

weather report

64°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 7:35 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:52 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:36 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 56 degrees
• Humidity 22 percent
• Sky mostly sunny
• Winds north 20-25 mph
• Barometer 30.22 inches and steady
• Record High 90° (1953)
• Record Low 23° (1924)

Last 24 Hours*

High 82°
Low 38°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, low 40, winds north 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, dry, high 70-75, low 40-45, winds southeast 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday through Sunday: chance of thunderstorms, high 65-70, low mid 40s. Monday: chance of rain, high 70, low mid 40s.

(National Weather Service)

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

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.09 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.02
Loan deficiency payment — 43¢
Corn — \$1.75 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.95
Loan deficiency payment — 4¢
Milo — \$2.65 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.58 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.71
Loan deficiency payment — 18¢
Millet — \$3.60 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.10 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.54
Confection current — \$13/\$7cwt.
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.

Drug aid plan passes Senate

TOPEKA—A bill to help poor elderly Kansans pay for prescription drugs has won Senate approval.

The bill, which the Senate passed Wednesday on a 38-1 vote, returned to the House. The House approved its version of the bill earlier this year but must consider changes made in the Senate.

Despite the lopsided Senate vote, Democrats complained the program created by the bill wouldn't be big enough to meet the needs of elderly Kansans.

The plan would provide up to \$1,200 a year toward a person's drug costs, with participants paying 30 percent of their costs.

An individual would have to be 67 to be eligible for the program, which would begin July 1, 2001. Participants could not have incomes greater than 150 percent of the federal poverty level.

Hospital reports higher loss for first quarter

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland Regional Medical Center reported a first-quarter loss of \$205,874, about 12 percent of total revenue, nearly 10 times the same period last year, and a net loss in March of \$33,990.

The losses were given to the center's board in the March financial report at Monday night's meeting.

The board also heard the auditor's report for 1998 and 1999, which was generally positive.

Member Pete Whalen said he was impressed with what the accountant said and still thinks the hospital is in good shape.

Hospital officials did not respond to messages asking for an explanation of the figures.

Chief Financial Officer Andy Laue gave the

financial report, which showed Revenue for the quarter up \$60,000 over last year, but expenses up about \$145,000. He attributed the loss to a low patient census for the month, down an average of two people per day for the quarter. Outpatient visits were down by about 300.

"April may be a little better," said Laue. "The census may be up."

On year-to-date operating expenses, there was an 11 percent increase over last year on salaries and wages, but only a 5 percent increase over what had been budgeted for this year.

However, the biggest change was in travel expenses, with a 165 percent increase over last year's amount and a 56 percent increase over this year's budgeted amount.

The provision for bad debt helped to keep op-

erating expenses down because even though it was up 30 percent from this time last year, the budgeted amount was 49 percent higher than what has been spent so far this year.

Board Member Lynn Hoelting moved to approve the March report. Later, Laue presented slides which showed trends from 1992 to 1999.

The board heard the 1998 and 1999 auditor's report from Roger L. Johnson of Wendling, Noe, Nelson and Johnson, of Topeka.

Johnson said there was a decrease of net revenues in 1999. He said inpatient revenues were down about 10 percent for 1999, but outpatient revenues were up a little.

There was a 3 percent increase in expenses and professional fees were up because of the Certified Registered Nurse Assistant program,

Johnson said.

He added that the lease expense was down because of reclassification of expenses. Johnson said the cash flows were better in 1999 than in 1998.

In other business, board member Larry McCants moved to accept the ambulance and respiratory therapy policy manuals. The motion carried.

Dennis Shank made a motion to approve all the doctors' credentials.

Board Chairman Doug Irvin asked for a separate motion on five doctors having tubal ligations added to their hospital privileges. Whalen moved for approval of these doctors' credentials and it carried.

The board went into closed session around 8:10 p.m. to discuss personnel. It will meet again at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 23.

County releasing bloody tape

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — On a desk is an open book with tattered, charred pages. A calculator and pencil lie near a pockmark in the desktop. Pools of blood have seeped across the beige carpet of the library floor and folded yellow cards show where students were wounded — or died.

For \$25, anyone can buy a video showing an empty, bullet-riddled Columbine High School after the massacre a year ago. The footage comes with a pop music soundtrack.

