

## weather report

24°

at noon



### Today

• Sunset, 5:23 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:36 a.m.  
• Sunset, 5:25 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 30 degrees  
• Humidity 74 percent  
• Sky mostly cloudy  
• Winds east 9 mph  
• Barometer 30.45 inches and steady  
• Record High 72° (1970)  
• Record Low -17° (1993)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 42°  
Low 18°  
Precipitation none

### Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy, becoming foggy, low 15, southeast wind 10-15 mph.  
Tomorrow: Cloudy with fog early then becoming partly cloudy, high 35-40, low 20s, south wind 10-20 mph.

### Extended Forecast

Sunday: dry, high 50-55. Monday and Tuesday: high 40, low 15-25.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## Board goes for new labs

### School remodeling moving forward

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland School Board on Monday OK'd plans to knock down walls on the high school's second floor, build three new science laboratories and put in top-of-the-line science equipment and work stations.

The district's architect, members of the building committee — formed to help design the new labs — and science teachers attended the regular meeting, where board members approved final plans — a year or more in the making.

The project includes knocking down walls between three classrooms, including two math classrooms and a special education room, and putting in three science labs and two storage/preparation areas.

Glen Strait, owner of Strait and Associates in Colby, told members one of the math classrooms would be moved to a room across the hall. The group discussed remodeling the high school's vocal music room, a large area that's empty for most of the school day, to fit in the special education class.

The board decided to let Strait — who helped design the Max Jones Fieldhouse addition, the district's big project last year — gather costs for construction and equipment, but has yet to give the green light for contractors to start knocking down walls.

Once Strait receives prices from construction and science furniture companies, the board will review the bids and pick two, or decide to seek more. The district plans to start construction by June.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said the district must order the work stations, which include sinks and are handicap accessible, and other equipment soon to have the new classrooms finished by the start of next school year. Members agreed to include the equipment cost in any construction contract they approve to speed up delivery.

Though many times equipment is ordered later, Strait said he discovered while designing the Max Jones addition it's better to get it out of the way as soon as possible. He said it gives him time to figure out construction specifications while science equipment companies are putting together bids.

Strait said the three new classrooms will include a field science lab, an earth science lab and a biology-chemistry II lab. He said a large classroom across the hall, south of the new math room, will become a physics-chemistry I lab.

Two storage/preparation rooms will separate the three new classrooms, he said, and all the labs will be equipped with necessary safety devices, such as fume hoods and shower centers.

At an earlier meeting, Superintendent Selby said Strait estimated the cost would be \$600,000, but neither would venture to guess on Monday.

The idea for the project began forming over a year ago, when the school board decided one of its top goals was to improve the science department at the high school. Members asked Strait to design new classrooms in the high school's courtyard, but decided it was too expensive when Strait returned with the designs earlier this school year.

The board formed a building committee, comprising two students, teachers, administrators, business people and the mayor, who is the district's maintenance man, to find a place to put new science rooms and research the cost of installing air conditioners in schools.

At first, the building committee was interested in finding a way to fit the junior high into the high school — a move that could be necessary if enrollments drop low enough — but later decided to put off those plans.

Member Mike Campbell said he wanted Strait to talk with administrators in Hays or from other districts who have completed similar projects. Strait said he has gone through reams of information on lab equipment and has had several meetings with the high school science teachers and school administrators.



## Rally sparks school spirit

A pep rally for the wrestling and basketball teams was held at the high school Thursday. Athletes Andrew Melia, Bryce Bahe, Kyle Whisler and Nathan Thompson were blindfolded, kissed by a cheerleader and asked which one had kissed them. Instead their mothers kissed them. Melia (above) laughed when he realized it was his mom, Kathy Melia. Kami Pianalto, Mandi Meissinger and Lacy Stephens (left to right) led a cheer. Photos by Janet Craft The Goodland Daily News



## Sales tax might fund public schools

TOPEKA (AP) — A group of senators is proposing to increase the state sales tax to 5.5 cents on the dollar over three years to raise additional money for public schools.

The plan presented Thursday in the Senate Education Committee would increase spending by \$75 million above what Gov. Bill Graves has budgeted for fiscal year 2002.

"This is not the perfect plan," said Senate Education Chairman Dwayne Umbarger. "There's 165 legislators and

the governor under the dome. The group felt it was important to start pushing the envelope."

The proposal raises the base state aid per pupil in fiscal year 2002 by \$90 to \$3,910, or \$40 more than Graves recommended. It also pays 92.5 percent of the excess costs for special education. Base aid would increase to \$4,000 in 2003 and \$4,090 in 2004. Special education would be funded at 96 percent in 2003 and 2004.

