

**weather report**

**63°**

at noon



**Today**

• Sunset, 7:13 p.m.

**Tomorrow**

• Sunrise, 6:24 a.m.  
• Sunset, 7:14 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil Temperature 42 degrees
- Humidity 36 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds south 21-26 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.19 inches and falling
- Record High 86° (1932)
- Record Low 18° (1945)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High 58°  
Low 22°  
Precipitation none

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: partly cloudy, low mid 40s, winds southeast 15-25 m.p.h. Tomorrow: cloudy with chance of showers, high upper 50s, low upper 30s, 80 percent chance of rain.

**Extended Forecast**

Sunday: mostly cloudy with chance of showers, high upper 50s, low upper 30s, 50 percent chance of rain. Monday: partly cloudy, high mid 60s. Tuesday: high mid 70s. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**

**Noon**

- Wheat — \$2.67 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$2.62
  - New crop — \$2.64
  - Corn — \$1.84 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$1.81
  - Loan deficiency payment — 18¢
  - Milo — \$1.53 bushel
  - Soybeans — \$3.95 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$3.97
  - Loan deficiency payment — 95¢
  - Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight
  - Sunflowers
  - Oil current crop — \$8.70 cwt.
  - NuSun — \$8.85
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 56¢
  - 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.

**U.S. mediator meets Arafat**

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Renewing a truce mission, a U.S. mediator met with Yasser Arafat at his besieged headquarters today as Israel's offensive against Palestinian militants entered its second week despite U.S. demands that troops withdraw from West Bank cities.

Israeli tanks entered new Palestinian territory — Tubas, a town of 20,000 in the West Bank — and attack helicopters battled hundreds of gunmen in the city of Nablus and nearby refugee camps. In Nablus, smoke from burning cars and shops rose from the downtown area and frightened residents huddled in the innermost rooms of their apartments.

At least 20 Palestinians, including several gunmen and a 14-year-old girl, were killed today. The Israeli military also retrieved the bodies of five men in Bethlehem.

## Man catches two paintball vandals

### Youths attack home with 'toy' firearms

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

A Goodland man chased down and caught two 19-year-olds who he says shot at his house with paintballs Thursday night.

Between 10:30 and 11 p.m., Wayne and Darla Spencer heard what they thought was gunfire hitting their house at 1521 Sherman. Darla was in bed, Wayne said, and he was in the front room of the house.

Darla started screaming, Spencer said, and he dropped to the floor.

"It scared the hell out of my wife," Spencer said. "It sounded like real gunshots. I didn't think it was a paintball gun."

Spencer looked out a window and saw a car driving north on Sherman. While Darla called the police, he ran outside and jumped in his car. He said he followed the car because he wanted to get the license number. He kept blaring his car horn, he said, in case a police car was in the area. The car stopped at Main and 9th Street.

Spencer said he walked up to the car. He said he was scared, because the two people in the car could have guns, but he was so angry that he didn't care. He told the men they were going to go to the police station one way or another, and he wanted them to follow him over there.

"I think they got scared when I started getting angry and yelling at them," he said, "but they weren't any more scared than I was."

Spencer said the men, identified as Aaron Jeffries and Jacob Nelson, both 19, agreed to follow him to the station,



Wayne Spencer pointed to a window on his house this morning which was damaged by paintballs Thursday night. Two windows were broken in the shooting. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

but wanted to go to the Technical College dorms first to get their insurance papers. Spencer told them no, he wanted them to go directly to the station, and they agreed. The two men drove to 13th on Broadway, Spencer said, and tried to turn east towards Caldwell.

Spencer said he drove around them, blocked them with his car, rolled down his window, pointed south and said, "The police station is that way."

Spencer escorted the two men the rest of the way to the city building, where a

sheriff's deputy frisked them for weapons but didn't find any. Police searched the car while Spencer went back home.

"It was late at night, and I was wearing just a short-sleeve shirt, about to freeze to death," he said. "I was going to go home, get a coat, and come back."

He said an officer told him he could come back later to fill out a report.

Spencer went back to his house, where an officer was talking to his wife and son, and where he was expecting to find bullet holes, he found paint instead.

"You might think we were crazy, mistaking paintballs for gunfire," Spencer said. "but when shots are breaking windows, you don't assume it's a toy paintgun."

Spencer's 18-year-old son wanted to go and see if he knew the men who shot up the house, but the officer at the scene wouldn't allow it. Spencer said he wanted to go with his son, and he wanted to fill out the reports. The officer told him he didn't need to go that night.