Despite outrage from victims' families, Jefferson County authorities on Wednesday released the video of scenes inside the school at least a day after the rampage left 15 dead, including the two student gunmen. The tape is nearly three hours long and is primarily aerial footage from the day of the attack, April 20, showing the wounded and the bodies of two slain students.

Jefferson County Attorney Frank Hutfless said the tape was distributed to victims' families under a court order and offered to the public "to avoid additional lawsuits by the public or news media."

The tape opens with the humming sound of helicopters as rescue personnel, police and firefighters take up positions outside the school on the day of the killings. They move students who either were killed or critically wounded.

The graphic images were a sharp blow to families of the victims, coming less than a week after the first anniversary of the attack.

"For the first time today, I saw my daughter being dragged over to the fire engine. I don't need to see that and nobody else needs to see that," said a tearful Beth Nimmo, whose daughter, Rachel Scott, was killed.

"It hurts," said Connie Michalik, whose son, Richard Castaldo, was paralyzed in the attack. "These are our children they have on video being hurt and shot and killed."

Inside the school, the camera captures a Columbine that is at once both real and surreal.

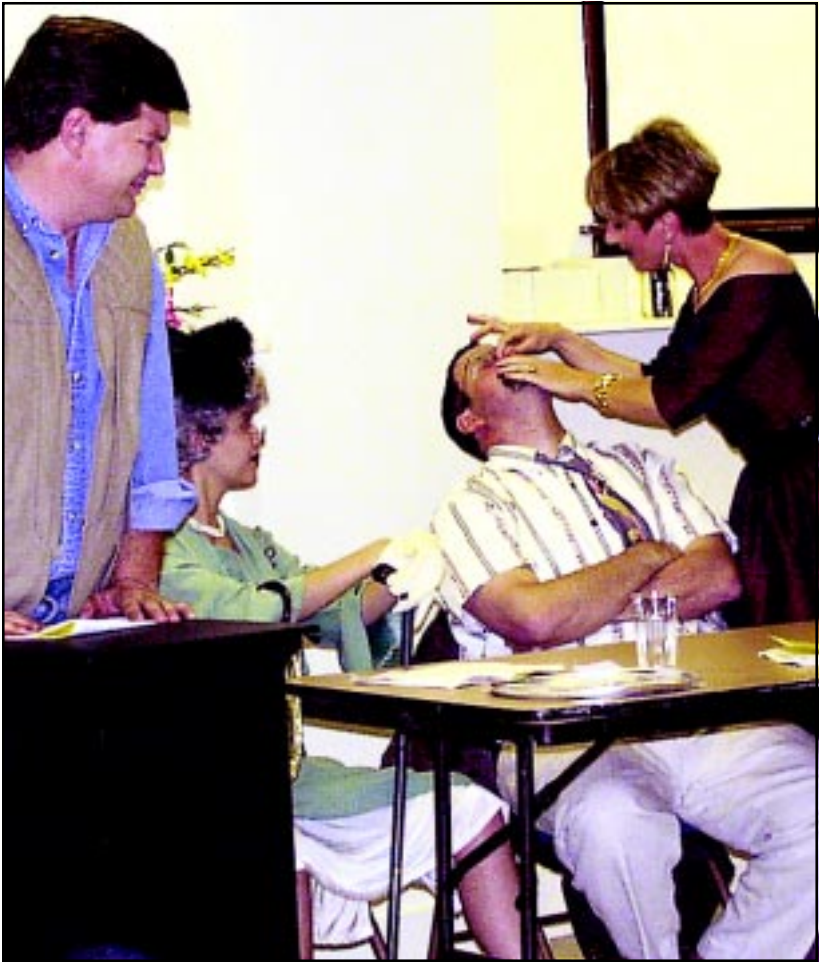
Trophy showcases line hallways. Classroom desks are in neat rows in some rooms and an electronic sign in the cafeteria blinks the message: "Good Luck Spring Sports."



The cast for the dinner-theater performance of "Murder at the Banquet" is well into rehearsals. Melissa Fulton is murdered and when the lights come back, cast members (from left) Debbie Lucas, Loren Strait, Karl

Charron, Curt Goodwin and Rochelle Kling check her out. Kling (below) has to hold Goodwin's nose shut to make him wake up after he falls asleep during Charron's speech.

Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News



Arts Center, actors plan dinner theater for Mother's Day week

Dinner with fine French food and the play "Murder at the Banquet" will be offered at the Carnegie Arts Center for Mother's Day weekend, May 12 through 14.