To pay for the plan, the group advo-

cates raising the statewide sales tax by 0.2 of a percentage point each year for three years. The rate currently is 4.9 percent. Revenues from the increase would be \$79.2 million in 2003 and \$82.2 in 2004.

The plan was offered by Sens. John Vratil, R-Leawood; Umbarger, R-Thayer, Christine Downey, D-Newton and Majority Leader Lana Oleen, R-Manhattan.

The group met Wednesday night to outline the plan, Umbarger said, considering all revenue sources, including income, liquor and cigarette tax increases.

Umbarger wants to build support before the plan goes to the entire Senate.

In his State of the State address last month, Graves said his \$2.6 billion education budget was not enough to cover all needs, but did not recommend a tax increase. His budget added \$68 million to education using existing state revenues.

"It's exactly the kind of effort, stimulating discussion in the Republican caucus, that needs to happen," Graves said of the proposal.

## Collision brings call for review

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush called on the Pentagon to review the role of civilians in military exercises like the emergency ascent drill that a Navy submarine was performing with two civilians at the controls when it sank a Japanese fishing vessel.

"I think what's going to be necessary is for Secretary Rumsfeld and the Defense Department to review all policy regarding civilian activity during military exercises," Bush told reporters at the White House on Thursday.

Sixteen civilians were aboard the attack submarine USS Greeneville when the accident happened. Two were at control stations under the supervision of qualified helmsmen, and Navy officials said this is done routinely. They insist the practice had nothing to do with the errors that caused the collision.

Bush seemed to have some doubt.

"I look forward to the Defense Department review of the policies, the current policies, particularly in light of the recent tragedy that took place in Hawaii," Bush said. "I want to reiterate what I said to the prime minister of Japan — I'm deeply sorry about the accident that took place, our nation is sorry that the accident happened, and we will do everything we can to help recover the bodies."

Civilians are still being allowed to take trips on U.S. submarines, Navy spokesman Cmdr. Greg Smith said Thursday night. He declined, however, to comment on a New York Times report that the Navy had already ordered submarine commanders not to allow civilians to sit at the controls, at least until the investigation is over, or to come aboard subs conducting emergency training maneuvers.

Sen. Carl Levin, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said in an interview Thursday he believes the focus on civilians aboard the Greeneville has distracted attention from the real issue.

"The likely problem relates to the failure of the sensors — either the (periscope) or the sonars — to see the vessel, rather than whose finger was on the button that brought the sub up to the surface," Levin said. He added it was too early to rule out the possibility the civilians somehow distracted the crew, but believes the central question is why the Japanese vessel was not spotted.

Navy spokesman Rear Adm. Stephen Pietropaoli told reporters Thursday that the Atlantic and Pacific submarine fleets are reviewing procedures in connection with the embarkation of civilian guests on sea maneuvers.

## Leaky roof a priority on agenda

City Clerk Mary Volk said the roof on the city offices, 204 W. 11th, is leaking and the Goodland City Commission on Monday will consider paying to have it fixed.

The commission will meet at 5 p.m. in the city offices to work through a short agenda, which includes signing papers to close out a state grant the city received in 1999 to demolish old buildings and homes.

Commissioners will also consider giving \$5,000 to the Carnegie Arts Center. Director Rebecca Downs said the annual grant helps pay for the center's operations.

The commission will also:

- Make two appointments to the Building Board of Appeals.
- Consider granting home occupation permits to Carlene Fenner for a daycare center at 217 W. 12th St., and Annette Fairbanks for a Home Abstracting Business at 517 Main.

- Review an ordinance that talks about construction on city streets and alleys.

- Hear reports from Mayor Chuck Lutters, the commissioners and City Manager Ron Pickman.

## local markets



### Noon

Wheat — \$2.72 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.69  
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢  
Corn — \$1.90 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.90  
Loan deficiency payment — 9¢  
Milo — \$3.05 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$3.97 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.85  
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.05  
Millett — \$7.25 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$6.10 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.61  
Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$14 (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.

## U.S. planes attack Bagdad

WASHINGTON — U.S. and British planes struck Iraqi air defense sites south of Baghdad today in a mission meant to destroy radar systems that had been threatening American and British aircraft, Pentagon officials said.

"We fired on some integrated air defense targets in Iraq," one official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

All planes involved in the attack returned safely, the official said. Some of the Iraqi radars were located north of the 33rd Parallel, which marks the outer limit of the "no-fly" zone that U.S. and British planes have been enforcing over southern Iraq since the end of the 1991 Gulf War.