

weather report

86°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:38 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:48 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:40 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 66 degrees
- Humidity 26 percent
- Sky partly sunny
- Winds northwest 11 mph
- Barometer 30.04 inches and rising
- Record High 96° (1992)
- Record Low 22° (1950)

Last 24 Hours*

High	86°
Low	54°
Precipitation	trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, low 45-50, northwest wind 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, high 90, low 40-45, southwest wind 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: chance of thunderstorms, high 60s. Thursday and Friday: chance of thunderstorms, high 60s, lows in the upper 30s-mid 40s.

(National Weather Service)

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

local markets



Noon

- New wheat — \$2.95 bushel
 - Current wheat — \$3.95 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.78
 - Corn — \$1.83 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.67
 - Loan deficiency payment — 32¢
 - Milo — \$2.92 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$3.84 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.59
 - Loan deficiency payment — \$1.31
 - Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil new crop — \$5.90 cwt.
 - Oil current crop — \$6.60
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.21
 - Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$14 (new crop)
- (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Stigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century)

after-noon

Late news from the Associated Press



1 p.m. Ex-cop releases

BOULDER, Colo. — A retired investigator who was involved in the JonBenet Ramsey case presented photos on national television today that he says support a theory that an intruder killed the 6-year-old.

The photos, including a picture of a white cord wrapped around the child's wrist, were shown on NBC's *Today* show by retired homicide Detective Lou Smit, who initiated the intruder theory.

Police have said the child's parents, John and Patsy Ramsey, remain under an umbrella of suspicion, a claim they have repeatedly denied. No one has been charged in the 1996 case.

In interviews *Today*, Smit re-emphasized that he believes police focused on the parents and failed to examine Smit's theory. Smit recounted clues that he believes point to an intruder.



People of all ages were at the KKCI-KLOE-KWGB Home and Garden Show held Saturday and Sunday at the Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland. Kate Zelfer, 2, daughter of Sam and Diane Zelfer of Goodland, played with water Saturday afternoon from a fountain at the Rasure Do-It-Center booth.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily

Becoming a master in the gar-

Class only requires a love of

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Christie Rasure says she likes gardening and loves plants in general, and got into the Master Gardeners program as a way to learn more about both.

"One thing about gardening, it's she said, is you're always learning."

The Master Gardeners had a display at this weekend's KKCI-KLOE-KWGB Home and Garden Show at

the Max Jones Fieldhouse. The group is made up of people who have taken the Master Gardeners course and work with the county extension agent in different areas of plant science.

The Master Gardeners program, taught through Kansas State Extension and Research, began in northwest Kansas last winter. It got started as a way to train and recruit help for county agricultural extension agents, who may have a big area to cover, Rasure said. The volunteers promote K-State's horticultural goals and methods.

Those who become certified as Master Gardeners can volunteer

through their extension office to pass information to others. Master Gardener volunteers are supervised and guided by extension horticultural advisors.

At this time, Rasure is the only certified Master Gardener here, but Harold and Mary Ann Sneath, Kay Melia, Lou Spinney and Barb Eisenbart are in training.

To become a certified Master Gardener, they must complete 40 hours of classes and 40 hours of community service.

Rasure became certified in March after driving to Hill City once a week last year to take classes. She said she

judged at fairs and gave extension talks to fulfill her volunteer time.

To keep her certification, she has to do 20 hours of volunteer time and take eight hours of classes each year.

She has given tours to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts on a half-acre vegetable garden at her home three miles west of Goodland as part of her volunteer hours.

"I like working with the kids like that," she said.

Rasure said she plants her vegetable garden in the spring and then sells the produce at the farmer's market at Ra-

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Trying to fix budget mess can get

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — You can put lipstick on a pig, but it's still a pig.

That old Kansas axiom, sometimes repeated at the Capitol, is worth remembering as legislators work on a plan for solving the state's budget problems.

