


weather report

64°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:41 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:45 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:42 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 52 degrees

• Humidity 42 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds south 18-23 m.p.h.

• Barometer 29.89 inches and falling

• Record High 93° (1949)

• Record Low 26° (1954)

Last 24 Hours*

High 61°

Low 30°

Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, low upper 30s, winds southwest 10-20 m.p.h.

Tomorrow: partly sunny with 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms late, high near 70, low near 50, winds north 10-20 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly sunny with 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high mid 70s, low upper 40s.


Monday: slight chance of showers.

(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 — \$2.39

Loan deficiency payment — 6¢

Corn — \$1.76 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.78

Loan deficiency payment — 21¢

Milo — \$1.45 bushel

Soybeans — \$3.93 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.03

Loan deficiency payment — 89¢

Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$9.00 cwt.

NuSun — \$9.15 cwt.

Loan deficiency prnt. — 57¢

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.

FBI warned of terrorists

WASHINGTON — Two months before the suicide hijackings, an FBI agent in Arizona alerted Washington headquarters that several Middle Easterners were training at a U.S. aviation school and recommended contacting other schools nationwide where Arabs might be studying.

“FBIHQ should discuss this matter with other elements of the U.S. intelligence community and task the community for any information that supports Phoenix’s suspicions,” the agent recommended in the memo obtained by The Associated Press.

The FBI sent the intelligence to its terrorism experts in Washington and New York for analysis and had begun discussing conducting a nationwide canvass of flight schools when the Sept. 11 tragedies occurred, officials told AP.

House passes compromise budget

By John Hanna
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Senate Republican leaders struggled today to build the support needed to pass a \$4.4 billion budget that keeps funding for schools and universities flat but is \$293 million out of balance.

The House approved the plan by a two-vote margin Thursday, but on Senate GOP leaders said they were short of having the 21 votes they needed in the 40-member chamber. A vote was not expected until late in the afternoon.

“We didn’t have quite enough votes last

night,” said Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairman Steve Morris, R-Hugoton. “We’re working on it.”

The spending plan for fiscal 2003, which starts July 1, was drafted by House and Senate negotiators reconciling differences in budgets passed earlier by the two chambers. Passage in the Senate would send it to Gov. Bill Graves.

But lawmakers would still have to pass a budget cleanup bill and consider a \$293 million tax increase to balance the budget, which already relies on using \$110 million from the state’s cash reserves.

In all, the compromise budget would appropriate \$137 million less from the state’s general fund than the \$4.54 billion spent in the current fiscal year.

The decline reflects the gap between revenues and spending mandated by state and federal laws or pledged during earlier legislative sessions. The estimate was revised slightly Friday, to \$771 million, based on final April revenue collection figures.

In the Senate, Democrats oppose the budget plan, arguing it still cuts social services too much — though it protects some social services — and

doesn’t do enough for education.

It maintains state aid to public schools at \$3,870 per pupil and holds higher education spending flat, but critics said school districts and universities need more money to meet higher payrolls and health insurance costs.

“It’s ugly,” said Sen. Paul Feleciano, D-Wichita. “We’re going to balance it on the backs of the poor, the working poor, and on kids who want to go to college.”

Conservative Republicans also disliked the plan because it would push the state toward a tax increase.

Event honors war days

Celebration’s theme is World War II

By Doug Stephens
The Goodland Daily News

Step back a little. The year is 1942. The men are away fighting, and the women are running the factories for the first time.

Food, gas and tires are rationed, and scrap metal is precious. The world is at war, again.

Most people alive today were born after World War II, but it is an important part of our history, and it is this year’s theme of Settlement Days.

All next week, businesses are encouraged to display artifacts from the era, including toys, pictures, war memorabilia or anything else that made an impact on people’s lives.

On Friday, May 10, a parade featuring World War II veterans will go down Main Avenue at 4 p.m., the first time there has been a parade in the event’s three-year history.

The Goodland High School band has agreed to play military tunes and Tina Goodwin, director of the Carnegie Arts Center, said cast members of the play “Don’t Say No to the U.S.O.!” will join the fun.

Following the parade, there will be a ceremony at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall on Main honoring the veterans.

Plans are still tentative, but Goodland students may read patriotic essays they have written.

Goodwin said the arts center will feature paintings and carvings by Jim Shaver, a German prisoner of war. The High Plains Museum plans to put up a temporary display of uniforms and clothes from the era.

Sherman County’s historical Handy House on 13th and Center will display items rationed during the war and present other ways life in the county was affected by the war.

The parade will include vintage cars from the era.

Any person or group that wants to enter an older car, motorcycle or float, should call the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce, which is working with the historical society to put the event together.

Any business that does not have any World War II items can also call the Chamber at 899-7130.

The historical society wants to put together a complete list of all Sherman County World War II veterans. They have a list from the Goodland Public Library, but it only includes those who went through the Sherman County draft board.

Anyone who has moved to the area since then, or registered in another county, might be missing. The groups would like to be contacted by those veterans.

All World War II veterans are encouraged to show up at the south end of Main at 3:30 p.m. Friday, so they can be included in the parade and the ceremony.

Settlement Days was started to showcase Sherman County’s rich history. Evelyn Ward, president of the historical society, said society members think the county’s history can help the county.

