

# The Goodland Daily News

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Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

**50¢**

**weather report**

**64°**  
at noon



**Today**

• Sunset, 5:58 p.m.

**Tomorrow**

• Sunrise, 5:49 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:59 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

• Soil Temperature 39 degrees

• Humidity 18 percent

• Sky clear

• Winds west 16 m.p.h.

• Barometer 30.13 inches

and falling

• Record High 83° (1997)

• Record Low -17° (1965)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High 51°

Low 21°

Precipitation none

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: partly cloudy, low upper teens, wind west 5 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly cloudy and colder, high mid 30s, low mid teens, winds northeast 10-15 m.p.h.

**Extended Forecast**

Friday: mostly sunny, high mid 50s, low upper 20s. Saturday: partly cloudy, high upper 60s, chance of rain during night. Sunday: increasing cloudiness with chance of rain.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**

**Noon**  
Wheat — \$2.57 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.49  
Corn — \$1.87 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.86  
Loan deficiency payment — 13¢  
Milo — \$1.58 bushel  
Soybeans — \$3.95 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.97  
Loan deficiency payment — 95¢  
Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$9.20 cwt.  
Nu Sun — \$9.35 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 26¢  
Confection current — \$16/\$8 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$26  
(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.**  
**Talks continue despite attack**

JERUSALEM — A suicide bomber killed four soldiers and three other passengers on a packed Israeli bus during the morning rush hour Wednesday — an attack that failed to derail weeklong U.S. truce efforts.

Despite the blast, which also killed the bomber and wounded 27 Israelis, 10 of them seriously, a crucial round of cease-fire talks was expected to take place later Wednesday in the presence of U.S. mediator Anthony Zinni. Palestinian security officials have said a cease-fire declaration is possible after the meeting.

The militant Islamic Jihad group claimed responsibility for the 7:10 a.m. blast on a highway south of the town of Afula. The explosion burst the sides of the pink-and-white bus and sent passengers flying.

## Kansas may see huge cuts

### Panel approves cut in aid for education

By John Hanna  
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — State aid to schools would drop \$303 per student, many state workers would have to take unpaid days off and the next legislative session would be shortened under a House committee's plan for covering the budget gap.

The no-new-taxes plan endorsed by the Appropriations Committee on Tuesday would set state spending for the next fiscal year at \$4 billion, down \$517 million or 11.4 percent, from spending in the fiscal year that ends June 30.

The biggest cut, \$208 million, would be in aid to public schools, which would drop to \$3,567 per student. Lawmakers had set per-pupil aid at \$3,600 when they passed the school finance law a decade ago.

Higher education, promised three years ago that its budget would increase in fiscal 2003, would lose nearly \$53 million instead.

Another \$36 million would be saved by furloughing state workers — eight unpaid days off for civil service employees and 12 for non-civil service employees between now and July 1, 2003.

"Our job is to give you a budget with the dollars we have available," said Rep. Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, an Appropriations Committee member.

The committee is trying to close a projected \$698 million gap between expected revenues and required spending over the next 15 months.

Last week, the House spent four days debating and rejecting revenue-raising proposals, including higher taxes on income, sales, estates, tobacco and alcohol.

In light of those votes, House Speaker Kent Glasscock told the Appropriations Committee to draft a no-new-taxes budget so the full House could assess the severity of potential cuts.

"It's not possible for it to be very pretty," Glasscock, R-Manhattan, said Tuesday.

On separate voice votes, the Appropriations Committee endorsed two bills, sending them to the House for debate that could occur as early as Monday.

One bill revises the budget for the current fiscal year, while the other contains appropriations for fiscal 2003.

The cut in aid to public school — 9 percent of the current \$2.3 billion — is likely to draw complaints from education officials across the state. Many have said they would have budget problems even if state aid were kept at its current level.

For Wichita schools, the committee's proposed budget is "shell-shocking bad," said Diane Gjerstad, the district's lobbyist. The district would lose \$19.7 million, and she noted that 54 percent of its students are considered poor.



Josh Whisnant, a first-grader at West Elementary School, crawled out of a portable mini-planetarium set up at West on Tuesday for a Denver Museum of Natural History outreach program. Photos by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

## Denver planetarium comes here

### Big-city museum teaches small-town students about different sciences

By Doug Stephens  
The Goodland Daily News

Goodland students learned a little about a lot of different areas of science when the Denver Museum of Natural History visited elementary schools on Monday and Tuesday.

Ryan Forrest and Angie Jameson, outreach instructors from the museum, spent the two days exposing students to different sciences.

"We try to give them a little bit of all kinds," said Forrest, 24.

Paleontology, astronomy, geology, scientific advances in the Chinese Chin dynasty, and a little bit of zoology are included in the program.

"Our portable planetarium is what the kids like the most," Forrest said.

He said it is called a star-lab and is a \$17,000 mini-planetarium the instructors can take with them to help get kids interested in science. Forrest said he enjoys working with small-town kids.

"I love doing this," he said. "We go to smaller, rural areas where there may not be as many cultural institutions or resources, and the kids truly appreciate it."