The dinner theater features French cuisine prepared by Anthony's, followed by a production of "Murder at the Banquet" with a local cast. The play is described as a fun who-dunnit which takes place at the "Hall of Fame Induction Banquet of the International Association of Mystery Solvers." It seems that two of those to be honored are murdered.

Cast members include Rebecca Downs, Curt Goodwin, Rochelle Kling, Jessica Cole, Loren Strait, Debbie Lucas, Melissa Fulton, Karl Charron and Amanda Hoffman. The play is under the direction of Sharon

Gregory, assisted by Dr. Sue Jennings.

Evening dinner performances will be at 7 p.m. Friday, May 12, and Saturday, May 13, and there will be a special Mother's Day matinee at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 14, all at the United Methodist Fellowship Hall.

Sunday's matinee will include a desert buffet catered by Anthony's featuring a variety of French pastries and fresh fruit.

Tickets may be purchased from the Carnegie Arts Center at 899-6442 or at Klip-n-Kurl, 1120 Main. Reservations must be made by Friday, May 5. The dinner tickets are \$25 per person for arts center members, and \$30 for non-members. The Sunday matinee price is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. The production is sponsored by the First National Bank.

County to consider move to close 'substandard' road

The Sherman County commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. Friday to take care of end-of-the-month business, with a couple of road issues and a closed personnel session on the agenda.

Commissioner Chuck Frankenfled asked that an old issue about closing County Road 51, known as the Cranston Road, be put on the agenda. It is in the southeast corner of the county between Roads 36 and 37. The road is a little over a mile long and was built up by Ross and John Cranston about two years ago without authorization.

County officials say the road was built up too high and the county had to go in and put it back to specifications. The bill for this was never paid by the Cranstons.

Another county road to be discussed is Road 22, between Roads 67 and 68. Apparently, someone is putting gravel on that road without permission and the commissioners need to decide what to do about it.

Road and Bridge Director Curt Way said it is not advisable to do this sort of thing unless a person gets approval first from his department and then from the commissioners.

At 8:30 a.m., the commissioners are to go into closed session on a personnel matter.

The commission will discuss the job description for a county administrator.

They will also talk about a wall which was built over a heat register in the time clock room at the courthouse.

House OKs \$8.7 billion spending

By David Miles

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — The final spending bill of the year passed the House by an overwhelming margin as legislators returned to work after a 2 1/2-week break.

The 104-20 vote Wednesday sent the bill to the Senate, though the final version is likely to be drafted by negotiators for the two chambers.

The bill is the final piece of the \$8.7 billion budget for fiscal year 2001, which begins July 1.

Legislators reconvened Wednesday to start their wrap-up session. They hope to complete this year's work by the end of the week.

In all, the budget bill authorized about \$5.7 million in spending for fiscal 2000, which ends June 30, and another \$137.9 million for fiscal 2001.

It spells out how Kansas will spend its share of money from a national tobacco settlement and would permit the state to build what amounts to a maxi-

mum-security prison for juvenile offenders.

"This bill is good for Kansas," said Appropriations Chairman David Adkins, R-Leawood. "It will let us accomplish what we can for Kansas in a tight budget year."

About \$25 million of the state's share of the tobacco settlement was allocated mainly to children's programs and programs aimed at preventing problems among juveniles.

A \$60.5 million construction package for the Juvenile Justice Authority also was folded into the bill. That includes building a new, 225-bed maximum-security center in Topeka as well as rebuilding the state center in Larned.

Meanwhile, legislation adding penalties for violating the Kansas Open Records Act went to House and Senate negotiators.

The bill would impose fines of up to \$500 on state and local government agencies that knowingly violate the

Open Records Act.

Each local government agency would have to designate an employee as its freedom of information officer, who would handle requests and decide which records are open to the public.

House Local Government Chairman Carlos Mayans, R-Wichita, who is handling the bill, said the legislation should make it to Gov. Bill Graves' desk.

In other legislative action:

• The Senate passed, 38-1, a bill to help poor, elderly Kansans pay for prescription drugs.

• On a 54-57 vote, the House rejected a proposed amendment to the budget bill that would give bonuses to officers at state prisons.

• The number of charter schools allowed in the state would double to 30 under a bill sent to Gov. Bill Graves on an 88-36 House vote.

The House version of the final budget bill is HB 3052. Open records bill is Senate Sub for Sub for HB 2864.