

weather
report

71°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:26 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:04 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:27 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 47 degrees
• Humidity 29 percent
• Sky partly sunny
• Winds southwest 15 mph
• Barometer 29.98 inches
and steady
• Record High 97° (1987)
• Record Low 14° (1944)

Last 24 Hours*

High 55°
Low 21°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 45-50,
west wind 5-15 mph. Tomorrow:
Partly sunny, high 85, low mid 40s,
west wind 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday: dry, high 80. Saturday:
high 80, low 40. Sunday: high 70s,
low 40s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.82 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.71
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Corn — \$1.93 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.82
Loan deficiency payment — 17¢
Milo — \$3.08 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.78 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.68
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.22
Millett — \$6.00 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.55 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.00
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.

Fed cuts rates,
market soars

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve, demonstrating it still has the capacity to surprise, cut a key interest rate by one-half percentage point today. Stocks immediately soared.

The rate cut was the fourth this year and the second outside a regularly scheduled Fed meeting. It took investors by surprise because Wall Street had given up hope that the central bank would cut rates before its next regularly scheduled meeting in May.

At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 440 points and the Nasdaq had gained 170 points, topping the 2,000 level for the first time since March 15.

The Fed cut its target for the federal funds rate — the interest that banks charge each other on overnight loans — to 4.5 percent. Bank of America said it was cutting its prime lending rate to 7.50 percent.

Technical college hires new leader

President will retire in June

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

The president of a technical college in northeast Kansas will take over when Larry Keirns, Northwest Kansas Technical College president for 37 years, retires in June.

The area board of control for Goodland's technical college hired Ken

Clouse, president of the Northeast Kansas Technical College in Atchison, on Tuesday, after interviewing three finalists last week. Clouse will start on July 1, as June 30 will be Keirns' last day.

"I'm going to have some big shoes to fill," said Clouse, noting that he's impressed with the college's management. "It's going to be a challenge, but I'm always ready for a challenge."

Chairman Mark Smith said the 24-member board, representing 24 school



Ken Clouse

districts in northwest Kansas, started accepting applications on March 1, receiving 10—including one from Richard Hoffman, assistant president. Hoffman, who's held the job for four years, was a finalist for the president position.

Smith, who represents a Greeley County school district, said Clouse, a technical college president for five years, has more experience than Hoffman.

"It was a very difficult decision for the board," he said. "It came down to

experience."

Before moving to Atchison, Clouse, 51, worked for 14 years at Pratt Community College, moving through the positions of President of Technical Education, Division President and Dean of Occupational Education.

Smith said Clouse, who helped Atchison's technical school become a college in 2000, has the experience to make the transition to a college here smooth.

After the state Legislature and Gov. Bill Graves approved, Goodland's technical school became a college in March, allowing the institution to

award associate-level college degrees to students who have had to settle for certificates.

The college is now seeking national accreditation through the Council on Occupational Education based in Atlanta, Ga. Smith said a committee that visited the Goodland campus in April will make a recommendation to the council, which will decide in June.

"I have confidence the area board hired someone who will continue the standard of excellence at the technical college," Smith said. "Mr. Clouse has

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New swimming pool may open in late May

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

With about six weeks left until the proposed opening, Goodland's Steever Water Park is nearing completion and could be ready for use by late May.

Goodland's Public Works Director Ed Wolak said the city is shooting to open the water park around Memorial Day, but that date could move back.

Gilbert Thomas, job superintendent for Rhoads Construction of Goodland—the general contractor—said workers have finished putting hardware on all the doors in the buildings surrounding the pool this week and have put sealer on the floors in the offices, meeting room and chemical room. He said the crew would probably finish applying sealer on the two pool room floors this week and do cleanup.

Thomas said he is hoping Superior Fencing from Dodge City, the company which is to put up the fence around the park, will be here next week.

He said the company hadn't received all of their necessary supplies, yet. They were to check on them and call Thomas back next week to let him know when they would be here to do the work. But, he said, all the concrete work is finished.

Thomas said Wilbur Tiede, a contractor in Goodland, is leveling the dirt around the pools in preparation for the underground sprinklers and sod to be put in place.

The framework for the two diving boards and a lifeguard's chair have also been installed and Wolak said the pool painting should start soon.

