

weather
report

59°

at noon



Today

Sunset, 6:04 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 5:39 a.m.

Sunset, 6:05 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temp. 44 degrees
- Humidity 45 percent
- Sky Clear
- Winds SSE 30 gusting to 40
- Barometer 29.85 inches and falling
- Record High 82° (1998)
- Record Low -1° (1955)

Yesterday's Data

High 58°
Low 27°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas

Tonight: Cloudy; low 35-40; winds S 10-20. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy; 30% chance of showers; high 60-65; winds S 10-20.

Extended Forecast

Sunday through Tuesday: Dry Sunday and Monday; high 60-70; lows 30-35. Tuesday chance of showers; high 65-70; low 35-40.

24-hour weather information is broadcast at 162.400 MHz.

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.60 bu.
Posted county price — \$2.47
Loan deficiency payment — -2¢
Corn — \$1.91 bu.
Posted county price — \$1.98
Loan deficiency payment — 1¢
Milo — \$2.93 cwt.
Soybeans — \$4.27 bu.
Posted county price — \$4.24
Loan deficiency payment — 65¢
Millet — \$4.25 cwt.
Sunflowers
oil current — \$8.30 cwt.
Loan deficiency payment— \$1.71
oil 1999 crop — \$8.95 cwt.
conf. current — \$185/\$11 cwt.
Pintos - \$00 (new crop)
Local markets courtesy of Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun and Collingwood Grain
Local bean market courtesy of Prairie Pea and Bean

afternoon
wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.



Day bombing
meets defiance

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — NATO aircraft and missiles blasted targets in Yugoslavia for a second night, directing much of their fire on Kosovo, where fighting raged between Serbs and ethnic Albanians. Today, NATO forces launched their first daylight attack on Yugoslavia, said Belgrade's independent Studio B television. Air raid sirens wailed at mid-afternoon in Belgrade and bombs hit suburban targets, the television station reported, citing a city official. No sound of bombing was audible in central Belgrade. Western officials called the previous two nights of attacks a successful start to forcing President Slobodan Milosevic to agree to a peace deal. But Yugoslavia's army maintained its defiant tone, claiming it inflicted "substantial damage" against an "overpoweringly stronger enemy."

At least 30 killed in tunnel fire

CHAMONIX, France (AP) — Exhausted firefighters battled searing heat and poisonous smoke today in a tunnel under Western Europe's highest peak, searching through charred tractor-trailer trucks for victims of a blaze that killed at least 30 people.

The seven-mile tunnel under Mont Blanc turned into an inferno two days ago, when the blaze broke out in a truck carrying flour and margarine.

Firefighters sprayed the area with coolant today, trying to bring down temperatures that reached 1,832 degrees Fahrenheit at one point in the tunnel, said Lt. Stephane Marcelin of the Chamonix fire department.

Marie-Claude Bazile, a spokeswoman for the regional government of Haute-Savoie region on the French end of the tunnel, said 30 people were confirmed killed, with nine bodies identified.

"There could be more, unfortunately," Bazile told the Associated Press by telephone from Annecy.

It was the first fatal fire in the tunnel, which was the longest in the world when President Charles de Gaulle opened it in 1965. The Alpine tunnel is used daily by some 4,000 trucks.

Speaking from his hospital bed, Chamonix Fire Chief Christian Comte said he'd spent five hours in the tunnel Wednesday, looking for his men.

"The smoke was very dense and the temperatures were soaring, but I knew that I had to go help them," he said from the Sallanches Hospital, where he was recovering from smoke inhalation.

Speaking to the AP in Paris by telephone, Comte said he'd worked his way along the wall of the tunnel until he came to a group of six firefighters — all lying on the ground with their

jackets over their heads, motionless.

"I thought they were all dead," he said. He helped them all leave, but one later died.

A fresh contingent of 52 firefighters and 17 vehicles began battling the blaze early today, said Haute-Savoie's governor Pierre Breuil. The French, Swiss and Italian firefighters were working from the Italian end of the tunnel because the wind was blowing fumes and smoke toward the French side.

Officials said the temperature had been lowered to 158 degrees at a critical point in the tunnel.

Italian firefighters Thursday evening managed to reach the area where the blaze began, discovering five bodies in scorched cars, adding to the four bodies found the day before. They also passed 20 destroyed tractor-trailer trucks and up to 11 cars.

The fire seriously tested the emergency systems in the tunnel, which is equipped with ventilation equipment and 20 cabins designed to resist heat and poisonous fumes.

Drivers in the two-lane tunnel can pull out every 1,000 feet in case of breakdowns or if they need to turn around. In addition, tunnel officials can send messages to drivers through an emergency broadcast system.

It was not clear whether any of the systems had suffered a breakdown when the Belgian truck caught fire, officials said.

But Michel Charlet, the mayor of Chamonix, the town closest to the French side, said the accident "could not have been avoided."

"For a long time now, it has been said that the Mont Blanc tunnel is no longer adaptable to the traffic" of thousands of heavy trucks per day.

Group wants kids to learn life on the right path

"Responsible — Capable of making moral or rational decisions on one's own, and therefore answerable for one's behavior." — American Heritage Dictionary

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

Skills for daily living are the focus of a word-a-month "Lifeskills" campaign which starts in Goodland next month with "Responsibility."