"Sometimes in the big city, I hate to say this, but people are surrounded by so much, it loses meaning."

Jerry Burkett, principal at West Elementary School, said he is glad the museum instructors came to town.

"We are hours from Hays and Denver," Burkett said. "These kids might not have a lot of opportunity to see a big-city museum."

Forrest spoke to a group of first graders at West on Tuesday about astronomy.

"What is your favorite planet?" he asked the students.

"Earth!" a first-grader answered.



Gloria Bustillos pretended she was the earth and spun around Cooper Flough, the sun, while Ryan Forrest, an instructor from the Denver Museum of Natural History, explained the earth's rotation to a group of first graders Tuesday at West Elementary School.

"That's my favorite planet too," Forrest said. "People laugh at me when I say that, but Earth is a planet."

He asked if anyone could tell him what a constellation was.

"Have you ever played connect the

dots?" he asked. "It's the same thing, but instead of using paper and pencil, you use the stars and your imagination."

He told the kids that different people might see different things when they

look up at the stars. Some people might see a turtle or a crocodile, while others might see a person, or a reindeer and a sleigh.

"Depending on who you are, you might see different versions of what's going on in the sky," he said.

Before he led the first graders into the portable star-lab, one of the students asked if people float in it.

"No, you don't actually float," Forrest said, "unless you use your imagination."

In the star-lab, he showed the kids how to connect the dots in the sky and draw constellations. He told them there is a story behind every picture, which people use to help remember where they are.

He told two stories from Roman mythology, and told the students they could try to find pictures of their own in the stars, and could make up their own stories.

"Who knows, you might see Britney Spears with a plunger on her head," he said.

The stories of the constellations have been passed on for generations, Forrest said, and they are important for astronomers to learn. Plus, they are good stories, he said.

"I bet 50 years from now, none of you will remember 'Britney Spears with a plunger on her head,' but maybe some of you will remember the stories I told you today."

Burkett said West Elementary is focusing on the solar system this grading period, and is trying to tie different activities into learning about the solar system.

"This star-lab should really help interest the kids in learning," Burkett said.

## State lifts admission ban on assisted living center

By Rachel Miscallo  
The Goodland Daily News

Wheat Ridge Acres Retirement Community is allowed to admit new residents again, as the Kansas Department of Health and Environment lifted an admission ban on Tuesday, imposed after inspectors found two mistakes last month.

Mike Heideman, department spokesman, said inspectors found during a follow-up survey that the deficiencies had been corrected and lifted the ban at 10 a.m. He said the state still has to prepare an official order, which could take up to five days, but Wheat Ridge, 707 Wheat Ridge Circle, can open their doors to new residents immediately.

The good news couldn't have come soon enough for the assisted living center, which had been forced to stop

new residents from moving in since the ban was imposed on Feb. 22. Inspectors said the center hadn't developed the correct written reports for how to deal with special health and diet needs, and that was putting residents' health and safety in jeopardy.

The state found 11 other mistakes, but only two were serious enough to warrant the ban. The center disputed seven of the 12 deficiencies. Administrators said staff is working to fix all of the mistakes.

It was the first time the state had inspected the facility, which opened in May 2000, and Wheat Ridge administration and staff said they feel they were treated unfairly.

Operator Judy Cloyd, who lives near Pueblo, Colo., said the two serious mistakes stemmed from a misunderstanding over what state regula-

tions require and mainly had to do with incorrect paperwork policies. Owner David Beardsley, who lives in Tennessee, said in a letter that the ban, which shouldn't have been imposed, hurt the facility and its residents. He said the inspector acted maliciously.

"I... have never had an assisted living facility subjected to such arbitrary, capricious, twisted and outright dishonest statements by a surveyor as occurred during this survey," Beardsley said.

The owner said he was also angry over how the state notified the center about the ban. The letter came late because the department had put the wrong zip code on it, and Wheat Ridge staff first heard about the ban from a newspaper reporter.

Cloyd said department officials apologized for the error and the inspec-

tor who did the survey recently resigned. She said she's not sure why the inspector quit.

Heideman said the fact the inspector resigned has nothing to do with the Wheat Ridge survey.

"There was nothing usual found with that survey that would have led to that outcome," he said, noting that the department has thousands of positions and employees come and go everyday.

Donna Swager, Wheat Ridge manager, said in a letter sent to two state lawmakers last week that new residents were having to pay to stay elsewhere or were having to live with family members who couldn't properly care for them.

She said today that one new resident moved in Tuesday, one is moving in today and there are four or five more

making plans to move.

"We're all excited," she said. Heideman said the state tries to act as quickly as possible because it understands the hardship an admission ban can create.

After the follow-up survey is completed, he said, the department defaults back to its original policy of inspecting the facility once a year. He said the state does keep an eye on those facilities that have been punished for mistakes.

"We do make it a policy to inspect facilities that have had enforcement more often," he said, noting that it's impossible to predict when inspectors will be back.

Cloyd said Rep. Jim Morrison, Sen. Stan Clark and Ron Harding, execu-

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