"I can understand what he was do-

ing," said Spencer, who says he's a former reserve officer. "He was trying to stop any violence from happening. But if I was going to do any violence to those boys, I wouldn't take the police with me."

Spencer said the officer was "belligerent" when he refused to allow them to look at the men.

"I felt like I was being disciplined on my front yard," he said.

Police Chief Ray Smee said Friday he hadn't fully investigated the officer's behavior yet, but in a lot of cases, a person in Spencer's position is understandably upset and might lash out at anyone. He said he talked to the sheriff's deputy who first frisked the men this morning, and the deputy said Spencer was very agitated.

"All three of them, Spencer, his wife, and his son, wanted to go talk to (the shooters) last night," Smee said. "Of course the officer had to keep them apart."

Smee said he understands why Spencer was angry, and it is possible the officer did nothing wrong.

"Sometimes we can be as nice as we can, and we still come across badly," Smee said. "I will talk to the officer, and if necessary, he will be disciplined. It's something we'll have to look into before we make a decision."

Spencer said he and his son counted 22 paint splatters on the house and his motorcycle, which was parked on the street in front of the house. Two windows were broken, and paint splattered on the curtains inside. He said the police told him the paint should wipe off with water, but it wasn't the damage which makes Spencer angry.

"When somebody starts attacking your home, that's your safe place," Spencer said. "They really crossed the line when they went after my home."

Spencer said he isn't sure why the men shot at his house, but when he first pulled them over, he asked them.

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## New tourist center to open doors later

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

Despite waiting a year to move into their new building, the staff of the state tourist information center west of Goodland will have to wait a little longer.

The center had planned to open its doors at the beginning of April, said Supervisor Julia Crotinger, but now it looks like it won't open until the middle of April or even later.

The contractor working for the Kansas Department of Transportation has to finish work on the new building at mile 7 on the eastbound (south) side of I-70 before it can be opened, Crotinger said.

The biggest project left is putting in new counter tops, said Eric Oelschlager, an engineer with the department in Atwood. The original plans called for a slate surface, but he said, it gave them a "dirty" look, and they will be replaced by a smooth granite surface.

There are a few minor water leaks in the building which need to be fixed, Oelschlager said, and other miscellaneous jobs.

Other than a few odds and ends,

though, he said, the building is basically finished.

"When you build something new, you got to get the bugs out," he said.

He said it made more sense to delay the opening than have to send in crews later and make repairs.

Crotinger said Wednesday that she had been told the center should be open by mid-April, but Oelschlager said today he didn't think it was likely to open before the second week of May.

The center still doesn't have a phone line, Crotinger said, but otherwise her staff is ready to move.

They have been working out of a temporary trailer on K-27 since the old center was closed and torn down about a year ago.

The budget for building the center was \$1.6 million, and it should average 150,000 to 170,000 visitors a year, Crotinger said, which is only a third of the travelers the Department of Transportation says stop to stretch their legs at the adjoining rest area.

This morning, the department set Wednesday, May 15, as the date for the grand opening, Oelschlager said, but the center should be open to traffic before that.

