

weather report

68°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:57 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:29 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:58 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 57 degrees

• Humidity 41 percent

• Sky partly cloudy

• Winds south 20-26 m.p.h.

• Barometer 30.18 inches

and falling

• Record High 98° (1934)

• Record Low 30° (1931)

Last 24 Hours*

High 77°

Low 46°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: cloudy with 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, windy, low near 50. Tomorrow: partly sunny with 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 75-80, low near 50, winds south 25-45 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: mostly sunny, high mid 70s, low mid 40s. Thursday: mostly clear, high mid 70s. Friday: partly cloudy, high near 70, low 40s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.52 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.43
Loan deficiency payment — 2¢
Corn — \$1.85 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.86
Loan deficiency payment — 13¢
Milo — \$1.54 bushel
Soybeans — \$4.25 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.32
Loan deficiency payment — 60¢
Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$9.55 cwt.
NuSun — \$9.70 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 36¢
Confection current — \$16/\$8 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$27
(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.

Bush refuses to lift embargo

WASHINGTON — President Bush said today he won't heed calls to lift the Cuban trade embargo unless Fidel Castro releases political prisoners, conducts independently monitored elections and accepts a list of tough U.S. conditions for a "new government that is fully democratic."

"Freedom sometimes grows step by step, and we will encourage those steps," the president said, outlining his new U.S. policy on Cuban Independence Day.

Seeking to balance his hard-line policy with a sensitivity to Cuba's grinding poverty, the president outlined administration actions designed to make life better for the Cuban people. One initiative would resume direct mail service to and from Cuba.

Bush's speech has been in the works since January.

2002 graduates are
Moving forward



Members of the Class of 2002 (above) listened to LouCinda Laughlin, a 1972 graduate, who gave the commencement address Saturday during graduation ceremonies at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Senior Mandi Bellamy (top) joined the high school band. Seventy students stepped forward in front of a standing room only crowd to receive their diplomas. Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

Class celebrates end of an era

1972 alumni shares advice with students

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Black and gold hats and streams of string filled the air Saturday afternoon at Max Jones Fieldhouse when Principal Harvey Swager announced the official graduation of the Class of 2002.

It was a beautiful day and cool enough to make two and a half hours in Max Jones bearable as a standing room only crowd of friends and family gathered to witness the graduation of the 105th class from Goodland High School.

Seventy members of the Class of 2002 marched forward into alumni history as Principal Swager announced their names and the graduates received their diplomas from members of the school board.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said one of the privileges of his position is standing in front of the graduating class and introducing the commencement speaker.



Chipperfield



Riebel



Laughlin



Jessica Vignery, student council president and Daniela Moreira presented their national flags during graduation Saturday. Moreira was an exchange student from Ecuador and presented the Ecuador flag to the school and Vignery presented the American flag to Moreira.

This year's speaker was LouCinda Laughlin, a 1972 Goodland graduate, who is now a member of a California law firm that specializes in construction defect law. Her law firm has been involved in such noted cases as the MGM fire in Las Vegas, clean up of New York's Love Canal and the U.S. Army arsenal cleanup in Denver.

"Enjoy graduation days," Laughlin said. "I have had several including one 30 years ago today, and I will be seeing two of my sons graduate in the next few weeks. One from elementary and one from middle school."

"Graduation is a great milestone showing accomplishments of you and

Former teachers tells grads to keep learning everyday

By Darrel Patillo

The Colby Free Press

BREWSTER — Dave Evert, coach and teacher at Brewster High School for 17 years and currently principal of Sacred Heart Elementary School in Colby, gave advice to eight members of the Brewster High School Class of 2002 and a packed gymnasium Sunday afternoon.

Katherine Mills, vice president of

the senior class, was announced as valedictorian, and class president Tara Fulwider as salutatorian.

Evert told the graduates it's important to continue learning new things everyday. He asked the students to thank friends and family who helped get them to this point and to remember that com-

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Board renews four jobs

Lawmakers to give schools more money

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

After state lawmakers agreed Friday to give schools \$20 more per student next year, the Goodland School Board met Saturday to renew contracts for four teachers who would have lost their jobs if the Legislature cut education money.

During the 10-minute meeting in the Max Jones Fieldhouse girls dressing room before the graduation ceremony at 2 p.m., board members voted to re-hire Pam Hernandez, a special education teacher at North Elementary School; Pat Stindt and Lindsey Pifer, both Grant Junior High language arts teachers; and Ben Holman, a high school social studies teacher.

The four were notified earlier this month that their contracts may not be renewed next year because board members didn't know if the district could afford to pay them.

Members also approved teachers' supplemental contracts for extra duties including coaching assignments and rehired employees who don't teach. They had received principals' recommendations on coaches and employees who should be rehired last week, but put off approving the lists because members said they might have to cut positions if the Legislature cut education money.

After defeating several tax bills, the House agreed Friday to raise \$252 million in sales, cigarette, inheritance and corporation taxes to help close a \$279 million hole in the \$4.4 billion budget legislators passed earlier. The Senate approved the tax bill, which included a \$20 per pupil increase in state aid to schools, boosting aid to \$3,890 per student. Goodland Superintendent Marvin Selby said Gov. Bill Graves has said he plans to sign the tax bill into law.

Even though the state will be paying more per pupil, Selby said, the Goodland District will have a smaller budget next year because there will be fewer students in school. The district's enrollment has been on a steady decline for several years.

The district will have \$211,686 less to spend next year, he said, noting that is a much better figure than what it could have been if lawmakers hadn't raised taxes.

"We were looking at a \$735,000 shortage," Selby said.

He said the district will save money by not filling seven positions left open by five teachers who retired and two who quit. Selby said the district will also not be hiring as many assistant coaches this year.

The superintendent said lawmakers could decide not to give the \$20 increase to schools next year if the state doesn't collect as much in taxes as it is expecting. But, he added, the board is assuming the district will get the money.

"We will negotiate on that assumption," Selby said, noting that teachers and board members will meet Tuesday night to negotiate increases in staff salaries.

Moran asks to release CRP grass

HAYS (AP)—Rep. Jerry Moran, in response to an ongoing drought in western Kansas, has joined the ranks of those asking the U.S. Department of Agriculture to release Conservation Reserve Program acres for emergency haying and grazing.

Moran, R-Kan., asked the USDA on Friday for an immediate release of the CRP acreage. About 40 counties — virtually all of them in western Kansas — have also filed reports asking the Farm Service Administration for release.