests to actually receive the money.

The Chamber had asked for \$50,000 each from the city and the county. Commissioner Curtis Hurd opened the discussion on the economic development issue by saying he thought the \$30,000 was a good start, and hoped that the city would be able to increase that in the next year's budget.

However, Hurd also suggested that for accountability there should be a representative from the city on the economic development board, and suggested that the city manager and at least one city commissioner be voting members.

Hurd made a motion to give the chamber \$30,000 for economic development with the condition that the city manager and a commissioner

join the board. To allow discussion, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Jim Mull.

Mull questioned the wording, and specifically about putting people on the board.

"I've always said I thought we needed an economic development effort and that the Chamber was the proper place to do it," Commissioner Rick Billinger said, "but I feel it should be by individual request and not a blank check. I am not in favor of a blank check for any amount."

Mull said he hoped the city could budget \$50,000 in the future, but felt the chamber would have to make a request each time money's needed.

"I agree with Billinger," said Commissioner Tom Rohr. "I'd rather do it on an individual basis, like the wage and hour survey."

"I am working off the budget they presented," Hurd said. "I believe we have to have some trust in there, but that is why I want representation on the board as well."

"I agree we need to put money into economic

development," Mayor Chuck Lutters said, "but I think we need to be accountable to the taxpayers."

"Why give them any money at all?" Hurd asked. "We could just run the program through our city manager."

The motion died on a 1-4 vote, with Hurd the only yes.

Mull then moved to allocate \$30,000 for economic development this year, and that the chamber had to come before the commission with any item they deem that the money should be spent on. The motion was seconded by Rohr.

Hurd asked if there would be any city representation on the board?

Mull replied that he thought there would be enough accountability if the chamber had to request the money on each individual project.

The motion passed unanimously.

Steve West of Western State Bank, chairman of the chamber economic development board, said he appreciated the \$30,000, but wanted to be

sure the commission understood the chamber was seeking a long-term commitment to funding \$50,000 per year for economic development.

"Yes, I think it is important, and I will try to see there is \$50,000 in the next budget," Mull said. "I also think we need to be accountable to the taxpayers, but we need to go forward now."

Mull asked if West or Ron Harding, chamber executive director, had any specific requests for money they wanted the commission to consider at that time.

Harding replied that he did not believe the chamber could operate an economic development program the way the commission was suggesting.

West said it might be better for the economic development board to have a meeting before bringing specific requests to the commission.

West said the next meeting would be Thursday, April 13, and they would have something for the next city commission meeting, which will be

Monday, April 17.

Budget occupies final days

Break offers committee time to hash out plan

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — The clock has stopped temporarily on the 2000 Legislature, but work on the next state budget continued anyway.

Three senators and three House members were in negotiations designed to produce the final version of a bill containing most of the budget for the state's 2001 fiscal year, which begins July 1. Total spending is likely to exceed \$8.6 billion.

The six legislators form a joint conference committee, appointed by their leaders to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate on dozens of budget issues, large and small. They began negotiating Monday and took up little issues first.

The Legislature is scheduled to take its first adjournment Friday, but its week began with a two-day break for most members.

Because the House and Senate won't convene until Wednesday, Monday and Tuesday don't count toward the 90 calendar days allotted for the session by the state constitution. When the count resumes, it will be the session's 83rd day.

Leaders plan to have the Legislature take its first adjournment on the 85th day, then recess for 2 1/2 weeks. A wrap-up session is scheduled to begin April 26 and last four days, though it could go longer and push the session past 90 days, which would require a two-thirds vote in both houses.

The Legislature began taking a spring recess a generation ago, so that the governor could act on most of the bills passed before the recess. The wrap-up session gives legislators a chance to consider overriding gubernatorial vetoes.

Several years ago, legislative leaders began scheduling a break during the week that ends with first adjournment. The idea was to give budget negotiators more time to meet.

Legislators plan a tour

State Sen. Stan Clark and Reps. Jim Morrison, Gayle Mollenkamp and John Faber will be visiting communities in northwest Kansas from Tuesday through Thursday.