Three senators and three House members have been negotiating over the last spending bill of the year, after their respective chambers approved rival proposals.

Both proposals relied heavily on gimmickry — accounting changes, confiscating money that is not normally used to pay general government expenses, putting expenses off and a few decisions legislators found questionable.

The final product is likely to get the state through its 2002 fiscal year, which begins July 1, without creating new and bigger problems for fiscal 2003. But it is not likely to be something for which legislators will want to be remembered.

"I don't know how ugly the House got; my guess is somewhat uglier than us," said Senate President Dave Kerr, R-Hutchinson. "We were ugly enough."

Senators and House members are trying to close a \$206 million gap in the budget for fiscal 2002.

Before they recessed on April 6, legislators approved a bill containing \$9.11 billion in spending, most of the 2002 budget. Gov. Bill Graves signed it last week.

The bill appropriates \$4.66 bil-

lion from the general fund, which is where the state deposits most of its tax revenues and the largest source of money for Kansas government programs. The increase in general fund spending would be \$230 million, or 5.2 percent.

But the state can't afford to spend that much, not with the amount of revenue it now expects to collect in fiscal 2002. That's why the budget gap exists.

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New college president brings family to

Atchison man says job will be a step

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

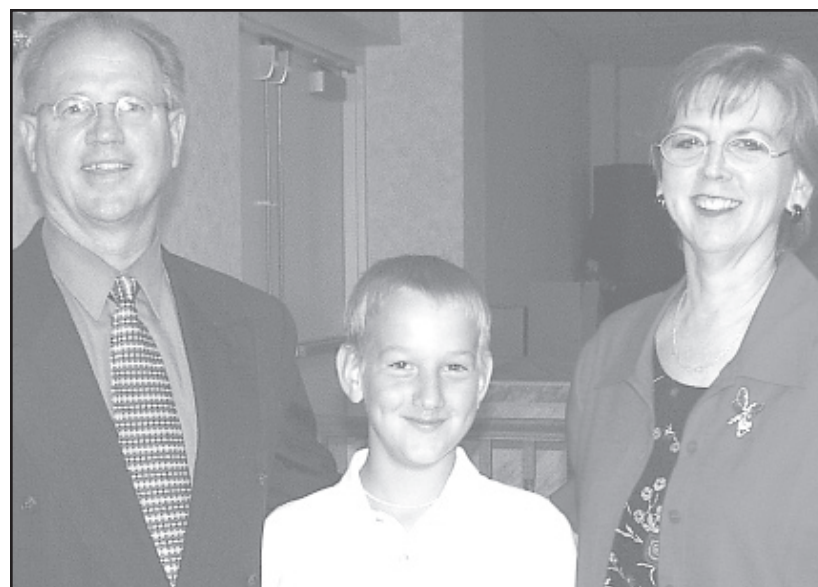
Ken Clouse, the new president of the Northwest Kansas Technical College, was in Goodland with his family this weekend to look at houses and meet members of the board.

Clouse, now president of a technical college in northeast Kansas, said he probably won't be back until June, when he'll become the school's first new chief in more than 30 years. Larry Keirns is retiring then after 35 years on the job.

After spending the day walking through houses, Clouse, his wife JoAnn and son Brennen, 10, met the 24 members of the college's Board of Control on campus. The group ate dinner at the student union and Clouse attended a board meeting where members officially hired him.

The new president will start work on July 1, but said he plans to follow Keirns around for a few days before that.

"I want to learn the tricks of the trade," he said, noting that he's impressed with what Keirns has accomplished in his long tenure.



Ken Clouse, Northwest Kansas Technical College's next president, his wife JoAnn and son Brennen. The family plans to move to Goodland in June.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland

Clouse said the technical college he runs in Atchison, which has twice the population of Goodland, has about half the number of students. He said it doesn't have a student union or fitness center on campus. The college here recently built a fitness center and now named after Larry Keirns and will open it to students on Tuesday.

