Godland Daily News



500

Volume 70, Number 17



Today Sunset, 4:58 p.m. Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:00 a.m. • Sunset, 4:59 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 31 degrees • Humidity 21 percent Sky clear and sunny • Winds north 15-20 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.21 inches
- and rising Record High 71° (1970)
- Record Low -7° (1957)

	Last 24 Hours*
High	36°
	150

Low	15°	
Precipitation	trace	

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: clear, lows near 20, winds southwest 10-15 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly sunny, high mid 60s, low mid 20s, winds southwest 10-20 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: partly sunny, high near 70. Sunday: partly cloudy, high low 60s, low lower 30s. Monday: partly cloudy, scattered snow showers during the night. high lower 50s, low mid 20s.

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



Noon Wheat — \$2.69 bushel Posted county price — \$2.57 Corn — \$1.95 bushel Posted county price -\$1.86

'Sin' taxes could be

increased

Idea to raise alcohol, tobacco fees on top

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer TOPEKA — A proposal to raise tobacco and alcohol taxes has emerged quickly as the top option for addressing the state's budget problems.

At the request of its chairman, David Corbin, the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee agreed Wednesday to sponsor the legislation to raise about \$87 million during the fiscal year that begins July 1.

The plan drew support from Senate President Dave Kerr, R-Hutchinson, and Ways and Means Committee Chairman Steve Morris, R-Hugoton. They had drafted their own plan to cut spending and tap into rainy day funds to avoid tax increases.

Corbin outlined the tax committee plan even as the Ways and Means Committee continued hearings on the Kerr-Morris plan to cut spending.

"I think you'll find there's quite a bit of interest in sin taxes," Kerr said. "I think you'll find there are a lot of people who like budget cuts in the abstract but don't like them in the specific."

The tax committee's bill is designed to prevent spending cuts, particularly in education. Corbin, R-Towanda, scheduled a hearing on the legislation for Monday and said his committee could vote the same day.

One opponent of higher taxes said the proposal has a fighting chance.

"If the Senate supports any tax increase, it will be a bill very similar to this," said Sen. Stan Clark, R-Oakley. The bill would increase the cigarette

tax by 35 cents a pack, to 59 cents, and double the tax on the wholesale distribution of all other tobacco products to 20 percent.

It would increase all taxes on alcoholic beverages. The cost of an \$8.59 12-pack of



District has reason to Smi e

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News Eight months ago, school board members stood in a dusty, gray room surrounded by piles of wood and metal and banging and scraping sounds, trying to imagine the future.

Twenty Pages

The board will stand in the same room on Sunday afternoon, but this time they'll be looking at bright walls and floors, new desks and furniture and shiny equipment. The banging will be replaced by excited conversation.

A \$900,000, eight-month remodeling project on the second floor of Goodland High School is almost finished, and the school board is inviting the public to tour the new science classrooms between 3 and 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said the Goodland Ambassadors, a welcome arm of the Chamber of Commerce, will hold a ribbon cutting on site at 3 p.m. The project is on the east side of the high school.

The remodeling idea started a couple of years ago when the board decided its top goal was to update the high school's lagging science program. A building committee, formed to find space for science classrooms, decided the best option would be to knock down walls on the second floor.

After much discussion and room rearranging, members approved turning five classrooms on the east side of the floor into three science laboratories. While they were at it, they decided to revamp other classrooms and bathrooms across the hall.



Goodland, Kansas 67735

Loan deficiency payment — 13¢ Milo — \$1.67 bushel Soybeans — \$3.76 bushel Posted county price — \$3.73 Loan deficiency payment - \$1.19 Millet — \$3.50 hundredweight Sunflowers Oil current crop — \$8.75 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. - 81¢ Confection current — inquire Pinto beans — \$23 (new crop) (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)



KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. special forces attacked an enemy compound in southern Afghanistan today, capturing or killing a number of Taliban and al-Qaida fighters, U.S. officials said. One American was wounded in the ankle.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, threats of clashes between rival warlords menaced the fragile peace, and a local governor accused Iran of sending vehicles and weapons into the country to undermine the new interim government of Hamid Karzai.

