



Neil Thornburg, with the Public Works department, hammered bricks back into place after the crew repaired a pipe under Main street. Photo by Reaghan Smith/The Goodland Daily News

# City to finish repair on Main

**By Reaghan Smith**  
*The Goodland Daily News*  
 It's been hard to miss the big hole and orange barrels that have been on the west side of Main Avenue in front of the Veterans of Foreign Wars building for the past week, but both should disappear today.  
 City workers have been repairing pipes under Main Avenue since the middle of last week, but say work should end today.  
 Ed Wolak, director of public works,

said a service connection of two-inch steel pipe to the veterans building had to be repaired several times in the last few years.  
 "This time we decided to dig it out further to repair it from decent pipe," he said. "If we were to dig it out completely to replace to whole line, service would be off in that area for several weeks."  
 Wolak said when repairs need to be done the city tries to do it in as little time and with as little inconvenience as pos-

sible.  
 The crew had to block off part of Main in front of the veterans' building in order to dig further back and water service was briefly interrupted to the Goodland Activities Center while the repairs were being done.  
 The waterline repairs are now completed and city crews replaced the bricks today.

classifieds work.

# Teddy bear picnic success

**PICNIC, from Page 1**  
 who have lent a hand.  
 Dina Ledesma said her five children begged her to take them to the picnic. "The kids wanted to bring their stuffed animals," she said. "They just enjoy helping out."  
 The Ledesma children and other youngsters received the youth award for outstanding achievement. Most of the kids spent the previous day walking around town picking up trash and cleaning for PRIDE.  
 "They worked very hard all day yesterday," Ledesma said.  
 As Vanessa Perez, 10, dropped two

bunnies into the play pen, she said it makes her feel good to give.  
 "Someone gave them to me as a gift," she said. "I want to give them as a gift to someone else."  
 Perez, who said she helped clean up Briggs Park a few months ago, said she wants to be the type of person who helps out.  
 "I thought it would be fun to help our environment stay clean," she said.  
 Estes said it's people like Perez who make the PRIDE program a success in Kanorado.  
 "If it wasn't for the community getting together," she said after handing

out certificates, "we wouldn't have the number of projects that we do."  
 Last year, Estes said, Kanorado PRIDE was awarded \$500 from the state PRIDE program for community excellence. She said the money will be used for projects and to buy playground equipment for a park PRIDE is working to build near one of the small town's two closed schools.  
 Though there isn't a PRIDE chapter in Goodland, Estes said, she's talked to people who are thinking about getting one started.  
 "It's just a matter of enrolling," she said.

# Derailment causes no chemical spill

**DERAILMENT, from Page 1**  
 under way.  
 The fire chief said that cargo on the train included carbon dioxide, nitrogen, white asbestos, sodium hydroxide and some type of glue. He said he did not believe there had been a chemical spill.  
 Curmode said he did not know what was in the cars that derailed, and officials were letting the fire that began within the wreckage keep burning.  
 "We are not doing anything until we know exactly what we are dealing with," he said.  
 He said officials were most concerned about the white asbestos and

sodium hydroxide.  
 They were not certain of the location of the asbestos, but believed it might be near or underneath the piled-up wreckage.  
 Curmode said heavy equipment was being brought in to try and separate the unburned cars from the fire.  
 If they're not able to do that, firefighters will use water brought in by tankers to spray down the unburned cars.  
 The intermodal train used flat cars carrying trailers and other cargo containers.  
 Curmode said there were between 65 and 75 cars on the train. He said he

did not know its point of origin or destination, but that it was traveling on a high-speed track, one of the busiest in the area with a train coming on it every 38 to 45 minutes.  
 At the scene, in addition to Sedgwick County firefighters, were others from Mulvane and Rose Hill, hazardous materials units, county sheriff's deputies, emergency management officials and health department representatives.  
 A man who answered the phone at a Burlington Northern office said he could not provide any information on the derailment, referring questions to a company spokesman who did not immediately return a call.

# Legislators seek enlightenment on budget

TOPEKA (AP) — Legislators are asking auditors to study the numerous methods the state's 304 school districts use to report how they spend their nickels and dimes.  
 State auditors will spend the next three months digging into school district budgets, hoping to determine a common method for comparing expenditures among the districts.  
 Auditors will compare budget documents of three large districts and three small districts and report to legislators after the 2002 session begins in January.  
 The audit approved Wednesday was requested by Senate President Dave

Kerr, R-Hutchinson. Legislators expressed concern during the 2001 session that there were no documents readily available that allowed them to compare expenditures and track school spending.  
 "We want a budget that people can understand," said Rep. Dean Newton, R-Prairie Village and member of the Legislative Post Audit Committee. "We need a valid comparison between schools that is more accessible to the public."  
 The state spends more than \$2.3 billion on public education. School districts had until Aug. 25 to certify their budgets with the state, detailing how

federal, state and local revenues are spent.  
 Sen. Derek Schmidt, R-Independence and member of the post audit committee, said a "common language" used by all districts would make the debate over school finance more productive among legislators.  
 During the 2001 session, legislators ordered a \$225,000 study of what it costs to provide a suitable education for students in Kansas schools in all areas of the state.  
 A private consulting firm will conduct the study, which is not expected to be completed until late in the 2002 session at the earliest.

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