The buildings here, Clouse said, create more of a college environment,

which attracts students. Until a month ago, though, the college here was classed as a technical school.

Gov. Bill Graves signed a bill granting college status in March, allowing the institution to award two-year associate degrees. The Northeast Kansas Technical College, which Clouse runs, reached college status last year.

Clouse said moving here is a step up for him.

"I really feel like it is a terrific opportunity," he said, adding that he and his wife plan to stay in Goodland for a long time, maybe forever.

Clouse is in his fifth year as head of the college in Atchison. Before that, he worked for 14 years at Pratt Community College, moving through the positions of President of Technical Education, Division President and Dean of Occupational Education.

Clouse said he will have to assess the college's strengths and weaknesses before making any changes.

"I'm going to contemplate that for four to six months," he said. "I want time to get my feet on the ground."

He said one of his goals will be to manage enrollment, making sure that there are enough students to justify each program.

"If you do it smartly," he said, "it will generate growth and hopefully new programs."

He said every technical college needs four things: good facilities and equipment, a strong faculty and employers to hire students.

The college here has all of those key ingredients, he said, noting that the institution is in a good position to grow.

Of course, Clouse said, the college

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Team headed to China

Contractors will disassemble plane

WASHINGTON (AP) — A small group of U.S. defense contractors headed to Hawaii today to prepare to fly to China's Hainan island and determine how to disassemble the Navy surveillance aircraft that landed there April 1, a U.S. government official said.

About 15 civilian contractors with detailed knowledge of the EP-3E Aries II aircraft will receive briefings in Hawaii at U.S. Pacific Command headquarters, then fly to Hainan on a chartered civilian plane, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. They probably will remain on Hainan for at least two days before returning with a detailed assessment of how to recover the EP-3E.

In a subsequent phase of the recovery operation, a different team will be sent to Hainan to disassemble it and ship it off the island, the official said.

The Pentagon originally had said it would consider sending repair parts to Hainan and having the damaged plane off the island, but that option has been ruled out, apparently at China's insistence.

"I see it as an encouraging sign that they're willing to proceed," Vice President Dick Cheney said Sunday. The plane cannot be flown now and may have to be taken out on a barge, Cheney said.

In Beijing, the Chinese government announced that foreign journalists would not be allowed to go to Hainan to report on the inspection of the crippled plane. "We are formally telling you not to go," a Foreign Ministry official, Wei Xing, said in a telephone call to The Associated Press.

Top Bush administration officials reiterated President Bush's tough stance that a military response from the United States remains an option if China attacks Taiwan.

It has been nearly a month since a U.S. Navy EP-3E surveillance plane with a crew of 24 collided with a Chinese fighter jet sent to intercept it over the South China Sea.

The plane made an emergency landing at a military airfield on Hainan island on April 1, and the crew was detained for 11 days. They were released after Bush said he was "very sorry" for the loss of the Chinese pilot and for the U.S. plane's unauthorized entry into Chinese airspace to make an emergency landing.

At April 18-19 talks in Beijing, American negotiators presented a written proposal for U.S. experts to inspect the plane to determine whether to repair and fly it out or ship it out in pieces.

"Having completed its investigation and evidence collection involving the U.S. plane and in view of international precedents in handling such issues, the Chinese side has decided to allow the U.S. side to inspect its plane at the Lingshui Airport," the official Xinhua News Agency said Sunday.

Cheney said he was hopeful that China's decision would lay the ground-

Lightning starts fire, burns grass

A bolt of lightning set fire to Conservation Reserve Program grass about six miles northeast of town Sunday night, but the blaze only burned about two acres before firefighters put it out.

Rural fire chief Ken Grif said the fire started about 9 p.m., and four fire trucks and 10 firefighters rushed to the field, owned by Alfred Pancake. The chief said it took the crew about 45 minutes to put out the blaze.

With dry conditions and a bunch of lightning, Grif said he was surprised there weren't more fires Sunday night.