

weather report

85°  
at noon

Today

- Sunset, 7:44 p.m.

Tomorrow

- Sunrise, 6:00 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:42 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 65 degrees
- Humidity 33 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds north 14-22 mph
- Barometer 30.04 inches and falling
- Record High 106° (1937)
- Record Low 49° (1978)

Last 24 Hours\*

High	91°
Low	62°
Precipitation	0.14 inch

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low upper 50s, light winds. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, 20 percent chance of rain, high mid 80s, low 60s, southeast wind 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday: chance of thunderstorms, high 80s. Saturday: dry, high 80s, low 50s. Sunday: dry, high 85-95, low 55-65.

(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.51 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.49  
Corn — \$2.05 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.94  
Loan deficiency payment — 5¢  
Milo — \$3.29 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.74 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.58  
Loan deficiency payment — 34¢  
Millet — \$4.00 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$8.65 cwt.  
Oil new crop — \$7.65 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.23  
Confection current — no bid  
Pinto beans — \$16 (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.

Lawyers want stay for killer

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — Hours before the scheduled execution of Napoleon Beazley, his lawyers continued to seek a stay, asking the U.S. Supreme Court for a broader review of his case.

Beazley does not deny his role in the 1994 murder of the father of a U.S. Circuit Court judge, but has sought a review of his case, questioning whether the Constitution bars executing people who were under age 18 when they committed their crimes. If the Texas governor or the courts don't step in, Beazley will become the 19th U.S. prisoner to die since 1976 for a murder committed when the killer was younger than 18.

His capital murder case has drawn international attention because he was a teen-ager at the time of the slaying and the victim's son is a judge on the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

# Search continues for fugitives

**By Patty Decker**  
*The Colby Free Press*

The search continues for a man and woman in a series of crimes that started with the theft of a truck more than a week ago in Wausau, Wis., and escalated into kidnapping and assault in northwest Kansas.

Charges are pending in Thomas County on the two fugitives who, at this time, are being referred to as John and Jane Doe, said Sheriff Tom Jones.

Paperwork on the couple was sent to the County attorney's office on Monday in connection with crimes including eluding police officers in a high speed chase last Wednesday, accosting a teen-age girl at knifepoint, theft and more.

County Attorney Allan Taylor said today that his office is still receiving information and reviewing the case. No formal charges have been filed with the courts as yet, though the man has been identified through a fingerprint uncovered on the stolen truck by the KBI.

Authorities were withholding the man's name so as "not to jeopardize the investigation," Jones said. However, once charges are filed, a warrant can be issued and all information on the man will be made available on nationwide law enforcement computer system. All officers across the United States will have access to this information, Jones said. Capt. Diane Krebsbach, with the investigative division in Wausau, said Tuesday that their

office is working with Kansas authorities to determine the identity of the woman.

"Our preliminary information suggests that these two people were not from here and we do have a theory," she said. "We believe we know where they might have come from and how they got here."

In their investigation, she said, there was no evidence that the couple had stolen any other vehicles prior to taking the pickup, based on the fact that no abandoned or stolen cars were located in the area.

"No charges have been filed here," Krebsbach said, "but the case is still open."

Wausau is a city of about 35,000 people in

Marathon County, in the middle of Wisconsin. Wausau is part of a metropolitan area with two other sister cities, Weston and Schofield, and together the three have a population of 85,000. Marathon County is Wisconsin's largest by area, with a population of 240,000.

Following the pickup theft on Sunday, Aug. 5, the couple was reported on a gas skip out of Grinnell last Wednesday, Aug. 8. Thomas County authorities spotted the vehicle later on I-70 and started a chase, which ended when the man drove off the highway, through a fence and into a cornfield. They then accosted a teen-ager at knifepoint, stole her vehicle and later stole another vehicle, a white Jeep Cherokee, in Hoxie.

## Don't let balls scare you

### First ping-pong race new part of festival

**By Reagan Smith**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

At 10 a.m. Saturday, three blocks of Main Street will be crawling, or rolling, with ping pong balls being chased down the street by firemen with hoses.

But don't be too alarmed.

It's just the first annual Ping Pong Ball Race, being held during the Sunflower Festival this Friday through Sunday.

The idea for the event came from Ron Harding, Chamber of Commerce manager, and Donna Price, assistant director of the Sherman County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, said Donna Swager, chairman of the Chamber's downtown business promotion committee and owner of Pied Piper Video.

This idea came up during a meeting in which ways to promote business and encourage tourism, said Price.

"Other communities have done similar activities," she said. "We changed it a little to fit our community."

500 ping-pong balls are now available at most downtown businesses, Swager said.

