2002

WEDNESDAY

Volume 70, Number 96

weather report

Today

• Sunset, 7:53 p.m.

Tomorrow

 Sunrise, 5:33 a.m. Sunset, 7:54 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 61 degrees
- Humidity 21 percent Sky partly cloudy
- Winds northeast 5 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.77 inches and falling
- Record High 94° (1936) • Record Low 30° (1924)
 - Last 24 Hours*

84°

40° Low Precipitation

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: cloudy with 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, low upper 40s, winds northeast 10 - 20 m.p.h. Tomorrow: cloudy with 30 percent chance of rain late, high mid 60s, low lower 40s, winds northeast 10 - 20 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Friday: mostly cloudy, high upper 50s, low upper 30s. Saturday: partly cloudy, high upper 60s.

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



Noon

Wheat — \$2.54 bushel New Crop — \$2.58 Posted county price — \$2.45 Corn — \$1.91 bushel Posted county price — \$1.93 Loan deficiency payment — 6¢

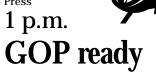
Milo — \$1.60 bushel Soybeans — \$4.16 bushel Posted county price — \$4.17 Loan deficiency payment — 75¢ Millet — \$0.00 hundredweight Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$9.25 cwt. NuSun — \$9.40 cwt. Loan deficiency pmt. — 66¢ 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.



Late news from the Associated Press



TOPEKA - Negotiators fashioned a new budget-balancing package of \$257 million in tax increases today, and Republican leaders said they would end the

to end session

session even if it didn't pass. Legislators were trying to fill a \$290 million hole in the \$4.4 billion budget they sent Gov. Bill Graves for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

Elements of the newest package were in two bills.

One, to be considered first today by the House, would raise the state's 4.9 percent sales tax to 5.3 percent on July 1, then drop it to 5.2 percent in 2004 and to 5 percent in

It would also raise the 24-cent cigarette tax to 89 cents, double the wholesale tax on tobacco products to 20 percent and tax property inherited by nephews, nieces and non-relatives.

County supports new group

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County commissioners expressed support for a new economic opment plan. development group Tuesday and asked the steering committee to continue organizing plans.

Eighteen citizens from the steering committee told commissioners at the meeting they were looking at several options for setting up the organization, but the top choice was to form under the

Schyler Goodwin, spokesman for the group, said the steering committee was

the commissioners on what the county would like to see in a economic devel-

Eight Pages

Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld asked if the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce would be involved in the new organization?

Goodwin said the Chamber was not included in the plans. He said the thinking was that the economic development would be separate from the Chamber and focus on bringing business to the

looking for support and guidance from talked to the county auditor about the possibility of accepting money from businesses and citizens for development. He said the auditor said as long as the group was formed under a proper resolution, contributions could be made and earmarked for that specific purpose. Rasure said he supported establishing a development group, noting that if it is established by the county, the economic development board would be subject to the open meetings laws.

Goodwin asked if the county could establish a special property tax for eco-Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he nomic development.

Frankenfeld said commissioners could pass a resolution to establish a property tax levy, and voters would have a protest period. If a protest was received, the commissioners would probably put the tax to a vote.

Goodland, Kansas 67735

Dave Daniels, steering committee member, asked if the county is giving money to the Chamber now?

Frankenfeld said the county has given money in the past, but not all the

"We have approved money when

See ECONOMIC, Page 4

County roundup

At their meeting Tuesday, Sherman County commission-

· Expressed support for a new economic development group. Story to left.

 Approved more money for paramedic training. Story to

 Approved safety repairs for the Sherman County Fairground bleachers. Story to come.

Bikers 'Run for the Wall'

Bikers will roar through Goodland on Sunday, Day 5 of the Run for the Wall, an annual motorcycle event, as they travel from Limon, Colo., to Salina.

Run for the Wall was started in 1989 by a couple of Vietnam War veterans who traveled across the heartland of America on motorcycles, says Kansas coordinator Richard Harrison. The group talked to radio, television and newspaper reporters about the fact that thousands of men and women are still unaccounted for from all of our wars, he said, and bikers continue this tradition every May. The past few years, the group left

from Los Angeles, Harrison said, with about 200 bikes and five to six chase vehicles, about 250 people, and arrived in Washington with about 400 bikes and 500 people. "You don't have to ride a motorcycle

to participate," Harrison said. "We have some members who drive chase trucks, some bring motor homes, or cars."

The participants range from 8 to 80, Harrison said, including mothers, fathers, grandfathers, grandmothers (who ride their own bikes), veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, active military, supporters and family. Everyone is welcome, Harrison said, and the only rule is, no attitudes.

Some people think of the Run as just another vacation or motorcycle event, he said, but after one or two days realize this is special.

"It is unlike anything else you have experienced," he said, "and it becomes a mission. You become part of the Run for the Wall family whose members come from all over the United States, Canada and Australia.' It takes 10 days to reach the Vietnam

Veterans Memorial, he said, where the run ends on the Friday evening before Memorial Day. The weekend's events end with a Rolling Thunder Parade on Sunday, he said, with 200,000 motorcycles all starting at once and parading through downtown Washington to the

There is no charge for participating but each rider has to pay his own ex-

The event has a great deal of support along the way, he said. Most nights dinners are provided free

or for a small donation, as well as some breakfasts and lunches, sometimes even lodging.

