

weather  
report

57°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 6:07 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:35 a.m.  
• Sunset, 6:08 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 41 degrees  
• Humidity 34 percent  
• Sky partly cloudy  
• Winds northeast 15-23 mph  
• Barometer 29.81 inches  
and steady  
• Record High 88° (1943)  
• Record Low 2° (1987)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 53°  
Low 31°  
Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 20 percent chance of rain, low 30-35, north wind 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 60, low 35, west 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: chance of rain or snow, high 35-45. Sunday: chance of rain or snow, high 45-55, low 25-35. Monday: dry, high 55-65, low 30-35. (National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.72 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.59  
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢  
Corn — \$1.92 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.80  
Loan deficiency payment — 19¢  
Milo — \$3.07 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$3.83 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.80  
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.10  
Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$6.60 cwt.  
Loan deficiency prnt. — \$3.14  
Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$14 (new crop)  
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, 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.

Court rules  
to protect site

SAN FRANCISCO — An anti-abortion Web site that listed the names and addresses of abortion doctors, branded them “baby butchers” and criminals is protected by the First Amendment, a federal appeals court has ruled.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Wednesday threw out a \$107 million verdict against the activists who had compiled the information, saying they could be held liable only if the material authorized or directly threatened violence.

“If their (works) merely encouraged unrelated terrorists, then their words are protected by the First Amendment,” Circuit Judge Alex Kozinski wrote for the panel.

The ruling came two years after a jury in Portland, Ore., ordered a dozen abortion foes to pay damages to Planned Parenthood and four doctors.

Panel endorses tax hike for schools

House approves bill to cut revenues for secondary and elementary education

TOPEKA (AP) — After the Senate Education Committee endorsed a series of tax increases to raise extra money for public schools, the House tentatively approved a bill to cut a source of revenue for education.

The House voted 61-56 today to cut the state-wide mill levy for elementary and secondary education to 18 to 20 mills in fiscal year 2003. The bill also raises an exemption for residential property to the first \$30,000 of its appraised value, from \$20,000, in the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Rep. John Edmonds, R-Great Bend, said the

result will be a \$13 million reduction in property taxes in the next fiscal year and a \$45 million reduction in the following fiscal year.

Meanwhile, the Senate Education Committee endorsed a two-year school finance package Wednesday that would increase base state aid by \$240 per student and raise taxes on sales, tobacco, liquor and soft drinks.

The House Taxation Committee met Thursday to discuss both the Senate plan and Gov. Bill Graves’ school finance plans. Members heard from education lobbyists, who have endorsed the packages, acknowledging that the are the best to

be expected in a tight budget year.

The committee’s package generates \$110.5 million in new revenue for elementary and secondary education in the state’s 2002 fiscal year, which begins July 1, and \$152.8 million in fiscal 2003.

However, the tax increases fall short of financing the package by about \$30 million, which would be made up from existing state revenues.

The bill increases base aid per pupil by \$110 in fiscal year 2002, to \$3,930 from \$3,820, and another \$130 in 2003, to \$4,060. It also increases state support for special education programs and adds \$44 per pupil for extra school hours, such as

in summer school.

“I don’t know what else we can put in this bill,” said Sen. Dwayne Umbarger, R-Thayer and Senate Education Committee chairman.

Senators used elements of a plan created by Umbarger and three others earlier this session, as well as Graves’ \$112 million proposal unveiled two weeks ago. The Senate plan is amended to a House bill dealing with higher education that passed earlier this session.

Graves said Wednesday he has talked to Umbarger and the committee leadership about the plan and is pleased with the product.



John Kritser (left) and Bert Schlyer with Commercial Builders in Hays staked out the site today where a \$1.8 million travel information center

will go up this summer. Workers have torn down the old center, 10 miles west of Goodland on I-70, clearing the spot for the new building.

Photos by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

New travel center going up; staff moves

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

What was once a state travel information center 10 miles west of Goodland is now a pile of dirt and concrete, but construction workers say a new center will be up by January.

Earlier this month, the center’s staff moved into a mobile office south of the Apple Trail Restaurant on K-27, while construction crews started tearing down the old center near Kanorado.

With demolition nearly finished, workers say they will start building the new center in mid-April, finishing the \$1.8 million project by next year. Commercial Builders of Hays is the general contractor, with Tim Moritz Construction of Tribune responsible for the demolition and dirt work.

“We’re living with temporary, cramped quarters,” said Julia Crotinger, travel center supervisor. “It’s amazing that people are finding us.”

The Kansas Department of Transportation put up signs directing motorists to the temporary office in Good-

land, she said, but the move has drastically cut the number of visitors. Crotinger said the fact that the tan building doesn’t have a sign isn’t helping.

