

weather
report

89°
at noon

Today
• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Tomorrow
• Sunrise, 5:21 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil Temperature 70 degrees
• Humidity 29 percent
• Sky mostly clear
• Winds southeast 15-22 mph
• Barometer 30.00 inches and falling
• Record High 105° (1950)
• Record Low 41° (1926)

Last 24 Hours*

High	86°
Low	48°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast
Tonight: Partly cloudy, 30 percent chance for thunderstorms, low 55-60, winds south 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, 20 percent chance for rain, high 90-95, low 55-60, winds south 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast
Saturday: chance for thunderstorms, high 85-90, low 55-60. Sunday and Monday: chance for thunderstorms, high 80s, low 55-60. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.68 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.45
Loan deficiency payment — 2¢
Corn — \$1.83 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.71
Loan deficiency payment — 28¢
Milo — \$2.37 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.22 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.45
Loan deficiency payment — 45¢
Millet — \$3.60 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.90 cwt.
Soybeans — \$3.87
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.
Board won't stop execution

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — The state board of pardons refused Thursday to stop the scheduled execution of condemned inmate Gary Graham.

The fate of Graham had rested with the 18-member Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles.

It could have recommended that Gov. George W. Bush issue a 120-day reprieve, a commutation or a pardon. Without the recommendation, Bush can do nothing under state law. The execution was scheduled for Thursday evening.

His execution had drawn exceptional scrutiny, largely because of Bush's presidential bid, the national re-examination of capital punishment, and questions about the strength of the case against Graham, convicted of killing a man in Houston in 1981.

The board voted 14-3 against the 120-day reprieve.

History of city: good and bad

Bureau offers tourists and residents a peek at Goodland's past

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

It was a hot, dusty day in August of 1900 when two shady-looking characters boarded a train in Limon, Colo., headed east.

They didn't know it then, but their last stop would be Goodland.

Poking him in the back with guns, the two forced the conductor to lead them through the Pullman car, where passengers were resting comfortably.

They took money from passengers' pockets, snatched jewelry off women's necks and admired the shiny watches they had just stolen.

A brave passenger protested with a gun when the robbers asked for his valuables. One shot and the passenger fell dead, his blood forming a stream in the aisle as the train chugged toward Kansas.

Word of the train robbers spread quickly across northwest Kansas, and the small town of Goodland prepared for the worst. Townspeople armed themselves and went looking for the murderers.

The thieves had made their way to Goodland, and the posse found them hiding in a house north of the city. The angry mob shot one dead, while his partner was still in the house, huddled in a corner.

The posse didn't go into the farm house, but instead lit a fire around it, hoping to burn the train robber out. Flames consumed the house, but the robber never came out, and the posse later dragged a blackened corpse from the ashes.

One bloody, one black, the townspeople carried the bodies to the cemetery in Goodland. The sinners couldn't be buried in consecrated ground, they decided, so they dug two graves in the road that leads into the cemetery. That's where the bones of the two train robbers still lie.

Tour guide Gail Walter told the train robber story as the bright red "Topside Tours" bus drove into the cemetery, across the very spot where the two thieves are said to have been buried almost 100 years ago.

Passengers in the tour bus shivered a little as Walter, a reading teacher at North Elementary, moved onto the next story about a man buried in the cemetery who threw funeral parties for himself every year for 30 years before he actually died in 1981.

Walter is one of three tour guides the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau has hired to guide anyone who is interested through Goodland's past and present.

Sitting in the front seat of the small



A window in the All Faith Chapel at the Goodland cemetery.

