

weather  
report

47°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 4:25 p.m.
- Tomorrow
- Sunrise, 6:45 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 26 percent
- Sky overcast
- Winds northwest 13 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.18 inches and steady
- Record High 75° (1949)
- Record Low -10° (1952)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 48°  
Low 7°  
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly cloudy, low lower 20s, winds northwest 10-15 m.p.h. Thanksgiving: partly sunny, high mid 50s, low upper 20s, winds west 10-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Friday: mostly sunny, high near 60, low upper 20s. Saturday: partly cloudy, low lower 50s. Sunday: partly cloudy, high lower 50s, low mid 20s. Monday: mostly cloudy, high mid 40s, low mid 20s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$4.04 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.04  
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢  
Corn — \$2.54 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.28  
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢  
Milo — \$2.26 bushel  
Soybeans — \$5.28 bushel  
Posted county price — \$5.15  
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢  
Millet — \$14.00 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$12.35 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Confection current — \$17/\$7 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$16

(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.

Inspectors see  
missile range

AMARIYAH, Iraq — International arms monitors searched a military missile-testing range and a state factory outside Baghdad today, starting a new round of inspections.

Inspectors did not say much, but seemed pleased with cooperation on the first day.

“We hope the Iraqi response today represents the future pattern of cooperation,” said Jacques Baute, leader of the nuclear inspectors.

An air raid siren wailed in Baghdad hours after the inspections began, followed by an all-clear siren. An Iraqi Civil Defense official, who refused to give his name, reported a “hostile flight” over the capital.

The U.N. teams started what was expected to be months of difficult, detailed inspections of hundreds of sites after a four-year break.

# City can take new cuts, but no more

By Rachel Hixson

The Goodland Daily News

Goodland’s city manager says the city can handle state budget cuts announced Tuesday by trimming expenses a little more, but if the cuts keep coming, either services will have to be dropped or taxes raised.

As it is, local governments bore the brunt of the latest round of cuts.

The \$78 million in budget cuts Gov. Bill Graves made Tuesday included eliminating a \$48 million transfer to cities and counties. Graves, who will be replaced by Kathleen Sebelius in January, suggested other cuts that would close the state’s \$312 million difference between spending and revenues.

City Manager Ron Pickman said Goodland stands to lose about \$150,000 in “demand transfer” money from the state this year. The city collects certain taxes from residents, he said, and then sends the money to the state, which is supposed to transfer a percentage back to the city.

The state usually doesn’t send as much back as it is supposed to, Pickman said, but this year the city won’t see any of it.

“We anticipated there would be a decrease . . .,” he said, “but we didn’t know they would totally go away.”

The \$150,000 loss doesn’t seem like much considering the city’s general fund budget is \$2.7 million, he said, but it will have an impact. He noted that the fire department’s budget is just

\$145,000.

Residents won’t see much difference, Pickman said, because heads of the city’s 14 departments will trim their budgets enough to cover the lost revenue.

“They might not be able to buy something they wanted to buy this year,” he said, adding that every purchase has to be approved.

The state’s budget problems aren’t going away anytime soon, Pickman said, and the city could be getting less from the state for several years.

“There’s a strong possibility we won’t get anything the following year,” he said. “Maybe we will never see it again; I don’t know.”

The city’s budget is already tight, Pickman said, because city commissioners have chosen to trim

expenses instead of raising taxes. If the state makes further cuts, he said, the city may be forced to raise taxes.

“It’s something they will have to look strongly at,” he said, “in order to maintain the level of services.”

If the city doesn’t raise taxes, services may have to be cut, Pickman said, noting that the state has just shifted its money problems onto local governments.

“We may be forced to do that at the hand of the state,” he said.

But Pickman said the city will try to do as much as it can with as little as it can.

“It’s a challenge,” he said, “but we’re going to try to make it work.”

## Quicker degree approved

By Rachel Hixson

The Goodland Daily News

Future Goodland High School juniors and seniors could be finished with their first year of college before leaving high school under a program approved Monday by the school board.

