

weather report

65°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 7:38 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 5:48 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:39 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 51 degrees
- Humidity 62 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds east 15-21 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.80 inches and rising
- Record High 94° (1959)
- Record Low 21° (1967)

Last 24 Hours*

High 76°
Low 37°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, low mid 40s, winds east 10-15 m.p.h. Tomorrow: cloudy with 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high lower 50s, low upper 30s, winds northeast 10-20 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: sunny, high mid 50s, low upper 30s. Friday: high 70s. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.48 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.36
Loan deficiency payment — 9¢
Corn — \$1.76 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.73
Loan deficiency payment — 26¢
Milo — \$1.45 bushel
Soybeans — \$3.98 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.01
Loan deficiency payment — 91¢
Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$8.95 cwt.
NuSun — \$9.10 cwt.
Loan deficiency prmt. — 54¢
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.

Israel blocks U.N. inquiry

JERUSALEM — A defiant Israel decided today to block a U.N. inquiry into the fighting at the Jenin refugee camp, while 26 Palestinian civilians and policemen emerged from the besieged Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

It was the largest number to exit the Bethlehem compound since a standoff between Israeli troops and armed Palestinians began nearly a month ago, but the core dispute over the fate of two dozen wanted gunmen remained unresolved.

In Hebron, columns of armored vehicles rumbled out of the Palestinian city after a two-day incursion during which nine Palestinians were killed and about 250 arrested.

In the West Bank town of Jericho, U.S. and British experts toured a local jail today.

District cuts four positions

*Staff will be rehired
if state gives money*

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Four Goodland teachers' jobs are in the hands of Kansas legislators.

The Goodland School Board laid off four teachers at a special meeting Monday because the district may not have enough money to pay them next year, but members said they could be hired back.

The teachers will finish this school year, and may or may not return next year. Board members say it all depends on how much money state lawmakers decide to give schools next year.

Facing a \$700-million budget hole, legislators say they need to make cuts to keep from falling in. They've discussed slashing state aid to schools by as much as \$300 per student, keeping aid at the same level or increasing it by \$10 to \$20 per student.

The Legislature will reconvene on Wednesday after a two-week break to figure out how to balance the budget. Depending on who you ask, the wrap-up session could take between four days and three weeks.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said if lawmakers keep state aid at the same level, \$3,870 per student, or increase it, the district could afford to hire the teachers back.

No matter what, the district will likely have less money to spend next year because of declining enrollment and increasing costs to run schools. Selby said if state aid is reduced, the district won't have enough money to pay the teachers.

Many districts have been laying off staff this week, he said, because state law requires districts to notify teachers by May 1 (Wednesday) that they won't be hired back. The Salina School Board cut 15 teaching jobs on Monday night, with members saying the teachers could be hired back.

The Goodland board held the special meeting to talk with the district's five

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Football coach replaced

The Goodland School Board on Monday hired a new head football coach, accepted resignations from two teachers and decided to give a teacher tenure.

The board held a special meeting to talk with principals about rehiring teachers. Most of the nearly two-hour meeting was held behind closed doors because members are legally allowed to discuss staff in private.