The legislators plan to update citizens on current issues and to seek comments on what may happen during the final wrap-up session the end of April. Sen/Clark and Rep. Mollenkamp are to be in Weskan next Tuesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Fire House.

Clark and Rep. Morrison will be in Brewster from noon to 1 p.m., Wednesday, April 12, at the Hunter Hall Building. They will also be in Kanorado from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Smokey's Cafe.



Coals to Newcastle?

Virginia Palmgren and Phyllis Zielke, fourth-grade teachers at Central Elementary School, loaded up their classes this morning to take them to the circus. This was nothing permanent, just a one-day trip to Hays. Students eagerly awaited their departure (above) and looked happy to be out of the classroom for a day. Mrs. Zielke (right) passed out string to the students, who were supposed to use it not on their teachers, but for activities (left) to pass the time.

Photos by Debra Turner
The Goodland Daily News



City OKs contracts for water park

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Work on the new water park should begin within the next few weeks after the city commission Monday approved allowing the mayor or city manager to execute the contracts with Rhoads Construction and Associated Pool Builders.

City Manager Ron Pickman presented the contracts from Rhoads and Associated Pool Builders with the total staying below the commission-set level of \$2.2 million.

Rhoads Construction's portion of the project will be \$826,870, and Associated Pool Builders contract will be for \$1,274,200.

Both contracts were approved on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Rick Billinger saying he would not vote for the contracts because it felt it was too much money.

"I am not against the pool," Billinger said, "but I think with all the other things we need to spend money on. This is just too much for a pool."

Pickman said the total of the contracts was \$2,101,070, and that did not include the \$112,500 in costs the city would handle.

Included in the city part, Pickman said were the trees, drainage system, parking lot and road, outside lighting and sound system.

He said these were taken out because it was felt the city could get these done for less than what was bid by the contractor.

Pickman said the contracts should be signed in a few days, and work should begin in a few weeks.

Eric Yonkey, treasurer of the Goodland Baseball Commission and publisher of the *Sherman County Star*, told the commission that the commission had received about \$5,800 in donations for Memorial Field, and that the group is working with the city to order a perimeter fence and a batting cage.

Pickman said work was progressing on the ballpark, but that the recent cold weather had delayed it a bit. He said with the warming weather, the city crew is hoping to move the project forward so it will be ready in May for games.

He said several people had stepped forward to help with various parts of the project, and with the help, he felt the project could be built within the allowed budget.

Pickman said the posts have been set

for the backstop, and there should be considerable progress in the next few weeks. He said he would be bringing information about the building for the announcer's booth, concession stand and restrooms to the commission at the next meeting.

On the airport, Pickman reported that the new sign was up and that the lights should be completed this week.

He said United Express turned in its keys to the airport on Monday, and is no longer a part of the airport.

"The city and chamber have met with one man who is interested in starting an air passenger service, and will be meeting with another possible air carrier this week," Pickman said. "And we have had a third air carrier show interest in serving our city."

He said the city airport would receive \$150,000 a year for the airport for the next three years as part of a recently announced Federal Aviation Administration program, but the details on exactly what the money can be used for were not known.

"We believe that if the new law is signed, there are a number of things in there which may be beneficial to rural airports like ours," Pickman said.

He said the airport fire truck has been delayed because of some technical problems, and it would probably be delivered in May.

In other business the commission:

- Approved charging off \$5,827 in uncollected utility bills through March. Pickman said some of these were bankruptcies which could not be collected, but that while they are writing these off, there will be ongoing efforts to get the money from accounts which are not settled by the courts.

- Approved appointment of Jerry Fairbanks to an unexpired term on the High Plains Museum board, and Mary Lou Franklin and Judy Saruta to three-year terms on the board.

- Approved a beer license for Safari Steakhouse.
- Approved an ordinance setting up a system for the city to sell unclaimed, abandoned or confiscated property.
- Reappointed Mayor Chuck Lutters to be the city representative on the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency board.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. The next regular commission meeting will be 5 p.m. Monday, April 17, in the commission room, upstairs in the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th.