The firefight erupted when U.S. forces struck an al-Qaida and Taliban "leadership facility" about 60 miles north of Kandahar, Pentagon officials said in Washington.

Enemy forces were killed and 27 people were captured, said Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Budweiser would increase about 15 cents.

The plan is less ambitious than Gov. Bill Graves' proposal to increase cigarette, sales and motor fuels taxes and vehicle registration fees by \$228 million.

That plan would raise the cigarette tax 65 cents but would not increase taxes on other tobacco products or alcohol.

"It's an indication of legislators' willingness to consider options," Graves said. "It's just one more idea for folks to consider, which is what this process should be about."

Kerr said the tax committee's bill has a reasonable chance of passing because senators see a need to compromise with Graves.

He said most opposition in his chamber was to raising general taxes, such as sales, income or property.

Both Morris and Kerr said they would vote for the tax committee's bill. "I was hoping this kind of a package would make it through the process,"

See BUDGET, Page 7

The board planned to start the project when school let out last year, and have it finished by the time classes began again. As with most construction projects, there were delays and the second floor still looked like a construction site when school started.

There was a bid mix-up and the board decided at the last minute to install air conditioning systems on the second floor and in the lunchroom and kitchen downstairs. Most years, the district has had to shorten the school day in the fall because of unbearably hot weather, and the problem is compounded in the upper levels.

Teachers and students adjusted, holding classes at the Max Jones Fieldhouse and in the staff lounge, while contractors worked to put in new walls, ceilings, doors, floors, desks and lab centers.

Superintendent Selby said the wait will be over next week. He said the project will be 99 percent finished by the open house Sunday, and teachers have already started moving into their new classrooms. The rooms could be filled with students by the end of next

Mike Miller, manager of the remodeling project at Goodland High School, installed a paper towel dispenser in the girls' bathroom on Wednesday, preparing for an open house Sunday. Contractors who put in new floor tiles (top picture) left their mark in one of the new science classrooms. The teacher liked it, so it stayed. Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

week, he said.

There is still work to be done this week

During a pre-open house tour on Wednesday, Selby said contractors have to finish putting tile, toilets and partitions in the bathrooms and installing a fire alarm system. The county held a surprise fire drill at the high school on Tuesday and there were problems with the alarm system. Some sweeping, polishing and double checking needs to be done, too.

"We should be in great shape by the open house," Selby said.

He said new science equipment will benefit teachers and students.

"We think it will make a wonderful

See REMODELING, Page 7



Superintendent Marvin Selby talked with a Clint Odle, a plumber from Wichita, in one of the new science classrooms on Wednesday. Odle was checking pipes in the classrooms for leaks.



The Goodland High School X-pressos were a hit when at the benefit concert for Dustin Zelfer in December. The group is having a soup supper and basketball game Sunday to raise money to pay for their trip to Branson, Mo., to participate in a show choir competition. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News members said they wouldn't pay for

Teachers will take on Knights to help choir

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News Several Goodland High School teachers and members of the community have volunteered to help student singers pay for a trip to Branson, Mo., and will get plenty of exercise in exchange.

The 12 volunteers will be competing against the Harlem Knights, a traveling basketball team, in a basketball game at 7 p.m. Sunday at the Max Jones Fieldhouse. Money from ticket sales will be used to send the X-Pressos, a high school singing group, to Branson for a spring competition.

The school board has agreed to pay for part of the trip if the singers raise the rest. Facing budget problems this year,

out-of-state trips.

The Knights are all former Harlem Globetrotter players, X-presso Director Randy Berls said, who travel and help groups with fundraising projects. The Knights will get 60 percent of the money from ticket sales, he said, and the X-pressos will get 40 percent.

The X-pressos will hold a soup supper from 4-6 p.m. Sunday at the fieldhouse, Berls said, to raise more money and will perform during halftime. He asked teachers and others in the community to help the X-pressos by playing in the game, and got 12 volunteers, including himself.

'That will give us plenty of substitutions," Berls said, "as some of us are not