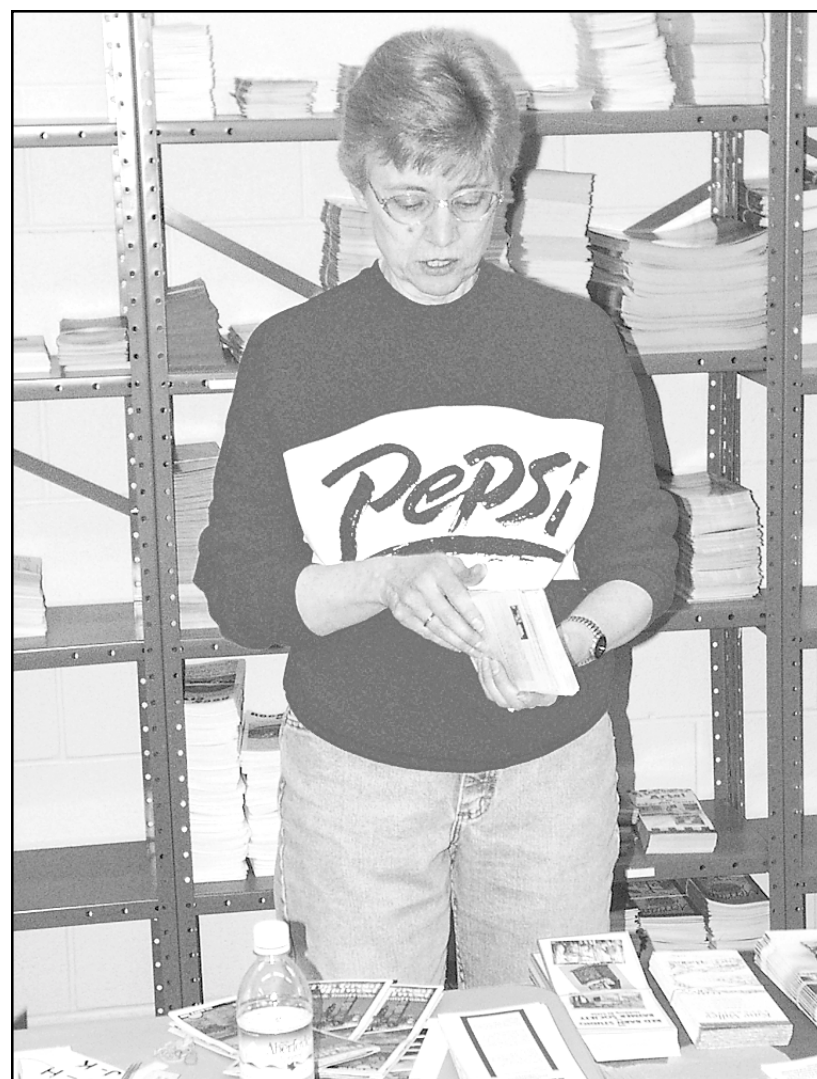
## Time to spring forward



Spring has arrived, and with it warmer weather and sunlight stretching into the evening, allowing for outside chores, walks and field work.

Daylight Saving Time is nearly here, too. It will go into effect at 2 a.m. Sunday, which means your clocks will need to spring forward an hour either Saturday night before bed or Sunday morning. Remember to set the clocks in your home, car or on your wrist an hour ahead.

Although it will stay light longer in the evening, for a while it will still be dark when many people, especially school kids, get ready for the day. Be careful on the way to work or class.



Lana Bollig, a tourist information center employee, unpacked brochures last week at the new building. The opening may be delayed until sometime next month, however. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

## School board and staff share contract changes

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland School Board wants changes in teacher contracts this year, including cuts in health insurance, erasing a step in the salary schedule, making some duties outside the classroom mandatory and making sure teachers can't retire before age 57.

Teachers want to speed up the complaint process, refine the discipline policy, increase pay for unused sick leave and give teachers forced to move to a different grade level extra money for supplies.

Negotiating teams representing the board and the teachers' union met at the district administration office on Thursday for the first round of annual contract negotiations.

It was a short meeting, as both sides basically just presented and briefly explained items they want included, deleted or changed in the 2002-2003 agreement. There were no surprises, as the groups had exchanged proposals in February.

A couple of items members of the

See NEGOTIATIONS, Page 4

## Senators stuck on tax hike

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Trying to draft a plan to increase taxes, senators couldn't agree today on how much money they needed to raise.

The Assessment and Taxation Committee met briefly and was supposed to start work on a plan. Its goal is plugging a big hole in a budget drafted by the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

The tax committee planned to meet again today, hoping to agree on a number, debate proposals and kick out a plan.

Ways and Means endorsed two budget bills late Wednesday night, and the staff spent Thursday tabulating, reconciling and checking numbers. By late that night, the agreed-upon figure for the revenue need was \$218 million.

Higher taxes would be required even though Ways and Means agreed to dip into the state's "rainy day" reserves for \$104 million and set aside another \$80 million in federal funds.

Some committee members don't like tapping into reserves because it provides a one-time infusion of money to pay for ongoing expenses. Gov. Bill Graves also opposes the idea. But if senators don't want to tap into rainy day funds, Assessment and Taxation will have to raise about \$326 million.

Sen. Janis Lee, D-Kensington, said legislators should not tap rainy day funds this year because they would have to replenish them next year — when money still will be tight.

"All you do is put the problems off until next year," she said. "If we are going to have to bite the bullet and raise taxes, then I want to solve the budget problem once and for all."

In all, an estimated \$700 million separates the state's spending needs from its expected revenues over the next 15 months. The proposals before the tax committee would raise taxes on sales, tobacco and estates by various amounts.