The board agreed to let Colby Community College offer an accelerated associate degree to students here. Students can complete the first year of general requirements during high school and then earn a two-year associate degree with just a year of college.

Joe Mildrexler, dean of community services and continuing education for Colby, told the board college officials want to offer the degree to students across northwest Kansas, but picked Goodland High as the best spot for a pilot program. He said Colby has already developed a successful outreach program here using facilities and equipment at the Northwest Kansas Technical College.

Students can take classes at night or during the summer, Mildrexler said, using the technical college’s Interactive Television program — which lets students tune into classes being taught elsewhere.

The program will start at the beginning of next school year, he said, and Colby College will hire someone to help juniors and seniors figure out which classes they should take. Mildrexler said that person will likely be Sharon Hall, a high school teacher who is already Colby College’s outreach coordinator here.

State law allows high school students to take college classes with permission from their principal, Mildrexler said, but students can’t receive financial aid until they have a high school diploma. That means students or their parents will have to pay the full tuition charge.

Board member Mike Campbell asked whether the credits Goodland students earned from Colby would transfer to other Kansas colleges and universities. He said it would be unfair for students to pay for credits that would only be worth something at Colby.

Mildrexler said college officials would like for the students to attend Colby College after graduating, but that’s not the goal of the outreach program. He said the director of the accelerated degree program will work with students to make sure they take classes that will transfer. He noted that some credits will not transfer to all institutions.

In other business, the board:

- Hired Poncho Avelar as an assistant wrestling coach and Scott Hayes as an assistant boys basketball coach. Neither is a district employee.

- Designated People’s State Bank, which opened a branch here this month, as an official depository for school money.

The board agreed to have a lawyer write an agreement between the district and People’s saying the bank can use two parking spots at the district office for a drive-through window in exchange for three spots in front of the bank. Superintendent Marvin Selby said having a legal agreement will make it easier for the district to reclaim its parking spots in the future.

- Heard Selby report that the annual senior dinner will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, in the high school gym.

## Happy Thanksgiving!



## Students take pilgrimage

Holton Witman and Nicholas Koel (front) and Joseph Rennaker and Megan Siruta (behind) were Pilgrims traveling over on the Mayflower in a Thanksgiving play Pat Thompson’s first grade class performed at the Goodland Senior Center on Tuesday morning (above). Thompson directed and Milan Brannick was the narrator (left). Bracelyn Redlin held up the Thanksgiving story she and others in Janet Davis’ first grade class read for the lunch crowd at the center (below). The students were from West Elementary. Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News



## Holiday travelers take to road, skies in numbers

By the Associated Press

Early-bird travelers who hoped to beat the holiday crunch have begun taking to the nation’s roads, rails and skies, despite the threat of long airport lines, higher gas prices and blustery weather.

The AAA predicted air travel nationwide will climb 6 percent over Thanksgiving 2001, just 10 weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks.

“The increase in air travel shows that a lot of people think the (security) sys-

tem today is a little easier to maneuver and is still effective,” said AAA spokesman Tom Calcagni.

By Tuesday evening, travelers were beginning their holiday trips. AAA predicted 35.9 million Americans will be at least 50 miles from home by Sunday, a 1.7 percent increase from last year.

Some of the lowest air fares since the late 1980s could boost air travel. Wait times at security checkpoints averaged only nine minutes Tuesday afternoon.

## Holiday closings

The following will be closed for Thanksgiving:

- ✓ City and county offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday.
- ✓ Goodland schools closed today, resume classes Monday.
- ✓ Northwest Kansas Technical College dismissed at noon today, closed Thursday and Friday.
- ✓ The Goodland Post Office will be closed on Thursday, but open regular hours on Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

✓ U.S. Department of Agriculture offices will be closed Thursday, but open Friday.

✓ The county landfill will be closed Thursday and Friday.

✓ City trash service — Dumpsters scheduled to be picked up on Thursday and Friday will be picked up today.

✓ Most private offices and many businesses will be closed Thursday.

Contact individual businesses for information.