

the goodland gazette

Greetings to one and all this week of Thanksgiving. It's hard to believe that the day is about upon us, which means Christmas is just a month away. Not to sound too bold, but I've got my Christmas shopping done, except for those that I usually get fresh food for. Maybe I'll get my Christmas letter out on time instead of just a few days before Dec. 25.

We lost a grand lady this past week in her battle with cancer. Mavis McDaniel was told only a few short months ago of her illness and her family and friends said their final good-bye on Friday. Not being able to attend the service, I did stop at the funeral home to pay my last respects to her. My sincere sympathy to J.R., Sondra and extended family members in this loss.

We have some very ill people in our area. Among them are Mac Been of Goodland and Vic Morin of Sharon Springs. Mac has some up days, but more down days. Vic's wife, Betty, told me that he has a mixture of good and bad. She is hoping to get him out of the hospital in the next few days and try to



jan
zwetzig
• goodland gazette

take care of him at home with help. I know the Been family would also like to get Mac home, but from my last report, it didn't look like it would be too soon for that to happen. Remember these two families with prayers as they struggle with the difficult time ahead of them.

My last reports on Leo Hatcher, Betty Saint, Isabelle Hellerud, Betty Rust and Wilma Pfau are that they are all trying and seeing some change in their conditions. Let's hope it continues and remember them in your prayers.

Yes, the kittens are still on my porch along with their mother and a couple of other strays. The little black one is as wild as you can imagine, but the little white-faced one is getting tamer day by

day. It stands up on the storm door and paws at my dog, Casey, inside. Casey barks at the kitten, but it just rubs its nose on the window and paws at him. After a few minutes, Casey turns around as if to say, no use wasting my time, it's not going to go away. I have to be very careful as it is always at the door and would without a doubt come in if I let it. I don't want it in the house and would be most happy if the cats found a new address of residence. One of our patients at Dr. Beynon's office said they knew a good home when they put it in park at my house.

I hadn't seen Bungee, a neighbor's dog, for a few days. Boy, did I get a royal welcome when I saw her Thursday. She was all over me and was washing my face as I held her. Reita, her owner, says when she's in the fence, she heads to the fence gate and sits there looking toward my house and waiting for me. If she's out and I drive down the alley, she just goes bonkers

and waits for me to stop and pick her up. What a character she is. After next week, she'll be the block adviser following her trip to the vet. Poor Bungee and just before Thanksgiving at that. Better that, than a bunch of unwanted puppies.

Boy, was it cold Thursday evening as I worked on finishing my column. Casey doesn't like this cold and will only go out if I take him and stay with him. You can believe me that these trips are no longer than needed.

Happy birthday to one and all if you are having one. Don't know of any birthdays or anniversaries, but do wish the best to anyone having either.

I'm watching the Colorado State University and Wyoming football game on TV. Colorado State is way ahead in the last few minutes of the game and the temperature is about 9 degrees. Everyone looks frozen and I don't envy those in attendance. Some team members are carrying a bucket of water and one of the announcers commented that he hoped the water was warm on this cold, cold night. Their

intention is, of course, to dump it over the coach's head. This win gives them the league championship and also an invitation to the Liberty Bowl in December. He just got the water dumped on him. Brrrrrrr.

I haven't a clue what Thanksgiving day will bring. With the weather as it is, my sister, Martha, doesn't want me to come to her place in Colorado. She worries about me when I travel in cold weather. She'd rather have me call than travel, so I will stay home. No point of doing something that will only upset her. It's something she doesn't need and neither do I. She's doing just fine and the pain she was having is gone, for the most part. Her therapy is coming along great and she will be out of the walker in a few days. Then watch

her go with the freedom of no walker. With no further ramblings, I'll close with a funny quote from my brother-in-law.

Character building — Spanking is something that must go, say some psychologists, although character building is a feat sometimes accomplished through the seat!

He sent me a whole bunch of funnies that I'll use from time to time. For now, have a safe and happy Thanksgiving with family and friends. If you know of someone who will be alone, is ill or just confined to their home, give them a call and ask if you can bring them a meal. You'll feel good for your thoughtfulness. 'Till next time, keep warm, remember your outdoor pets and take care.

School finance plans shot down by cost figures

By John Hanna
Associated Press Writer
TOPEKA — After months of work, a task force appointed by Gov. Bill Graves has proposed a package of education initiatives that is likely to die before it reaches his desk.

Parts of the package, particularly a proposal to examine spending in each district and determine the actual cost of a suitable education in each, could survive Graves' budget process and the 2001 Legislature.

