


weather  
report

80°  
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:13 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:24 a.m.  
• Sunset, 7:14 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 49 degrees  
• Humidity 14 percent  
• Sky mostly sunny  
• Winds northwest 20-27 mph  
• Barometer 29.77 inches  
and steady  
• Record High 86° (1932)  
• Record Low 18° (1945)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 77°  
Low 23°  
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast


Tonight: Partly cloudy, low mid 30s, winds north 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, dry, high 70, winds south 15-25 mph, low 30-35.

Extended Forecast

Friday: dry, high mid 60s, low 30. Saturday: dry, high 70-75, low 30-35. Sunday: dry, high mid 70s, low 30-35.

(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 — \$2.07  
Loan deficiency payment — 38¢  
Corn — \$1.82 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.92  
Loan deficiency payment — 7¢  
Milo — \$2.77 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.68 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.61  
Loan deficiency payment — 28¢  
Millet — \$3.60 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$6.40 cwt.  
Loan deficiency prnt. — \$3.54  
Confection current — \$13/\$7 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)  
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigo Co 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.

Stocks uneasy  
after wild day

NEW YORK — Stocks fluctuated in uncertain trading today as investors sought a direction a day after Wall Street's most volatile session in history.

The Nasdaq composite index was up 25.53 at 4,174.42 in early afternoon trading, while the Dow Jones industrial average was off 58.87 at 11,105.97. Prices fluctuated throughout the session, and the indexes alternated between positive and negative territory.

Today's trading reflected investor caution following a stomach-churning rout in which the Nasdaq and Dow each dropped more than 500 points. Tuesday's stampede reversed as buyers returned in search of bargains, and most stocks ended the chaotic session with only moderate losses.

Analysts said investors were looking for bargains today, but with little enthusiasm.



## Black sheep very popular

Joyce Witzel, Kanorado, a speech paraprofessional at West Elementary, brought a 1-month-old lamb "Brady" to school for the students to see. Some first graders at West Elementary (top) petted the lamb during afternoon recess on the Topside Territory playground. Other first-grade students (left) petted the lamb on the grass before recess ended.

Photo by Janet Craft  
The Goodland Daily News

# Congress moves to block tax on program

By Libby Quaid

*Associated Press Writer*

WASHINGTON — Saying the timing couldn't be worse, senators moved to counter a court ruling that the Internal Revenue Service can collect additional taxes on farmland in the federal Conservation Reserve Program.

At issue is a federal appeals court ruling last month that an Ohio farm couple must pay self-employment taxes on income from the federal program, which pays farmers to take environmentally sensitive acreage out of production.

U.S. producers are reeling from low prices, bad weather and rising fuel costs.

"This could not come at a worse time," Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., the measure's sponsor, said Tuesday.

The court ruling ignores the intentions of Congress in creating the conservation program and will discourage farmers from participating, Brownback said.

Federal law exempts real estate rental income from the 15 percent Social Security self-employment tax, and until now CRP land has fallen under those guidelines.

Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., another sponsor of the bill, said the program has had enormous conservation and wildlife benefits.

"The decision threatens to penalize producers who are trying to do the right thing by protecting fragile land that is sensitive to erosion and provides vital wildlife habitat," Roberts said.

Among the more than dozen co-sponsors are Democratic Sens. Tom

Daschle, the minority leader from South Dakota, and Bob Kerrey of Nebraska. GOP backers include Sens. John Ashcroft and Christopher Bond of Missouri, as well as Indiana Sen. Dick Lugar, the Agriculture Committee chairman.

In Kansas alone, farmers could pay \$16 million more, said Kansas GOP Rep. Jerry Moran, who has introduced a similar House bill, "and the IRS in their usual fashion would like to collect it for the last four years."

Coming just before tax day, the March 3 ruling by the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rocked farmers who have been filing tax returns based on a 1998 U.S. Tax Court ruling in favor of the Ohio couple, Frederick and Ruth Wuebker.

The estimated 270,000 farm families

# Commission, contractor agree to fix problems

By Janet Craft

*The Goodland Daily News*

Officials decided to put up another urinal screen in the men's handicapped restroom at the courthouse during a meeting Tuesday among county commissioners, architects and the contractor, but everyone was assured that the work would meet federal guidelines.

Architect Blaine Davis, from Architecture Plus, who has been in charge of the handicapped restroom project, met with the commissioners, contractor Mike Miller, and William McKnight, county building manager.

"Where are we at on this restroom project?" asked Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld.

Miller said that there was a problem with the locks for the bathroom door handles on the third floor and the door handle of the commissioners' room, which don't always work.

Davis said he would discuss the problem with the company the locks were purchased from.

He said he and Miller could look over the locks after the meeting and then he could talk to whoever Miller talked to about the locksets.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said she wondered about the wall over the heater in the time clock room.

McKnight asked why the heater wasn't moved rather than a wall built over it.

Frankenfeld asked Davis if there would be a charge to the county to come back and make some of these corrections.

McKnight also said the elevator rings could only be heard outside the elevator and he thought it was supposed to be heard both inside and out.

