

weather report

46°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:52 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:23 p.m.

Middy Conditions

• Soil Temperature 37 degrees

• Humidity 40 percent

• Sky cloudy

• Winds southwest 10 mph

• Barometer 30.00 inches and falling

• Record High 75° (1939)

• Record Low -8° (1972)

Last 24 Hours*

High 47°

Low 16°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy, chance of flurries, low 15-20, north winds 10-20 mph.

Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 40-45, low 20-25, northwest winds 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: dry, high 50s, low 20-25.

Friday: chance of snow, high 30, low 20.

Saturday: Chance of snow, high 30s, low 15-25.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.81 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.69

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$1.89 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.82

Loan deficiency pmt. — 17¢

Milo — \$3.07 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.40 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.38

Loan deficiency payment — 52¢

Millet — no posted price; ask.

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.75 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.19

Confection current — \$15/\$6 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$15

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Budget deal hard to reach

WASHINGTON — House Republicans gave their leaders a mixed reaction Tuesday to the effort to strike a budget compromise with President Clinton, a battle over school spending, immigration and other issues that forced a lame-duck Congress to return to the Capitol this week.

A day after congressional leaders held a 90-minute bargaining session in the Oval Office with Clinton and administration officials, House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., said he believed the two sides were “pretty close” to wrapping up this year’s long-running budget fight.

“We want to get it done this week,” he told a reporter.

After a closed-door meeting with GOP lawmakers, Hastert said rank-and-file legislators “don’t want a bad deal.”

City delays incentive plan

By Dana Sulsberger
The Goodland Daily News

City commissioners couldn’t agree on what they should do with a retail business incentive plan brought to the commission on Monday by the Goodland Chamber of Commerce.

Ron Harding, Chamber executive director, came before the commission during the visitors portion of the meeting with a proposal to give businesses an incentive to move to town by discounting their electrical bills.

Some commissioners felt that it was something they needed to do to attract a new business, while others said it was unfair to create competition with existing businesses.

Harding said at the Economic Development Summit several months ago, Scott McGinely, with Peoples Natural Gas, met with members of the county and city commissions and the economic development committee.

“McGinely suggested that the city or county start some type of incentive program to draw a business,” he said, “so we (the Chamber economic development committee) came up with this incentive proposal.”

Harding said he was meeting with some clients who might be interested in opening a new grocery this week and he was hoping to be able to show them the incentive proposal in place, so he wanted it passed that night.

The proposal would give discounts to any new business on electricity, water, and sewer bills for three years, with a review every year to make sure they were living up to their promises.

It would give a 5 percent discount to any business with one to five employees, a 10 percent for anyone with six to 10 employees, a 15 percent reduction on any new business with 11 to 15 employees, 20 percent for 16 to 20 employees and 25 percent for 21 employees or more.

Harding said a grocery, in particular, has a large electricity bill because of its refrigeration units.

“The electricity bill is a significant amount of money up front,” he said, “and it takes time for the business to build cash flow. Anything we can do to offset this might help the business survive.”

He said that in order to get the discount, a business would have to first show that it is creating jobs and an income in the community.

“I think we need to give economic development all the ammunition we can,” said Commissioner Curtis Hurd.

He said it might mean less money than usual for the city, but right now there isn’t a grocery in town. He said, though, that he would like to see it include existing businesses if they expand.

Commissioner Rick Billinger said that would be the only way that he would vote for it if something was put in for existing businesses.

“I don’t want to vote for this thing after only seeing it for five minutes,” said Commissioner Tom Rohr. “I would like some more information about what we are getting for profit now.”

“We can’t do it boom just like that.” Billinger agreed, saying he would want to see how the numbers work before he passed anything, but, he said, he felt Harding could tell his clients that the commission would support some kind of incentive.

Mayor Chuck Lutters disagreed. He said he wouldn’t support an incentive program.

“I think we are opening a can of worms here,” he said.

He added that he didn’t want to create any competition for existing businesses by giving another business an

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Officials approve lease for Van Gogh

One commissioner worried about project

By Dana Sulsberger
The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland City Commission approved an easement lease for the Sunflower U.S.A. Association on Monday, paving the way for the group to erect its 80-foot Van Gogh replica beside the new Cherry Street entrance to downtown.

Only one commissioner voting against the lease, Tom Rohr, who said he didn’t want the taxpayers to wind up paying to tear down or maintain the project years from now.

The commission also passed a noise ordinance and accepted a grant from the state Department of Wildlife and Parks.

The easement request — which came before the commission at their last meeting and was tabled because not all the commissioners were there — was voted on during their regular meeting on Monday night.