People get a ticket with a number on it corresponding to a number on one of

## Chewing pavement

Lois Kimery and Floyd Handy, workers for Koss Construction from Topeka, made repairs on the rotor mill this morning before tearing up the old asphalt by the railroad viaduct on K-27.  
Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

# City commissioners disagree on increased budget

**By Sharon Corcoran**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

Five city commissioners showed differing views of the city budget as it was adopted by 3-2 margin in their meeting last week.

The budget, calling for an increase in the property tax levy of 3.5 mills, was discussed by the commission during at least five lengthy workshops last month. The net expenses projected for next year total \$8,829,026, up from \$7,900,205 for this year.

The increase in property taxes has prompted several letters to the editor criticizing the priorities of city officials and the general condition of the city. The proposed budget brought 39 Good-

Rick Billinger      Chuck Lutters

land residents to the public hearing before the city commission meeting last week to express their views, a huge turnout by city commission standards.

Commissioners Rick Billinger and Chuck Lutters voted against adopting

the budget while Mayor Tom Rohr and commissioners Curtis Hurd and Dean Blume voted for it.

"I don't think this is a good time to raise taxes," Billinger said. "We have a lot of senior citizens on fixed incomes that are choosing whether they will eat or heat their homes."

"I suggested cuts all along through the budget workshops, because these are tough times. A lot of people around town are not getting big raises."

"I just don't know how much more (taxes) the businesses can take or how much more the homeowners can take."

He said he felt the city didn't need to be buying new vehicles. The commission recently approved the purchase of

a new pickup truck for the electric department. The view that more cuts could be made was shared by Lutters, who said the budget could have been overhauled.

"I had places (in the budget) I thought we could cut," he said, "but it's past now. I really don't want to talk about it."

Other commissioners felt the property tax increase was necessary in order for the city to meet basic expenses.

"Just the cost of the day-to-day operation has gone up," Blume said.

The cost of operating the city increased, Hurd said, when the cost of natural gas went up. It costs more for utilities for the light plant, Carnegie Arts Center and the city building, to

mention a few, he said.

The city also uses gas and diesel fuel in large quantities, he said, and the price of fuel has gone up. Another concern was the need for upkeep and improvements.

"If we make cuts in repairing equipment and doing things to improve the community," Blume said, "it will just cost us more in the long run."

Some of the commissioners wanted to ask for a 5 mill increase but they backed off at the urging of Billinger and Lutters.

Wanting a unanimous vote, the commissioners made cuts in the budget,

## School budget has little opposition

### Board approves tax hike with objection from one member

**By Rachel Miscall**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

Only one person at the Goodland School Board meeting Monday said he was against approving the proposed 2001-2002 budget, including a relatively small property tax increase that will raise about \$33,600 for the district.

Without giving an explanation, Ron Schilling, a new board member who replaced Gerald Franklin in July, voted against passing the district's budget, which totals \$7,454,269.

His was the only dissenting vote, and he was the only person at the meeting to express opposition. After the meeting, Schilling said he doesn't think it is fair to raise taxes when people are al-

ready facing a drooping economy, higher prices for gas and other utilities and services and paying more money to the city.

It was a sharp contrast to the City of Goodland's public budget hearing a week ago, where 39 people attended the session to protest a 3.45-mill property tax increase to raise money for the general fund.

The school district's new budget, which passed after about 30 minutes of discussion, includes a .626 of 1 mill increase in the property tax levy, which members, and apparently the public, considered minor compared to the city's tax increase.

The increase will bring in about

\$40,000 for the district's local option budget, which is used to supplement the general fund. Of that, taxpayers will be providing about \$33,600, with the rest of the money coming in the form of a match from the state. Selby said the match amount depends on the district's total wealth.

The total budget increase is \$104,779, with most of the extra money due to higher property values in the district — which means people are paying more taxes on their property. Selby said the budget also includes about \$33,600 in money for special education, which administrators are predicting will come

## State Board of Education endorses \$1.1 billion plan

**By John Milburn**  
*Associated Press Writer*

TOPEKA — The state Board of Education is pushing a three-year, \$1.16 billion education plan designed to improve teacher salaries and raise student performance.

Kansas spends more than \$2.3 billion on elementary and secondary education. By a 7-2 vote Tuesday, the board approved a plan to raise that amount by nearly 50 percent.

It did not offer to raise the money, which likely will require a significant tax increase. Any spending plan must be approved by the Legislature,

which has been loath to raise taxes in recent years.

At the heart of the plan is the \$690 million to raise teacher salaries to the national average over a three-year period.

Currently, that average is \$35,784 for Kansas teachers compared to \$42,855 nationally.

Education Commissioner Andy Tompkins said the board was being ambitious because for the first time members were identifying specific goals and making a budget request to

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