Davis read in a manual that the elevator should ring once for the up direction and twice for the down direction. He said the manual said an audible sound should be heard at every floor.

He said he could check with the elevator company to see if the volume could be turned up or if something could be installed inside the elevator so

that the rings could be heard.

McKnight then said the measurements in the restrooms were not the same as the measurements on the floor plan.

Miller said some adjustments had to be made.

"That's what we were wondering," said McKnight.

Davis said the critical dimensions to meet regulations under the Americans With Disabilities Act are still there, but they made some adjustments to be able to still fit the existing conditions.

McKnight asked what could be done about the situation in the men's handicapped bathroom so that someone using the second urinal wouldn't be seen by someone walking past if the door was opened.

Davis replied that they had put up a urinal screen.

Frankenfeld asked if anything could be done as the person in the second urinal could still be seen when the door was opened.

"Is it possible to change the direction the door opens?" Selby asked.

"No," Davis replied. "We would have had to move the door."

He said to meet federal guidelines, there would need to be two feet on the latch side of the door.

Frankenfeld said he was sure Miller had done his best and that the problem was in the plan. He said he saw a problem with the urinal screen.

"Let's go down and measure," Davis said.

McKnight again mentioned that the heater was a concern. Miller said he wanted to know what to do about the bill for the door handles.

"I think we need to protest the cost," said Selby.

Davis advised the county and the contractor not to pay until they got some satisfaction. He then said that he would do some measuring and report back to the commissioners.

In other business, Randall Daise was appointed as trustee of Grant Township, in the northwest corner of the county. He will replace Anna Marie Daise, who moved to Goodland.

McKnight presented three bids to the commissioners for repairs to buildings at the fairgrounds caused by wind damage. The bids were from Terry Baker, a contractor in Goodland; TeHe Enterprises in Sharon Springs; and Rick Mills, another contractor in Goodland. They accepted the low bid from Mills for \$875 to do the repairs.

The commissioners approved the purchase of a cellular phone through Alltel for Crystal Linsner, county computer manager.

Townsend moved to table a decision on the economic development proposal from Goodland Chamber of Commerce members until the next meeting.

The commissioners approved emergency vehicle designations requested by Goodland Fire Chief Dean Jensen for Stan Duell, Ryan Weis, Wayne Sparks, Jeff White and Russell Damoude, volunteer firemen who have different vehicles and needed a change.

# Good news eases state budget task

By David Miles

*Associated Press Writer*

TOPEKA — Legislators worked out a compromise on the state budget for the next fiscal year, their work made easier by the latest revenue estimates.

Budget negotiators put in a full day Tuesday even though the Legislature was not in session. The legislative clock stopped Friday on the 82nd day of the session out of 90 allotted by the state constitution.

Legislators are scheduled to begin their annual break on Friday, but will return April 26 to finish the session.

After hours of negotiating, three senators and three representatives agreed on the final version of a bill to finance state government in fiscal year 2001, starting July 1.

Both chambers passed different versions of a budget package last week,

and each amounted to more than \$8.6 billion. Now, both must agree to the compromise version to send it to Gov. Bill Graves.

House members gave in to Senate demands that money to increase public school funding above Graves' proposal of \$37 per pupil depend on receiving extra federal nursing home funds.

Legislators agreed that revenue estimates released Tuesday could have been worse.

The estimates indicate that legislators will have to trim only about \$20 million from the spending they've already approved or narrow the laws that give sales-tax exemptions to businesses.

Legislators working on the budget had worried the new estimates for how much the state expects to collect over the next 15 months would be much

gloomier, requiring them to cut perhaps as much as \$50 million in spending.

Graves and State Budget Director Duane Goossen termed the budget situation "manageable."

Asked whether he was breathing easier over the new numbers, House Appropriations Chairman David Adkins, R-Leawood, said: "No. I'm just not as depressed as I could have been."

The new revenue figures were released by the Consensus Estimating Group, economists and state officials who meet twice a year to make the forecasts that governors and legislators use in drafting a budget.

The group lowered the estimate for total revenue collections during the current fiscal year by \$5 million. It decreased the estimate for fiscal 2001 by \$2.6 million.

# School board, citizens to map out future needs

The Goodland School Board will meet at the Elks Lodge on Saturday for a day-long session to look at the future needs of the district for buildings and staff.

Along with board members and principals, several citizens have been invited to participate in the strategic planning session.

Among the items to be discussed will be the future building needs, and the question of what to do about the Edson gym. With the completion of the expansion of the Max Jones Fieldhouse, the district will look at the condition of the other buildings.

In the personnel discussion, there are pressures to cut the staff because

of declining enrollment, but at the same time there are requests to increase the teaching staff to help improve reading and math scores on state tests.

The special session will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a break for lunch to be served at the Elks.

The next regular board meeting will be Monday in conjunction with an open house at the newly completed expansion at Max Jones. The open house will begin at 6 p.m. with tours of the new gym, weight room, elevator and concession area, where the refreshments will be served.

The board meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the fieldhouse.