First, he said, the pool will be hosed down using a city fire truck and then a mild acid solution will be applied to clean the pool surface of any foreign matter that might stop the paint from sticking.

After the acid is left on for awhile, he said, it will be washed away and then the pool will be painted.

The pool ladders will be installed after the pool is painted, Wolak said, but the diving boards won't be installed until the area is secure.

He said the city may have to wait for the city's sanitary sewer line to be hooked up to the sewer lines for the pool buildings.

McClure's Plumbing and Heating of



Kurt Tate of Pueblo, Colo., cut a piece of natural gas pipe Tuesday afternoon at Steever Water Park in Goodland. Tate's employer, K.R.

Swordfeger of Pueblo, was hired by Peoples Natural Gas Co., who is a subcontractor on the project, to install gas meters at the water park.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Goodland has the items ordered to hook up the sewer lines, but is waiting on the items to be delivered.

Once that is finished, Wolak said, there will still be some touch up painting

and testing of equipment to be done. He said the testing will be to make sure everything is operating properly.

As opening date gets closer, Wolak said, there will be a few days when city

staff will receive training on how to operate the pool equipment and learn the proper chlorination and cleaning of the pools—as the equipment is different than anything they have worked

with before.

"I know the kids are anxious," he said, "but they'll have to wait. We still have a month and a half."

Tense meeting 'not productive'

U.S. officials want spy plane returned

WASHINGTON — American and Chinese officials held a tense 2 1/2-hour meeting about spy flights and U.S. officials are threatening to break off further talks unless Beijing is willing to discuss the return of a Navy reconnaissance jet. The White House called today's meeting in Beijing "not productive."

"We made our case and they made their case," said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer as he briefed reporters while President Bush toured an elementary school in Waterbury, Conn.

Fleischer said there will be further discussions on an agenda of the meeting tonight.

National Security Council spokeswoman Mary Ellen Countryman said the two sides met for 2 1/2 hours and made no progress.

"The United States presented our view of the cause of the accident. The



Standoff U.S.-China
Goodland prepares
homecoming for
pilot Jeff Vignery.



Chinese continued to present their version of events," she said. "We basically covered no new ground."

The question of the plane's return was not settled, Countryman said.

As a result of the standoff, U.S. Ambassador Joseph Prueher will call the foreign ministry and inform the Chinese government it must respond to the U.S. demand for return of the Navy aircraft if a second session is to be held.

Prueher will meet with Foreign ministry officials around 9 p.m. EDT and "he will tell them it makes sense to continue to meet only if there's productive discussion about return of the aircraft," Countryman said.

The two sides have opposing views. China insists the U.S. plane swerved, causing the collision, but the American crew reported after its release last week that the Navy plane was on a steady course.

Chinese officials had advised the United States to expect straight-forward negotiations, an approach the State Department welcomed. The Chinese also declined to say whether they would discuss return of the EP-3E Aries II, which was filled with top-secret surveillance equipment.

China is demanding an end to U.S. reconnaissance flights. The U.S.

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Legislators unveil plan for \$65 million in cuts

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — House leaders outlined a proposal today to solve the state's budget problems and cut \$65.1 million from spending already approved — almost twice as much as a rival Senate plan.

The proposal would trim out-of-state travel by government employees, close two minimum-security prison work centers, limit university faculty pay raises to 3 percent and delay payments to doctors and hospitals providing medical services to the poor and elderly.

But the House leaders also propose to preserve a 3 percent pay increase for most government workers, keep up with the increasing number of people using social services and a proposal Gov. Bill Graves introduced in January to increase aid to public schools by \$50 per pupil.

"It's all about setting priorities," Rep. Kenny Wilk, R-Lansing, said during a news conference.

Legislators are trying to reconcile the appropriations they've already made with expected revenues for the state's 2002 fiscal year, which begins July 1. The gap they're trying to close is \$205 million.

During a Senate Ways and Means Committee meeting Tuesday, Chairman Steve Morris proposed cutting \$32.8 million from spending already approved for the state's 2002 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Under Morris' plan, only \$10 million would come from general government programs — compared to \$25.7 million in the House plan.

Both proposals assume the state will step up its collection of delinquent taxes, adding staff at the Department of Revenue for a net increase in revenues of \$42 million in fiscal 2002.

Both also tap special funds not normally used to finance general government programs, and both anticipate siphoning off extra federal nursing home

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