

**weather  
report**

**49°  
at noon**



**Today**

• Sunset, 7:13 p.m.

**Tomorrow**

• Sunrise, 6:25 a.m.  
• Sunset, 7:13 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil Temperature 42 degrees
- Humidity 29 percent
- Sky sunny and clear
- Winds south 15-20 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.27 inches and falling
- Record High 86° (1942)
- Record Low 9° (1945)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High 41°  
Low 18°  
Precipitation none

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: mostly clear, low mid 30s, winds south 10-20 m.p.h. Tomorrow: partly sunny, high upper 60s, low upper 30s, winds southeast 10-20 m.p.h., 30 percent chance of rain in the evening.

**Extended Forecast**

Saturday: cloudy, 30 percent chance of rain increasing to 50 percent, high upper 60s, low lower 40s. Sunday: cloudy 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 — \$2.73 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$2.63
  - New crop — \$2.68
  - Corn — \$1.83 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$1.80
  - Loan deficiency payment — 19¢
  - Milo — \$1.54 bushel
  - Soybeans — \$3.93 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$4.00
  - Loan deficiency payment — 92¢
  - Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight
  - Sunflowers
  - Oil current crop — \$8.75 cwt.
  - NuSun — \$8.90 cwt.
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 43¢
  - Confection current — \$16/\$8 cwt.
  - Pinto beans — \$28
- (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.**

**Sharon lets  
U.S. envoy in**

NABLUS, West Bank — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon agreed today to permit a U.S. envoy to meet with besieged Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, raising the promise of diplomatic activity after President Bush demanded Israel halt its weeklong military offensive and pull out. In an attempt to end the escalating violence, Bush said in a speech today he would send Secretary of State Colin Powell next week. Fighting continued in the West Bank, as Israeli troops took over Nablus, fought intense battles with gunmen barricaded in refugee camps and tightened a cordon around armed Palestinians holed up in Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity. Sharon had turned down a request by Powell to grant permission to U.S. mediator Anthony Zinni to hold talks with Arafat.

## Budget proposal approved

*Panel says it's best option in situation*

TOPEKA (AP) — The Senate Ways and Means Committee has endorsed a proposal for eliminating part of a \$700 million budget shortfall while protecting education spending and some social services.

The proposal would dip into the state's rainy day funds, tap extra federal funds — and require higher taxes.

Legislative staff were reviewing the committee's work today, and the panel's members didn't know how big a tax increase their plan would require, but likely to be at least \$200 million.

The size of the tax increase would equal the gap between expected revenues and spending that would remain at the end of the next fiscal year, if the committee's plan were enacted. When legislators finish the budget, there must be no projected shortfall.

"It's the first difficult step in a very difficult step," said Sen. David Adkins, R-Leawood, a committee member.

The committee endorsed a bill making changes in the current budget on an 8-2 vote Wednesday. It endorsed a bill containing appropriations for the state's next fiscal year on a 7-3 vote. Both measures went to the Senate.

"I would describe it as the best we could do under the circumstances," said Ways and Means Chairman Steve Morris, R-Hugoton.

## Weather class today

You can learn to spot tornadoes and become an official storm spotter at a class at 7 p.m. tonight at the National Guard armory.

The class will teach people how to spot dangerous weather, and how to report it to the National Weather Service. Those who go can be certified as official weather spotters.

The class, which takes about two hours, will cover thunderstorms, hail, wind, tornadoes and flooding, and emphasize safety rules.

Even if you have gone to the class before, organizers say it is worth going again to refresh your memory or to renew your certification. The class is free and open to everyone.



Mike Briney, a member of this year's Leadership Sherman County class, talked with Marty Melia, owner of KLOE, KKCI, KWGB Radio, on the "Evening Show" Wednesday afternoon about what he learned from the

class. The annual program ended Wednesday night with a graduation banquet. No one told the members they were the show when they went to the station. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

## Class shows county's hidden side

By Rachel Miscall

*The Goodland Daily News*

Graduates of this year's Leadership Sherman County class say they've seen sides of agriculture, education, health care and government that they never knew existed and their glad for it.

They say the seven-month course, which ended Wednesday night with the annual graduation banquet at the Elks Lodge, taught them there's a lot more going on behind the scenes than people realize or is reported in newspapers.

