2001

THURSDAY

Volume 69, Number 68

weather report

Today

• Sunset, 7:13 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:24 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:14 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 48 degrees
- Humidity 93 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds south 4 mph • Barometer 29.94 inches
- and falling • Record High 86° (1932)
- Record Low 18° (1945)

Last 24 Hours*

High Low 0.03 inch Precipitation

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, low 45-50, south wind 15-25 mph. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, 70 percent chance of thunderstorms, high mid 70s, low 35-40, south wind 25-35 mph and gusty.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: dry, high 70. Sunday and Monday: dry, high 60s, low 30s.

(National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.



Noon

Wheat — \$2.74 bushel Posted county price — \$2.64 Loan deficiency payment — 0¢ Corn — \$1.95 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.85 Loan deficiency payment — 14¢ Milo — \$3.12 hundredweight Soybeans — \$3.80 bushel Posted county price — \$3.71

Loan deficiency payment — \$1.19 Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$6.70 cwt. Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.13 Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt. Pinto beans — \$14 (new crop) (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century

Bean. These may not be closing figures.)



from the Associated Press



State forced to cut budget

TOPEKA — Legislators have learned they will have to cut more than \$185 million from the budget recommendations they are close to

According to new revenue estimates Wednesday, the state will collect \$74 million less than previously expected in the fiscal year that ends June 30—and \$111 million less than earlier predicted for

fiscal 2002, which begins July 1. The new numbers reflected estimators' belief that the growth of the Kansas economy is slowing. Gov. Bill Graves and legislators had expected some bad news, but the numbers stunned many of

The numbers were released just hours after the House voted 94-29 to approve a compromise \$9.11 billion spending bill containing the bulk of the state's fiscal 2002 bud-

Hospital administrator search slows

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Hiring a new administrator for Goodland Regional Medical Center is moving more slowly than expected, board Chairman Doug Irvin told the hospital board at Monday's regular meeting.

"We hope to have a decision by Wednesday," Irvin said. "It is not moving as fast as we had hoped, but we are still working on it. Our goal is to have someone in place by May 1, but we may not make that.

"Right now we are in a waiting period. We were asked to give the applicant some time and

we have to respect that request. We do not have any additional meetings scheduled and hope to have this concluded soon.

"We know everyone is interested; everyone is asking what is happening."

Under the interim managers, though, February was another good month for the hospital, said Andy Laue, head of the management team and chief financial officer.

"We are encouraged by the first months of the year," Laue said. "We are a little ahead of budget, and hope things continue this way so we can be on budget by the end of the year.

"We know the summer months are when we will are usually some of our busiest." really know how we are doing, as usually we have fewer patients."

Looking at the monthly indicators, Laue noted a large increase in the average number of patients on a daily basis, nearly 21 this year as compared to about 11 last year.

"Yes, this was more like normal and helps get the year off to a good start," he said. "Last winter was unusual and with the low number of patients it put us in a deep hole early in the year. While we don't like to have people sick, it is the business that helps us operate and the first months of the year

The figures show the income from patient revenue was \$902,496, about \$82,000 ahead of the budget for February. Total operating revenue was up by \$41,585 to \$643,846.

However, with the increased patient load come increased expenses, which were up \$30,797 to \$692,236. This resulted in a loss from operations of \$48,390 for the month, however this was \$10,788 less than expected under the budget.

After including the non-operating revenue of

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China demands apology

Officials to question 24 crew members

By John Leicester

Associated Press Writer BEIJING — China welcomed American expressions of regret over the loss of a Chinese pilot in a collision with a U.S. spy plane and quashed a small

a sign it wants to rein in public anger amid efforts to resolve tensions. Still, Beijing stuck by its demand for a full U.S. apology and took a tougher line on the detained crew of the spy plane, calling them lawbreakers and saying they would remain in China for

protest outside the U.S. Embassy today,

questioning. The White House appeared more optimistic today, and spokesman Ari Fleischer said diplomats were "heavily engaged" in efforts to resolve the crisis. Secretary of State Colin Powell, in a letter to Beijing, reiterated U.S. concern and regret for the death of a Chinese pilot whose fighter collided with the U.S. craft over the South China Sea, a senior U.S. official said.

China reacted with a mixture of encouragement and toughness, a strategy designed to push the Americans towards a full apology and acceptance of wrongdoing. Only that, China maintains, will end the impasse. Washington rules out an apology, saying its crew did nothing wrong.

"The regret expressed by the U.S. side is a step in the right direction to solving this question," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Sun Yuxi, in response to Powell's first public expression of regret on Wednesday.