“Roughly 30 to 40 people stop each day,” she said. “At this time of year, we usually get 400 visitors a day. When we get a sign, it will help.”

Crotinger said when the wind dies down, staff will put up a banner and plans to replace the stairs with sturdier ramps. In the summer, she said, the center usually attracts 1,000 visitors a day, which could mean more customers for businesses along K-27.

Many business owners said profits suffered last summer while crews repaired a busy portion of K-27 and repaved I-70 exit ramps — closing them during busy times in the tourist season.

Jo Simmons, Chamber of Commerce office manager, said the center’s new location will be announced in a newsletter, but the Chamber doesn’t plan to advertise Goodland beyond brochures at the center and the Sinclair gas station on K-27.



Tim Moritz, owner of Moritz Construction in Tribune, used a backhoe today to breakup the cement base of a former state travel information center near Kanorado, which will be replaced by a new center this year.

New pickup on agenda

Sheriff Doug Whitson will meet with the Sherman County commissioners Friday morning to review bids for a new four-wheel-drive pickup.

The meeting, which begins at 8 a.m., is the last meeting of the month and the commissioners will be approving bills. Bids will also be presented by William McKnight, building maintenance, for aerating the lawns at the courthouse, the fairgrounds and the Bastille.

Paul Rainbolt, administrator of the Good Samaritan Center, will meet to review the proposed improvements which the commissioners discussed during a tour on March 6.

The main improvement being planned is installation of an elevator on the southeast wing to allow access to

the basement. Bids are to be opened Tuesday afternoon and Rainbolt will meet with the commissioners at 8 a.m. Friday, April 6, to review the bids.

The commissioners are expected to sign a fire extinguisher agreement with Dennis Bentzinger’s Med-Enterprises. He has signed the contract and it is now up to the commissioners.

Mary Ann Snethen will discuss a proposal from an area phone company to put all cell phones under a single plan. The proposal could save some money, and also allow an increase in the number of phones.

The meeting is held in the commissioners room on the main floor of the Sherman County Courthouse at Eighth Street and Broadway Avenue.

State to take over Emporia home  
owned by William Allen White

TOPEKA (AP) — The House has approved a bill to allow the state to take possession of the Emporia home of legendary editor William Allen White.

The 121-4 vote Wednesday returned the bill to the Senate, which approved it three weeks ago but must consider an amendment added by the House Appropriations Committee.

The measure would let the state Historical Society turn the home into a museum. The House amendment says that federal funds, money from local governments or donations will pay operating costs.

Already designated a national historic landmark, the house has been visited by six presidents and has a front staircase designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

White, an Kansas native born in 1868, edited *The Emporia Gazette* for 49 years, starting in 1895. He died in 1944.

He won the Pulitzer Prize for a 1922 editorial, “Letter to an Anxious Friend.”

He first came to national attention for his 1896 editorial, “What’s the Matter with Kansas?,” an attack on the Populist Party.

Mayor  
to seek  
new term

Kanorado leader  
in office 10 years

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Kanorado Mayor Hazel Estes will be on the ballot again in Sherman County’s general election Tuesday, saying there are projects going on she would like to see through.

Estes, 64, has been mayor of Kanorado for 10 years.

She said the City Council is working to improve the appearance of the town. She would like to see the old, dilapidated buildings either torn down or fixed up.

She would like to have a tax sale, also, as there are several properties in Kanorado that people haven’t paid taxes on. She said the city and county are getting no revenue from them.

Estes grew up in Kanorado and graduated from high school there. She moved away for awhile, but moved back in 1990.

Single, she is an insurance agent with Farm Bureau in Goodland. Before moving back, she lived at Elizabeth, Colo., and was a planning commissioner there for a few years.

She said the council has worked to maintain the town’s water lines, streets and sewer system, which need constant attention, and replace city equipment. She said she thinks they work well together on these things.

The council started a trash service several years ago with dumpsters and scheduled pickups, as well as a recycling service, Estes said.

Slowly, she said, the council is improving things.

Estes said she would like to see more businesses in Kanorado, but doesn’t know if that will ever happen or not.

It’s a trend that people are moving away from smaller communities, she said.

“Kanorado seems to hold its own,” she added.

She said though that maybe the council needs to set a goal of searching for businesses.

“That may be something we need to concentrate on if we’re going to get some businesses,” she said.

Estes said since she has attended some meetings with Kansas PRIDE, a program which works to improve the quality of life in communities, she has seen instances where small communities have brought a viable business to their town.

She said some small communities will capitalize on a historical building or event, but Kanorado really doesn’t have anything like that other than being the last town when leaving Kansas and the first one on entering the state from Colorado.

Also, she said it takes time, money and workers to make some of these things happen.

“It’s a challenging job, sometimes,” she said, “but other times we get a lot accomplished.”



Hazel Estes