The commission asked what the next step for the committee will be. Darin Neufeld, an engineer with Evans-Bierly-Hutchinson and Associates and a member of the Sunflower Association, said at the bare minimum it will be

60 days before the painting can be erected.

He said they have to call in someone to dig the holes first and that will take at least two weeks, maybe longer with the holidays. After the holes are dug, concrete will be poured into them, but it will take 30 days for the concrete to set up.

“It is time to move on with this,” said Commissioner Curtis Hurd.

Commissioner Rick Billinger said he was worried this project might turn into “another Roadway,” but City Manager Ron Pickman said that shouldn’t happen this time because the Roadway contract had no time limit, but this lease agreement does.

Pickman explained that Roadway trucking leased a piece of property on south K-27 for \$10 a month, with the city and county splitting the property tax on the piece of property. Roadway pulled out their office and the employees stationed here and now just stores some trucks on the piece of land.

“The city lost a lot of revenue when

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This nativity scene is part of the exhibit showing the birth of Christ which is on display around the Goodland Regional Medical Center during December.
Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Christ is born at theater

Movie man shows ‘season’s greeting’ film to audiences

By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

It took almost three years to complete, but finally a Goodland man’s dream of making a short film that shows the birth of Christ, featuring an exhibit by area artists, is done.

Dave Branda, owner of the Sherman Theatre, with the help of some Goodland people and a film company out of Chicago, has created a film which shows the Christmas exhibit put up after Thanksgiving around the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Branda said he wanted to make a “season’s greetings” film that was unique to Goodland.

The exhibit, which depicts the birth of Christ using scripture verses to describe the scenes, was painted in 1988 by Goodland artists Connie Hatcher, Jeannette Foust and Maxine Rauscher. The project was funded by the late Ordie Billenwillms.

“I’ve always admired the exhibit,” Branda said, “and wanted to pay tribute to their talent and the reason for the celebration — Christ’s birth.”

Branda said he started the project during the Christmas season of 1997. He had Diane Koch of Goodland take pictures of the exhibit, but Branda said even though she is a good photographer, none of the pictures were usable. Then by the time they realized this, the exhibit had been taken down.

Branda tried again the following year. This time he had Glenda Cochran, former owner of “A Moment in Time” photo studio in Goodland, take



Dave Branda, owner of the Sherman Theatre, by his film projector.

the photos. Some of them didn’t turn out, so she had to retake some scenes. However, when the pictures were retaken, it was totally dark outside, so they didn’t match up with the earlier photos. Again, by that time, the exhibit had been taken down.

Then last year, Branda asked Mark Scheopner of Goodland, who is secretary and treasurer for Rhoads Con-

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Florida Supreme Court to hear Gore’s last-ditch appeal

TALLAHASSEE — George W. Bush, sounding ever more confident about victory, said Tuesday he hoped to “seize the moment” after winning the White House. The Florida Supreme Court agreed to hear arguments in Al Gore’s last-ditch appeal in the contested election to pick the nation’s 43rd president.

The vice president was in Washington, pinning his hopes on his appeal of a ruling Monday that reaffirmed Bush’s narrow certified victory in Florida and refused to order any recounts. At mid-day, the state Supreme Court announced it

would hear arguments on the case on Thursday.

Gore’s running mate, Sen. Joseph Lieberman, met privately with Democratic lawmakers.

“We have always said that the Florida Supreme Court will be the final arbiter,” Lieberman said.

That’s where Gore was headed, after Judge N. Sanders Sauls ruling on Monday on the vice president’s unprecedented legal challenge to Bush’s 537-vote win in Florida.

Bush’s running mate, Dick Cheney, was also on Capitol Hill, meeting with the GOP rank and file.

After weeks of fierce post-election combat,

Bush and Cheney both seemed to be going out of their way to soften their tone, wishing, perhaps, to grant Gore the room to bow out.

There were other developments in a post-election drama unlike any other.

A federal appeals court in Atlanta heard arguments in election-related cases. The Republican-controlled Florida Legislature marked time, prepared to call a special session to appoint a slate of electors loyal to Bush — but hoping it wouldn’t be necessary.

And lawyers for Gore and Bush faced a mid-

afternoon deadline to file legal papers with the state Supreme Court in yet another case, this one returned from the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday with instructions for the state high court to clarify a ruling it had made earlier.

Increasingly, it appeared as if the state Supreme Court’s disposition of Gore’s appeal might settle the contested election.

Gore lawyer Ron Klain, on NBC’s “Today” show, said that Sauls made “some very clear errors” which he predicted would be reversed by the Florida Supreme Court.