"As for the next step in handling this issue, the key is for the U.S. side to adopt a cooperative attitude, admit its mistakes and make a formal apology," Sun said.

Sun gave no sign that the U.S. Navy EP-3E's 24 crew members would be released soon, despite warnings from President Bush that China risks undermining relations by continuing to hold them. Sun said the collision was still being investigated.

"The U.S. crew violated international law," Sun said.

Asked whether the 21 men and three women were being questioned, Sun said: "They have caused this air collision incident and they also entered illegally into China's airspace. It is fully natural for competent authorities in China to question them about this inci-

Chinese President Jiang Zemin, meanwhile, arrived in Chile today, the first stop on a 12-day visit to Latin America that he began despite the crisis with the United States. He will also stop in Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Venezuela and Cuba.

The crew of the EP-3E has been held on Hainan island in the South China Sea since making an emergency landing at a Chinese military base there Sunday after the collision. U.S. diplomats waiting on Hainan

have been granted just one meeting with the crew and are pressing for another. Sun said the crew was safe and well and that China would consider another visit "if the U.S. side takes a cooperative approach."

On Thursday, U.S. diplomats handed over books, magazines and snacks to Chinese officials and assumed that they were delivered to the crew, said Mark Canning, one of the diplomats.



By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Now that the K-27 project is underway and the highway is closed north of the city, Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson is trying to find ways to handle traffic problems on the local access roads.

Whitson told the Sherman County commissioners at their meeting Friday he has not been able to find any state law which would allow the Kansas Highway Patrol to help keep big trucks off the county roads.

He said both he and Lt. Kevin Winston, area supervisor for the patrol, had been looking, but it appears that since the county roads have not been designated as an official state detours, there is no authority for troopers to stop independent truckers on these roads.

Large commercial trucking firms are regulated by the Kansas Commerce Commission and most follow designated routes. If one of these are found on a non-designated road, he said, they can be ticketed.

The patrol does have authority to enforce other traffic laws on any public street or road, Whitson said, and troopers can write tickets to drivers with vehicles that are overweight for posted bridges.

"We are mostly concerned about speeding and overweight trucks crossing the bridges on these roads,"



Concrete guardrails have already been removed from the first bridge north of Goodland, which will be widened.

Whitson said. "The larger trucks also had been traveling the access roads tend to blow the gravel off the roads and break down the road condition. The accepted speed limit is 55 under state law unless otherwise posted. We got one the other day for doing 81."

With the assistance of the patrol, Whitson says they will try to be on the road as much as possible.

and had not seen very many trucks so far. He said that if a independent truck is found on the road which may be overweight for the posted bridges, they will have to escort the driver to Goodland and take them to a certified "I think the biggest problem will be

Under Sheriff Kevin Butts said he with speed," Butts said. He said that straight in to St. Francis.

the access roads, and that speed was possibly involved. Whitson said he has had several

so far, there had been one accident on

complaints about high speeds on the roads, and that another complaint is that at least three windshields have been broken by flying rocks from the speeding vehicles. Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked

if the bridges are posted with the weight limits.

Whitson said as far as he knows, all the bridges in the detour area are posted for maximum weight, and that since a contractor has torn out a bridge north of the city, there are not as many vehicles trying to drive north on K-27. He noted that those living along K-27 south of where the bridge has been removed continue to use the highway, and he expects that to continue until the actual road reconstruction begins.

Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld asked if the detours appear to be in drivable condition. Butts said he thought the road was in good condition, and that the county crew had been working on it when he was there Thursday.

One of the local access routes is to drive west on Eighth Street to County Road 17; north to Road 74; west a mile to Road 15; north to Road 80; and then north on Lawn Ridge Road

Volunteers trained to spot tornadoes, storms Lynott focused on the importance of to overshoot and may miss what's at or

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

More than 60 people gathered Thursto learn about tornadoes and other severe weather from a Goodland meteo-

meteorologist from the National in Sherman County in the three years Weather Service Office, spoke at the he has been here.

storm-spotter training session. Lynott said he conducts these training sessions in the spring in the 19 counday night at the National Guard Armory ties in the Goodland office's warning

He said overall, the crowds have been very good at these sessions and Kevin Lynott, weather coordination this was the highest turnout he has seen

storm spotters in helping the weather service warn the public of dangerous storms or tornadoes. He said the Doppler radar can miss

some things. The radar scans horizontally at different angles, but can't go straight up in the sky, he said, so it can't pick up storms directly overhead. If a storm is a long way off, the beam tends

He told the spotters about the four different types of storms common here, including squall lines, bow echoes,

near the ground.

microbursts and supercells. Supercells, the strongest and longest lasting type of storm, can produce tor-

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