Each month there will be a different Lifeskill from a list of 17 for everyone dealing with children to emphasize, says the School and Community Acting Together group, which hopes to make a long-term improvement in behavior patterns of Goodland's young people.

"We will have signs up in businesses, in the schools, in the churches and anywhere else where we can have people see the word," said Goodland Spanish teacher Mary Porterfield, co-chair of the committee. "We know the teachers will be using the monthly Lifeskills in their classrooms, and we have asked the business community and the ministerial alliance to use them where possible."

"Each Lifeskill will be used for a month because we feel that gives enough time for the whole community to be aware of the word, and to have a lasting effect on our young people's behavior," she said.

Skills the group decided were important include: Responsibility, Integrity, Initiative, Flexibility, Perseverance, Organization, Sense of Humor, Effort, Common Sense, Problem Solving, Patience, Friendship, Curiosity, Cooperation, Caring, Courage and Pride.

The Lifeskill word for May will be "Integrity." During the summer, Porterfield says, signs with the words will be displayed on fences at the ballparks and other recreation areas to keep them in the people's mind. The program will begin again in September, but words for each month have not been chosen.

Parents who have been going to parent-teacher conferences this week have received information on the program, printed in both English and Spanish.

"We know this cannot be a successful effort unless we have the home involved and the whole community informed about what our goals are," Porterfield said.

The effort was begun last year when school board member Jane Philbrick and Porterfield were named co-chairs of the group by the Goodland School Board and the Goodland Education Association.

"We were seeing an increase in discipline problems, especially at the junior high level, and from our survey, it was an issue we found many teachers interested in," Porterfield said. "When we were in negotiations last year the school board felt this was an item which was of a larger need than we could address."

Besides Philbrick and Porterfield, the steering committee includes Dave Davis from the Ministerial Alliance; Diana Spinney, representing Goodland businesses; Tom Palmer, from social services; Cris Lovington, from the Prevention Center; and Carolyn Reitchek, a student at Goodland High School.

From this beginning, the group has expanded with several sub-committees and many ideas have been considered.

Teachers will be inviting community leaders and business people into the schools to talk about the specific Lifeskill for that month and to explain how it relates to the "real" world.

"We are always looking for ways to improve this, and for people interested in helping," Porterfield said.

If a parent, business person or student wants to be involved, she added, they can call Philbrick at 899-2664 or Porterfield at 899-2500.



Porterfield

Laying walls for weight room



Walls are beginning to surround the new weight room on the north side of Max Jones Fieldhouse, and Joe Ginn was working on a corner of the north wall Wednesday. Work continues to move speedily ahead on the expansion project which is expected to be completed by winter. Photo by Tom Betz / Goodland Daily News

Parental permission abortion bill advances

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — An anti-abortion bill was advanced to a final vote in the House, while the Senate approved school finance legislation and a Senate committee reviewed two pro-gun proposals.

The abortion bill would require a doctor to get permission from a parent or guardian before ending the pregnancy of a girl under 18. A final vote of approval would send the bill to the Senate.

Besides debating the abortion bill Thursday, the House considered a proposal to split the Department of Health and Environment into two agencies. It rejected the plan as an amendment to a minor bill on a vote of 48-72.

In the Senate, a bill designed to help school districts that are losing enrollment won approval, 27-12. The plan would cost \$3.1 million.

Senators also passed, 26-14, a bill addressing the redrawing of legislative districts after the 2000 federal census. Under the measure, the state couldn't use figures adjusted statistically in an effort to prevent undercounting of residents.

The Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee heard testimony on two bills being pushed by gun rights advocates. One would license Kansans to carry concealed weapons, and the other would prevent cities and counties from suing gun manufacturers, dealers and trade groups.

Both houses spent most of the day in

session trying to clear their debate calendars of bills. Most bills have to clear their second house by Saturday to have a hope of passing this year, and legislative leaders wanted to wrap up their work before the weekend.

The abortion bill gave the House a chance to renew an annual debate and supporters a chance to push for a more restrictive state law.

Kansas requires a physician to notify a parent or guardian of plans to end a minor's pregnancy, but nothing in the law prevents a physician from performing an abortion over a parent's or guardian's objections.

Critics of the bill to require parental consent said the state cannot legislate good family relationships. "I see us trying to engineer a decision that should be made ... as a matter of conscience before God," said Rep. Ralph Tanner, R-Baldwin City.

But supporters were more numerous. They said parents should have a voice in a girl's decision to end a pregnancy. "I dare say that 99 percent of Kansas families want to know when their daughters are in trouble," said Rep. Susan Wagle, R-Wichita, chairwoman of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee.

House members were far less recep-

tive to the notion of creating separate health and environmental agencies out of the existing department.

Supporters of the bill contend the two parts do not blend well and would be more effective on their own. Critics were skeptical that splitting the agency would make the departments more efficient.

"We're going to double the bureaucracy. Come on!" said Rep. Henry Helgeson, D-Wichita.

Critics of the school finance bill proved less persuasive in the Senate, because too many districts would be in a budgetary bind without the additional funding. The state bases school spending on enrollment, and a district that loses students loses state aid. The Senate bill would let districts average enrollment over three years. Urban senators complained but could not prevent its passage.

"It's time we get very serious about the subject of school consolidation in the state of Kansas," said Sen. Rich Becker, R-Lenexa.

The census adjustment was a partisan issue in the Senate. Republicans said the state should rely only on a person-by-person count because a statistical adjustment could result in inaccuracies.