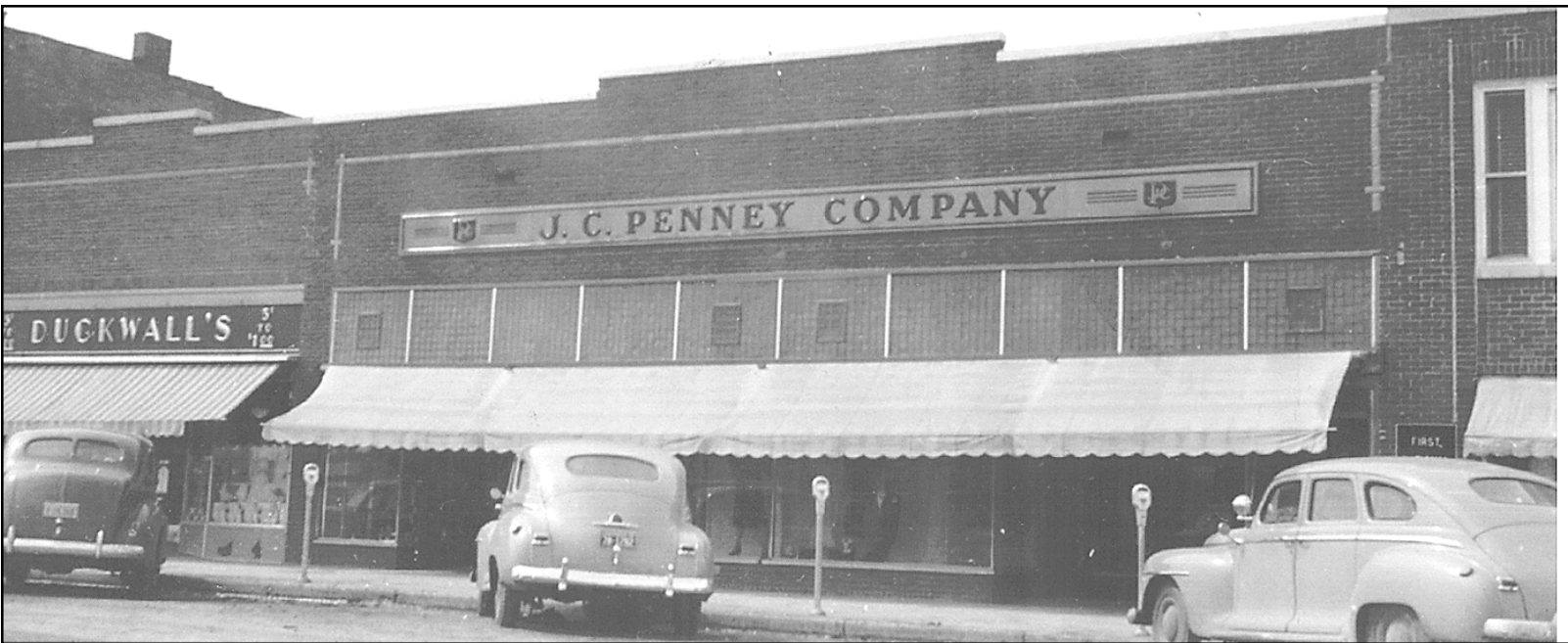
In open session, members voted to hire Tony Diehl, a high school English teacher in Goodland, to replace Chris Walters, the Cowboys head football coach who resigned this month.

Walters, a high school science teacher, is taking a coaching and teaching job in Ness City next year. The Cowboys did not win a game last season.

Members said Diehl will run the weight lifting program this summer. Superintendent Marvin Selby said Diehl has a strong coaching and weight training background and is a good motivator.

"We think he'll do a good job of getting kids in the program that haven't been involved before," the superintendent said after the meeting. "He can turn it into a winning program."

The board accepted resignations from Jack Walker, a high school science teacher, and Jean Johnson, a high school teacher's aide. Members also agreed to give tenure to Lynette McLean, a first grade teacher at West Elementary School.



In the early 1950's, J.C. Penney, which has been in the same location since it opened in Goodland in 1929, was a neighbor to Duckwall's, which later became Alco.
Photo courtesy of J. C. Penney

J.C. Penney forever evolving

*Store stocked
with happy
memories*

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

A lot has changed at J.C. Penney during its 100-year history and its 73 years in Goodland.

Goodland's store, only 4,700 square feet, is the second oldest in Kansas.

It opened on Aug. 1, 1929, only months before the stock market crash which triggered the Great Depression. The store reported over \$148,000 in sales its first year.

There have been a lot of changes since then. Melva Stephan, a long-time employee who retired from the Goodland store, said she remembers when the store cashier used a trolley system.

A cup was attached to a pulley and was pulled up to a cashier in the upstairs office, she said. The order would go up with the money, and change and a receipt would come back down.

"It was a good system," she said. "It helped with bookkeeping, with only one person doing it for the whole store. It was a little slow, but times were slower back then."

People used to sew their own clothes more than they do now, said Clyde Lambertz, a former store manager here, and the store used to sell bolts of cloth.

In those days, the company focused more on work clothes, he said, rather than fashionable clothes.

Prices, of course, have gone up. Kathy Thomas, who has been with the store since 1987, says people tell her they used to buy overalls for 30 cents.

One man came in after his dad died, Thomas said, with a pair of pants that still had the tags on it.

"He was very adamant that he wanted a refund," she said. "It was our policy."

Thomas said they refunded the \$2.39 paid for the pants 40 to 50 years

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Daniel Schields shopped with his mother, Jeannie, last week at J. C. Penney.
Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Employee will never forget job

The 100th anniversary of J.C. Penny's has come and gone, but for one woman, memories from the Goodland store will last the rest of her life.