Along the way, he said, the bikers make stops at memorials and Veterans hospitals. For information and pictures, visit the group's web site at **rftw.org**.



State chiefs help open center

The Goodland Daily News As the Goodland High School Band played, two state cabinet secretaries cut the ribbon opening the new Travel Information Center on I-70 west of Goodland just in time for the summer travel season. Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer, who is also

secretary of commerce, and Transportation Secretary E. Dean Carlson led the ceremony with help from city and county officials and the Goodland Ambassadors. Julia Crotinger, supervisor of the

center, said she counted 45 people, plus the Goodland High School Band, who came out for the grand opening. "We were very happy with the turn-

out," Crotinger said. "We're so happy to be out of the trailer." For 13 months, the staff worked out of a trailer in Goodland, serving only

40 to 100 people a daily. The \$1.8 million center, just west of the Ruleton exit in the eastbound rest area off I-70, replaces a 20-year-old

facility that was torn down last year. The 7,400-square-foot facility includes electronic media displays, an exhibit area to highlight the state's attractions and events, a community meeting room and public restrooms. A gift shop to sell Kansas products may open later, after the state finds a busi- Goodland Chamber of Commerce for less to operate the shop.

Designed by Hays architect Alan Steckline using an "open prairie" concept, the center features a native stone store the growing amount of commuexterior and a copper-colored roof.

"Welcome to Kansas" is embedded

in the pavement to greet visitors. Inside, a sloped ceiling lifts to a skylight, the Kansas State Seal is tiled into the lobby floor, and relief sculptures show the history of the state. Jeff Mercer, director of the Kansas Travel and Tourism Development Division, welcomed evervone to the ceremony. "This wonderful new facility may

itself become a tourist attraction" Sherrer said. "It will certainly enhance our ability to sell the state, as visitors stop and discover that Kansas has an amazing array of quality attractions and "This top-notch facility gives visitors

on I-70 a great first impression of our state," Carlson said. "You never get a second chance to make a first impression. This is as fine as I've seen anywhere in the country." Officials from the City of Goodland;

the Convention and Visitors Bureau of Sherman County, Thomas County, Hays and Junction City; and the Chambers of Commerce of Goodland, Colby, and St. Francis were among those who turned out for the event. Former State Sen. Ben Vidricksen, Salina, an original promoter of the travel center concept, was present, the Rolling Hills Wildlife Refuge and Ulysses were also

Earlier, Mercer thanked the its assistance in getting the center built. The Chamber suggested a few years

ago the old center wasn't adequate to nity tourism information, and recommended a new facility, he said.



Jayci Stone, "Trials of a girl quarter- able. Really liked the presentation."

Power outage turns off business downtown

business ground to a halt as parts of Goodland were blacked out for three to 10 minutes about 10 a.m. today.

Buisiness owners and executives came out onto the sidewalks downtown, asking neighbors if they had ming.

Computers died, lights went out and power. Students were held in their classes until the lights came back on.

Photos by Eric Yonkey/The Goodland Daily News

16th on the east side of Main to Broadway, and from Eighth to 12th Streets from the west side of Main to Wyo-

Main, two banks, Central and West El-The affected area ran from Ninth to ementary schools and Grant Junior cause. High, and the city administration building were all blacked out.

Keith Carr, a city power plant power outage. worker, said a breaker tripped, and

Downtown businesses all along crews were sent out to electrical substations and transformers to try to find the

> By late morning, the city had not discovered what was the cause of the

Newspaper named second-best in small Kansas dailies

The Goodland Daily News once again has been named the second-best small daily newspaper in Kansas.

The Daily took second place in the Kansas Press Association's statewide Better Newspapers Contest category for General Excellence. The paper placed second in the category, for newspapers under 4,700 circulation, in 1998 and 2000, and fourth in 2001.

The award was one of nine won by The Daily News this year, including six for Managing Editor Rachel Miscall. The winners were announced at the phy." association's annual convention in Wichita.

The General Excellence award included judging of three representative issues of the paper from last year. The judge praised *The* Daily's content: "Great front-page

hours a day.

stories with local, human elements. Attractive layout with a good use of color. Strong photogra-

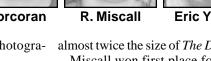


S. Corcoran

Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer (above) presided Tuesday morning over the

Ambassadors David Branda, Kim Bolen and Kathy Melia (right)

served cake and punch to guests. The center's hours are 8 a.m. to 6



almost twice the size of *The Daily*. Miscall won first place for Sports First place in General Excellence Feature Writing for a story on former

back."

She won second place for news writing for her coverage of a chase which ended in the fatal shooting of an Indiana man; second and third place for investigative writing for continuing coverage of the chase story, and coverage of Goodland's hometown hero, Jeff Vignery; third for photo package (with society editor Sharon Corcoran); and third for feature package.

The judge said of the chase stories, "This one went deep into the young went to the Atchison Globe, a paper Goodland High School quarterback the question will always be unanswer-

Of the Vignery stories, the judge wrote: "Really followed the plight and eventual happy ending. The young man was presented in a way that the reader could ascertain he was a hero. Good

presentation of how the community

honored him." Corcoran won honorable mention in Local Business Coverage for a feature story on Goodland's Puppet Factory, and advertising representative Eric Yonkey won honorable mention for

Religion Coverage for his story on an victim's life, tried to answer 'why,' but evangelist who used his art in his min-