

weather report

83° at noon

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*

High 84°

Low 40°

Precipitation none

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.

local markets

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 prmt. — 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.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

GOP ready to end session

TOPEKA — Negotiators fashioned a new budget-balancing package of \$257 million in tax increases today, and Republican leaders said they would end the 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 2005.

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 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 county.

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

looking for support and guidance from the commissioners on what the county would like to see in an economic development plan.

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 county.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he

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 economic 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.

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 time.

"We have approved money when

See ECONOMIC, Page 4

County roundup

At their meeting Tuesday, Sherman County commissioners:

- Expressed support for a new economic development group. Story to left.
- Approved more money for paramedic training. Story to come.
- 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 Wall.

There is no charge for participating but each rider has to pay his own expenses.

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



Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrr (above) presided Tuesday morning over the grand opening of the Goodland Travel Information Center. Goodland 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 p.m. daily. Restrooms, vending and public phones are available 24 hours a day.

Photos by Eric Yonkey/The Goodland Daily News

By Eric Yonkey
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 Sherrr, 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 turnout," 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 business to operate the shop.

Designed by Hays architect Alan Steckline using an "open prairie" concept, the center features a native stone exterior 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 everyone to the ceremony.

"This wonderful new facility may itself become a tourist attraction," Sherrr 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 events."

"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 represented.

Earlier, Mercer thanked the Goodland Chamber of Commerce for its assistance in getting the center built.

The Chamber suggested a few years ago the old center wasn't adequate to store the growing amount of community tourism information, and recommended a new facility, he said.



Power outage turns off business downtown

Computers died, lights went out and business ground to a halt as parts of Goodland were blacked out for three to 10 minutes about 10 a.m. today.

Business owners and executives came out onto the sidewalks downtown, asking neighbors if they had

power. Students were held in their classes until the lights came back on.

The affected area ran from Ninth to 16th on the east side of Main to Broadway, and from Eighth to 12th Streets from the west side of Main to Wyoming.

Downtown businesses all along Main, two banks, Central and West Elementary schools and Grant Junior High, and the city administration building were all blacked out.

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

crews were sent out to electrical substations and transformers to try to find the cause.

By late morning, the city had not discovered what was the cause of the power outage.

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 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 stories with local, human elements. Attractive layout with a good use of color. Strong photography."

First place in General Excellence went to the Atchison Globe, a paper



S. Corcoran



R. Miscall



Eric Yonkey

almost twice the size of *The Daily*.

Miscall won first place for Sports Feature Writing for a story on former Goodland High School quarterback

Jayci Stone, "Trials of a girl quarterback."

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 victim's life, tried to answer 'why,' but the question will always be unanswered."

able. Really liked the presentation."

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 evangelist who used his art in his ministry.