Melva Stephan, 82, who worked at the store from 1939 to '42, then from 1957 to '84, said she enjoyed every day she spent with the company.

"There wasn't a morning when I didn't want to go to work," she said. "I had five different managers, and got along with every one of them."

She says Clyde Lambertz, who managed the store from 1969 to 1995, was one of the best.

"He came a long way," she said. "He really got educated. Once he got used to us, he was really a great manager."

She said she has great stories she could tell, "but I don't think you'd be able to print them," she said with a laugh.

Over time, Stephan says, she got to know the preferences and sizes of her regular customers.

If a husband came in and wanted to buy something for his wife, she would know what size the woman wore and what she liked.

Well, usually. "This one gentleman, he was a stranger to me," she said, "He came in and wanted a dress for his wife, so I asked him what size she was."

The man told Stephan she and his wife were about the same size, so she showed him a couple of dresses in her size, a 12, and he picked one out. Some days later, Stephan said, a woman came in and asked for her by description.

"She said she wanted to know what I looked like," she said, "because the dress was a size 12, and she was a 22 1/2."

"We still laugh about it when we see each other."

Stephan says it is still common for her to run into an old customer.

"Even now, when you meet someone on the street, someone who used

to come in the store, it's like a reunion," she said.

The people she worked with were pretty great, too, she said.

"It was like a family," she said. "Their troubles were your troubles. Their happiness, well, that was yours, too."

Stephan said her co-workers, especially her manager, were helpful when her husband died.

"They were very supportive," she said. "Mr. Lambertz, he was a super, super guy about it."

She said not everything was great, of course. There could be downsides. It was, after all, a job.

"We had this one woman customer, she could irritate the heck out of you," Stephan said. "No one would wait on her but me. The other clerks would go back to the back room."

"I enjoyed working there, though. I loved my job, I loved the people I worked with, and I loved the customers. It was a good place to work."

U.S. 36 taxpayers divided on budget solution

By Joshua Akers

Associated Press Writer

SENECA — Two 72-year-old friends enjoyed an afternoon cup of coffee at the counter of Arsh Drug in downtown Seneca and argued about Kansas politics.

Gerald Hammes, a retired farmer, and Francis Schraad, a retired Allied Signal computer supervisor, sparred over whether the Legislature should raise taxes to cure a projected \$700 million budget shortfall.

No, said Hammes.

"Some say we got too many chickens that won't raise taxes so they can get elected. I don't want them to do it," Hammes said. "I don't want them to do it."

There's no choice, said Schraad.

"They're going to have to raise taxes," he said. "But it needs to be everyone. A half-percent sales tax is going to hurt everybody. Tax the vices — tax it all a little more."

“Some say we got too many chickens that won't raise taxes so they can get elected. I don't want them to do it.”

- Gerald Hammes
Retired Farmer

The debate between the two men in Seneca, seat of Nemaha County, reflected the mix of opinions voiced by residents of many towns dotting U.S. 36, the highway that stretches along Kansas' northern tier from Colorado to the Missouri line.

Difficult decisions await legislators as they head into the wrap-up session that starts Wednesday. Many don't want to hurt public schools or government services but remain reluctant to increase taxes when the economy is slumping, particularly in rural areas.

The views are equally conflicted along U.S. 36.

In Wathena, a town of about 1,350 people located six miles from the Missouri border, Mayor Jim McAnerney spoke up while working his day job on a recent afternoon in the post office. He said cuts in the state budget would hurt his hometown.

If state aid to cities and counties were reduced, as the Legislature has contemplated, Wathena would be forced to consider raising its property taxes, McAnerney said. Education officials have said the same thing will happen in local school districts unless state aid is increased. Yet the Wathena mayor said any tax increase, even one at the state

level, would be difficult for residents to handle.

"There is no such thing as an easy tax," he said. "People might accept them, but levels of services would need to be the same or better."

Down the highway in Troy, the seat of Doniphan County, retired farmer Roy Drake suggested the solution to an unbalanced budget was simple. And it doesn't mean raising taxes.

"Cut some of the spending," said Drake, 77. "That's the way we get to do it out here."

But Craig Mosher, who works a dozen miles further west in Highland, was unhappy that the Legislature wasn't ready to pass large tax increases. Mosher is executive assistant to the president of Highland Community College.

"My sense is people feel like they

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