"I think it's a real eye-opener," said Sherida Shoff, who works at First National Bank. "You get to learn about things that you've thought about before, but haven't had time to find out about."

The course, now in its fifth year, is designed to develop leadership qualities and knowledge in Sherman County residents. The class started in October, with the 10 members chosen

to participate completing a ropes course behind North Elementary School and doing other team-building activities.

After that, the class met once a month to spend a day learning about a different aspect of life in Sherman County, visiting businesses and organizations and talking with people who run the city, county and schools. Each session had a theme, including education, health care, city and county government, agriculture and economic development.

The group also took a three-day trip to Topeka with leadership classes from Cheyenne, Thomas and Rawlins counties. The members met with lawmakers who represent northwest Kansas and learned how state government is run.

The class ended Wednesday with "media day," in which members visited *The Goodland Daily News*, KLOE, KKCI, KWGB Radio and the National Weather Service office. The

annual banquet closed out the day and the class.

Sara Rice, who works at Western Insurance Agency, said the class forced her to experience things she would never have done on her own.

"Never in my life did I think I'd want to tour a feedlot," the 25-year-old said, "but I thought it was interesting. It really pushes your limits."

The group toured Century Feeders' lot during agriculture day on Dec. 12.

Janda Linin, a Kansas City native who recently moved here from Olathe, said health care day "hit closest to her heart," because she didn't know that a lack of money stops rural hospitals from being able to provide the same services as those in big cities.

"It was an adjustment for me," she said, "because coming from a big city, you don't realize small hospitals just don't have all the options."

Linin, a stay-at-home mom, added that she was impressed by what the

hospital does offer and the staff's dedication.

"For a small town, they're doing well," she said. "They're visioning big things."

She said patients probably don't see the whole picture. "As a patient," Linin said, "if you just go see the doctor, you wouldn't understand. I realized it takes the effort of many people."

Mike Briney, a Goodland native who works at Bankwest, said he decided to participate because he wanted to find ways to become more involved in public life. He said he discovered there are tons of opportunities for people who want to volunteer.

"There are millions of things you can do," he said. "It's just amazing to me. Some wouldn't be terribly time-consuming and some would be like a full-time job."

Members said the class allowed

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## Creative judging



Allen Craven, an art instructor at Fort Hays State University, took a closer look at a three-dimensional design entered by Max Saint, a senior at Goodland High School, as he judged the Northwest Kansas League art show. More than 1,000 pieces created by students from the six schools that compose the league are on display in the Colby High School auditorium until noon Friday. The show is open until 9 p.m. tonight and from 8 a.m. to noon Friday. Photo by Patty Decker/The Colby Free Press

## City adding two jobs to help sort out trash

By Doug Stephens

*The Goodland Daily News*

The City of Goodland is adding two people to its payroll to ride trash trucks and help sort trash.

City Manager Ron Pickman got permission from the city commissioners at a meeting this week to hire the employees. The city is reviewing applicants, Pickman said, and could hire them today or Friday.

The employees will work about 30 hours a week, and will be paid \$5.15 to \$6 an hour, Pickman said. At the moment, he added, the jobs aren't permanent.

"They might develop into full-time jobs, depending on how things go," Pickman said, "but right now they will be considered temporary."

After a joint city-county meeting last week, where it was suggested the city might have to hire some people, both the state Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and the county

district court services program contacted the city and supplied names of people who would be willing to fill the jobs, Pickman said.

By hiring people through these programs, he said, the city could get the help it needs and help out the employment projects. The city crew spent over 22 man-hours last week sorting trash, Pickman told the commissioners Monday, and work was falling behind.

The trash might have a little less contamination now than before the county refused to accept city trash trucks for a day last week, Pickman said, but not a whole lot. He said one Goodland resident told him that she didn't see why she had to sort out her trash if the city was going to do it later anyway.

"That's not what we need," Pickman said. "The cleaner the trash is, the easier it is for us."

If someone is caught putting inappropriate items in a dumpster, he said, they will be fined.

## Jobs come with recovery

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ever so slowly, help-wanted signs are starting to replace the layoff notices.

Nurses and teachers are in short supply. Home furnishing stores are hiring, as are hotels, amusement companies

and other recreation-type businesses. And temporary employment agencies are being asked to fill more jobs.

The increased business at the

**See JOBS, Page 7**