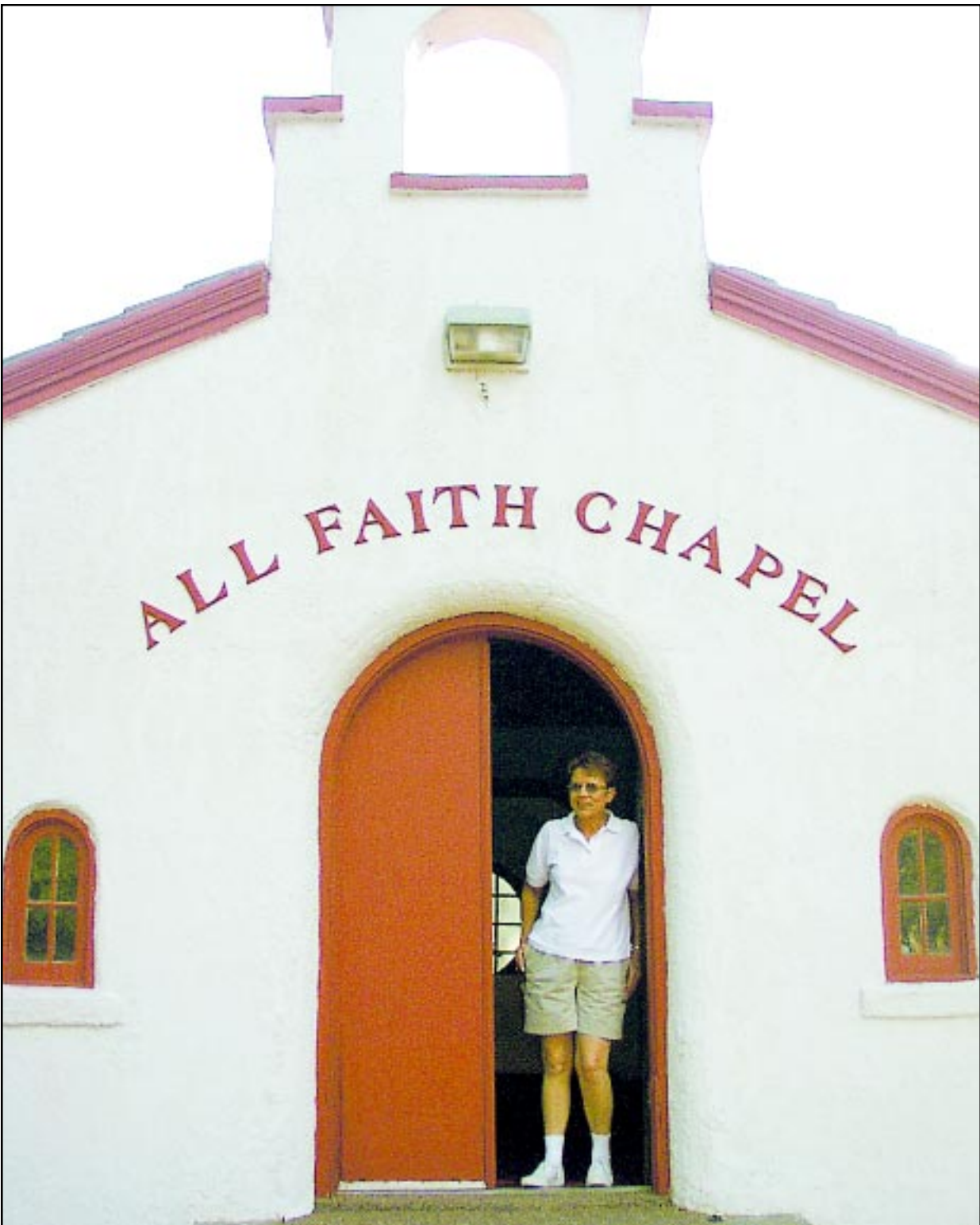


A unique metal grave marker in the cemetery.

bus Wednesday, a microphone in one hand and a few notes in the other, Walter said that besides a couple of practice runs, this was the first time she had led people on the tour, and is still working out a few kinks.

The bus stopped suddenly and backed up a few feet to a granite vault sitting solemnly amongst the other grave stones. Bob Snyder apologized for the sudden stop, and then pulled a lever, opening the bus doors.

Snyder is one of three drivers that the bureau has hired to drive the shiny, red



Tour guide Gail Walter stood in the entrance of a chapel at the Goodland Cemetery, sharing the history of people who lived and died here. She is one of three guides the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau hired to give tours of the city and county.

Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

tour bus around Sherman County. Most days, he is pastor of Grace Fellowship Church.

Passengers followed Walter and Snyder across the holy ground to the rose-colored vault, which had "Jim Gernhart 1876 - 1980" engraved on the front, with "Held his own funeral June 3, 1951" engraved below.

Leaving her notes in the bus, Walter explained that the Burlington man held

a funeral for himself every year because he wanted to be alive for the event. Gernhart would sit in his coffin during the funeral party, she said, pretending to be dead.