But the entire package is bogged down by its cost, \$215 million. If other proposals from the State Board of Education endorsed by the task force are included on the wish list, the cost swells toward \$300 million.

The state won't have that kind of money for the budget Graves and legislators will be building for fiscal year 2002, which begins July 1 — unless Graves and legislators are willing to make large cuts in other state programs or increase taxes.

"If I was a school district, I wouldn't get the catalog out and start ordering yet," said Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer, chairman of the governor's Vision 21st Century Task Force.

And members of the school finance task force had months of hearings and closed meetings to reach the conclusion that tinkering with the state's 1992 school finance law isn't wise.

But the task force said the state can't rewrite the law without having a better handle on the cost of providing a suitable education.

As a quick fix, it advocated extra spending to increase the base budget for public elementary, junior high and high schools from its present \$3,820 to \$4,000 and to pay all the extra costs associated with special education programs, among other things.

The task force saw as outside its jurisdiction the one question that really matters.

"And where are they going to get that \$215 million?" asked Sen. Janis Lee, D-Kensington.

Even with new, more optimistic revenue estimates, the Graves administration expects to propose a flat budget for fiscal year 2002.

That's largely because of commitments worth more than \$170 million made in 1999 to highway projects, a new trust fund for children's programs and increased spending for the higher education system.

To shoehorn the task force's full proposal into a single year's budget would require the state to abandon those commitments and cut programs, or increase taxes.

Legislators aren't talking about large cuts because they'd have to take much of the money from social services and higher education, the other large parts of the state budget. In years past, they've struggled to trim amounts a fraction of what would be required next year.

"This is a reasonable and balanced proposal that reflects the reality of financing education, but to find the money to finance it will require some creative accounting or some political courage," said House Appropriations Chairman David Adkins, R-Leawood.

Adkins is one of the few legislators who has said he is willing to support a tax increase for education. Most legislators don't see it as something that's going to happen.

"My general feeling is that there's no support for a tax increase in the House or the Senate," said Senate Ways and Means Chairman Dave Kerr, R-Hutchinson, who is expected to become Senate president.

He added, "I think that whatever we do will need to work without a tax increase."

Democrats have long argued that education spending has remained inadequate, but they're not likely to push

for a tax increase. Having lost legislative seats in this year's elections, they're waiting for Graves, a Republican, to expend his political capital.

"Is the lame duck governor willing to bite the bullet and make a recommendation to raise taxes, and is the super-majority Republican House and Senate going to act responsibly and raise taxes for these programs?" asked Sen. Paul Feleciano, D-Wichita.

In theory, Graves is in a good political position to propose a tax increase. He won his second term in 1998 by the largest percentage in state history, and the state constitution prevents him from seeking a third term.

He told reporters during an October news conference: "I'm unlikely to recommend something like that."

Graves said he believes the state's budget picture will improve in coming years, making some increased spending on education likely. Over the course of several years, the increases could be significant, he said.

The governor told reporters that legislators don't seem interested in a tax increase, something any random survey, particularly of Republicans, confirms. They have no sense that Kansans, outside of teachers unions and school administrators, are willing to accept one.

"I think education is the only thing that could merit a tax increase, but I sense a strong reticence on the part of many legislators to raise taxes," Adkins said. "Nobody campaigned for election this year on raising taxes."

**EAGLE CABLE TV of GOODLAND**
114 W. 11th • Goodland, Kan. • (785) 899-3371

Wishes everyone a
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!


**Come into Eagle Cable TV &
other participating businesses
to register for the
Chamber's Holiday Spice Celebration.
\$100 & \$200 Weekly Scrip Drawings.**

Kickers S.T., LLC.
Restaurant & Lounge
*Food N' Drink
Dance N' Fun*

**Ron & Betty Barkley Anniversary
Dance with DJ Chad Jones
Saturday, Nov. 25, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
Dining Room Open • Daily Lunch Specials
(785) 899-3333 • 16th & Arcade • Goodland, Kan.**


79¢ Double Cheese
99¢ Cajun McChicken

*Dalmation Yo-Yo's now at
McDonald's!*

**Goodland • 2325 Enterprise Rd.
Burlington • 440 S. Lincoln**

Call for Daily Lunch Specials!

**Famous Home
Cooked Meals**

**RAY'S CAFE**
118 E. 17th
Goodland, Kan.
(785) 899-2221

**Football
Contest
3x14
100%
In Back**



**SPECIALS
THIS WEEK!**

Cheese Nachos \$1⁴⁹

**1631 Main
Goodland, Kan.
(785) 899-7100**

**Large 1-topping Pizza \$9⁰⁹
Hot Ham & Cheese Sub \$2⁵⁰**