“We feel Sherman County history is very unique,” she said. “It can be used to bring about economic development.”



Goodland High School students Melinda Benavides (far left), junior, and LouAnn Medrano, freshman, served rice and tamales on Tuesday during a dinner to introduce the new club G.R.A.C.E., of which Benavides and Medrano are members.
Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

Club transforms Hispanic girls

By Rachel Miscal
The Goodland Daily News

Harvey Swager, Goodland High School principal, said while he was giving a student a speech about how education can better her life, she basically told him that she planned to drop out of school and sell drugs to make money.

He said she was one of several Hispanic girls ditching school, fighting between classes and being disrespectful to other students and teachers.

They were sent to his office a lot, Swager said, but the extent of the problem didn’t hit him until that conversation.

“I realized at that particular moment,” he said, “that I just did not understand.”

“I have kids the same age. I couldn’t understand how they could drop out. I thought no father would feel different.”

Swager said he decided he had to get to know the Hispanic girls better. He thought if he could really talk to them he could understand their problems and help find solutions.

Four months later, the same students aren’t in the principal’s office much anymore, except maybe when they stop by to say “Hi.” They smile and wave at Swager in the hallway.

“I have seen more effort,” he said, “more respect and really charming personalities. Each one has become important to me.”

What has caused this huge transformation?

It’s a club called G.R.A.C.E. — Girls’ Rights and Accountability to their Culture and Education — and

members say it has improved their lives by helping them feel more accepted and important at school and in the community.

Swager formed the group with the help of two Hispanic women, Cris Lovington, director of the Regional Prevention Center, and Barbara Fernandez, director of Harvest America. Both organizations assist children and families.

The ultimate goal, Swager said, is to teach the girls that being successful doesn’t require compromising their beliefs or leaving behind their culture. G.R.A.C.E. members say their perception of education has changed.

“I think it’s helped a lot everywhere,” said sophomore Crisy Hernandez, president of the 11-member club. “It’s like when you see a lot of Hispanic kids dropping out, people are looking down on us. We all want everyone to know we’re not like that.”

That’s why one of the members’ goals is to get to know teachers, school administrators and city leaders. They took a step in that direction on Tuesday, inviting families, teachers and school board members to a dinner in the high school cafeteria.

During a meal of tamales, rice, beans, corn chips and salsa, G.R.A.C.E. members spoke about their goals and led activities that helped people get acquainted. Freshman Jeeny Lopez, a G.R.A.C.E. member, translated for those in the room who only spoke Spanish.

Everyone participated in an activ-

Prevention center’s goal escapes some

By Rachel Miscal
The Goodland Daily News

Cris Lovington, Goodland’s Regional Prevention Center director, said many people don’t know the center can bring families closer together, keep children out of trouble and prevent violence, drug abuse and teen pregnancy — all for free.

What they may not want to find out, she said, is that the center’s services are necessary even in this small, rural town.

“We can’t deny that these problems are in our small community,” she said. “It’s out there and there’s no barrier.”

Everyone could benefit from a trip to the prevention center, Lovington said, but a lot of people don’t know where it is, or what it does. Some who do know, avoid it, figuring the facility is only for those with serious mental or health problems.

“At first it surprised me that people didn’t know what it was,” said Lovington, who has been the center’s director for almost four years. “I realized there’s a stigma attached to it. People don’t want to come in.”



Lovington

But they shouldn’t feel threatened, she said, because the center has the resources to make their lives better.

“When I got here and read the brochures,” she said, “at first I thought it sounded corny. But I applied it to my lifestyle and you know what, it works. What I have learned here has improved my relationship with my kids.”

Lovington said the prevention center’s main goal is to stop children from doing things that can mess up their life — drinking, smoking, using drugs, having unsafe sex, committing crimes — by showing them the consequences and getting them involved in other activities.

The center does that, she said, by holding workshops, panel discussions and classes; assisting clubs or organizations that focus on helping children; putting information in newspapers and on the radio; and working with parents and schools.

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Students to soak up history at Cinco de Mayo

By Doug Stephens
The Goodland Daily News

Three Goodland students will travel to Denver on Saturday to watch the annual Cinco de Mayo celebration.

The two-day event, commemorating the Mexican army’s victory over French troops on May 5, 1862, is expected to draw 400,000 people, said Mary Porterfield, Spanish teacher.

She said the students will only be in Denver for a day.

Megan Ford, Randi Jo Gray, and John Hamilton, all sophomores in the Spanish II class, will leave Goodland about 7:30 a.m. Saturday and should be on their way home about 8 p.m., Porterfield said.

She said the celebration at Civic Park in downtown Denver will have booths

with items from Mexico, and there will be musical and dancing performances.

“It’s a celebration of Mexican heritage,” Porterfield said. “The kids will be able to walk around and see all the varied displays.”

The Spanish teacher said she used to go to the fair many years ago, and it was just a small street fair.

“Today, it is huge,” she said. “People from all over are going to be there.”

Later in the day, Porterfield said, the students will go to the Denver Art Museum, where they will look at pieces from South and Central America.

Originally 20 students were invited, she said, but there were scheduling conflicts.

“It looks like there’s only going to be three students this year,” she said. “It’s still a worthwhile trip. It will be a good experience.”