After a couple of decades, Gernhart's friends stopped attending the morbid parties, Walter said, which made him angry. Out of spite, the old man asked to be buried in Goodland instead of Burlington.

"He didn't want to be buried in the ground," said Walter, "so he had the vault made."

The small tour group shook their heads and asked, "Why?"

"Who knows why," Walter replied.

Although the program is still new, the bureau plans to begin offering tours of the city and county every Tuesday,

See TOUR, Page 7

Foreign exchange students say everything is different in Kansas

By Dana Sulsberger
The Goodland Daily News

Everything is different here, the three exchange students agreed: the food, the weather, school, the people and certainly the landscape.

After being in Goodland for 11 months, the three, Celia Bastida from Spain, Matheus Cirne from Brazil, and Zofie Feytons from Belgium, are getting ready to go home.

"I liked my trip to Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon best," said Bastida.

Cirne and Feytons were less specific. Feytons listed the county fair and the musical at the high school, and Cirne talked about their trip to Ohio and Washington.

Bastida, Cirne and Feytons are here on an exchange through the American Field Service, which has been bringing students to Goodland since 1971.

"We have had almost 60 exchange students in Goodland since the program started," Mary Porterfield, sponsor of the service's chapter here.

The students said they all had problems with the language when they first got here.

"I was homesick when I first got here," said Bastida, "but I think it was



Celia Bastida (T,L)



Matheus Cirne (T,R)



Zofie Feytons (R)

because of the language. It was very frustrating for me."

"I had difficult with my homework when I first got here because of the language," Feytons said.

"I had a hard time communicating with my host family when I first got here because I couldn't understand what they wanted," said Cirne.

They all agreed that being around

people who spoke English helped, and that the ability to speak it fluently was something they would take back to their home countries.

School is a lot easier here than at home, they all said, but it is also very different than school in their countries. In all their countries, their assignments are not graded. They are just expected to do them. There are two big exams that determine their grades.

Another difference is the distance between places here. The students agreed patience is one thing they had to learn by traveling.

"Things are more spread out here," said Bastida.

"In my country it takes 3 hours to get to another country," Feytons added. "Here, you drive three hours and you are still in Kansas."

Feytons, Bastida, and Cirne will soon be returning home to pursue their individual goals. They all said that they would like to visit Kansas again, but they wouldn't want to move here.

"I would like to thank everyone in Goodland for my time here," said Bastida.

"Now we will be homesick for here," added Cirne.

County report shows good money managing

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County has shown good fiscal management and real growth over a nine-year period, a Kansas State University professor told commissioners Tuesday.

Dr. John Leatherman of Manhattan gave the county a 20-page county report he said is part of a continuing project he heads. He said it contains preliminary information gathered after compiling county budgets and spending information from 1989 through 1997.

Accounting and budgets across the state are not uniform, but Leatherman said his database has been designed with a template that accounts for the major differences, and is inflation-adjusted to 1992 dollars.

The database includes both revenue and expenditures based on functions such as property tax, sales tax and special highway revenues and general fund, road and bridge and law enforcement on the expenditure side.

Leatherman told the commissioners the report and database are designed to help them in assessing trends in the income and spending in the county, and that in the future studies would be available from K-State for detailed analysis of specific trends compared to similar counties.

The report is expected to be released in March of each year with updates from the previous year. When the next report is released in March, Leatherman said, it should be updated through 1999.

In the preliminary report, Leatherman said that Sherman County appears to be in good fiscal shape, and that the efforts to keep taxes low have been fairly successful over the nine-year period.

Sherman County residents have seen an increase in real income of about 16 percent, which is ahead of the 13 percent state average. Based on 1992 dollars the per capita income was \$16,751 in 1989 and had increased to \$19,449 in 1997.

Over the same time, the county's population has decreased by 6 percent from 7,002 to 6,600. The average for the state was a decline of 2 percent, while the state's total population increased by 6 percent.

The report shows that the county's assessed value declined by 22 percent from \$55,011,826 in 1989 to \$42-,668,721 in 1997. The state average increased by 2 percent.

Total expenditures for the county increased by 25 percent in real, inflation-adjusted dollars, compared to the

See COUNTY, Page 7