

## weather report

61°  
at noon



### Today

Sunset, 6:07 p.m.

### Tomorrow

Sunrise, 5:35 a.m.

Sunset, 6:08 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil Temp. 46 degrees
- Humidity 40 percent
- Sky Partly Sunny
- Winds S 20-28
- Barometer 30.22 inches and falling
- Record High 88° (1943)
- Record Low 2° (1978)

### Yesterday's Data

High 56°  
Low 25°  
Precipitation none  
.89 month (-.17) 1.46 year (-.4)

### Northwest Kansas

Tonight: Clear; low 40; winds S 10-15. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy; high 80; winds S 20-30 gusty.

### Extended Forecast

Wednesday through Friday: Dry Wednesday; high 70; low 40. Dry Thursday; high 60; low 30-35; Chance of rain Friday; high 50; low 30s.

24-hour weather information is broadcast at 162.400 MHz.

## local markets

**Noon**  
Wheat — \$2.64 bu.  
Posted county price — \$2.52  
Loan deficiency payment — 7¢  
Corn — \$1.89 bu.  
Posted county price — \$2.03  
Loan deficiency payment — 4¢  
Milo — \$2.91 cwt.  
Soybeans — \$4.24 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 — \$18/\$11 cwt.  
Pintos — \$12 (new crop)  
Local markets courtesy of Mueller Grain, Sigo Sun and Collingwood Grain  
Local bean market courtesy of Prairie Pea and Bean

## afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press  
1 p.m.

## Refugees flee Yugoslav terror

BELGRADE — NATO bombs pounded Yugoslavia for a sixth day as thousands of ethnic Albanians fearing Serb paramilitary forces streamed out of Kosovo today in what may be Europe's worst humanitarian disaster since World War II.

An ethnic Albanian leader, Fehmi Agani, was executed Sunday, NATO said. Agani, a close aide to ethnic Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova and one of the negotiators at the Rambouillet peace talks, had just attended the funeral of a human rights lawyer.

Four other prominent ethnic Albanians were also reported executed, NATO said in what it called a "scorched earth policy."

NATO said refugees were arriving at the Albanian border at the rate of 4,000 an hour today, straining the already desperate resources of one of Europe's poorest countries.

# Teacher unit, schools begin contract talks

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

The annual negotiations between the Goodland School District and the teachers have begun with the sides exchanging letters and an opening session where both explained the points they want to be considered.

Under state law, the sides had to exchange letters in February giving a list of items each side wanted included in the negotiations.

The district letter includes 15 major points with a few sub-points. The Goodland Education Association letter included 16 major items, including several sub-points.

Some of the items on both lists are to clear up language in the negotiated agreement. Also, teachers have suggested two additional articles to be added to the agreement.

Mary Porterfield, Spanish teacher at Grant Junior High and Goodland High School, is the head negotiator for the teachers and board member Kathy Russell is the head negotiator for the school district.

Porterfield and Superintendent Marvin Selby discussed the items in the letters, and these were reviewed at the opening session March 15.

The two new articles are to set a "winter break," which the teachers would like to see established so the Christmas break is more consistently scheduled; and pay a teacher who takes early retirement a decreased sum until they reach full retirement.

In the district letter, there is a request to delete two articles. One deals with "Mandt" training, and the second article says there will be two telephones in each building for the teachers to use.

On the Mandt training issue, Porterfield said the current language says it will be offered to the staff yearly and the cost will be paid by the board, but the teachers would like to be able to take the training during the year. This training is to help teachers know how to in handling conflict with students in a non-threatening and non-violent manner.

Both sides have put evaluation of the sick leave on their lists. The teachers want to increase the number of days for which a teacher can be paid at retirement, and also increase the amount paid per day. The district would allow sick leave for maternity for the mother while off work, but for a spouse only when the mother is actually in the hospital. Selby said the spouse can take personal leave or family leave, which is unpaid leave, after the mother comes home from the hospital. There is a provision for cases where there are unusual medical problems.

Currently, the teachers are supposed to do a day of technology training each year, and according to Superintendent Selby, they would like to change the

dates so the training can be accomplished before the end of the school year. This would move the dates up one month from June 1 and May 31 to May 1 and April 30. Selby said the district also wants to change this to a full eight-hour day, and to add a requirement or documentation for training done outside the district.

In two other sections, the district is seeking to change the wording from 7 hours 40 minutes to eight hours for a full day. Selby said we need to get the wording consistent with the eight hours.

"We are trying to get the teachers to be on an eight-hour day like most the rest of us," Selby said.

Porterfield said the association is seeking a change in the health insurance benefit for retired teachers which would pay the single full premium and increase with the cost of the policy. Currently, Superintendent Selby said, there is a set amount for the insurance premium which the district will pay, and anything over that is the responsibility of the teacher.

The district is also suggesting some changes in the retirement article which would define eligibility as "a: a professional full-time employee of the district; and b: is not less than 57, and meets the KPERS '85 and out' retirement; and c: has 12 years of employment in the district." According to Selby the "85 and out" is that when any combination of age and years of service total 85, the person is eligible to retire.

The next session will be 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 13, at the district office.

The negotiation team for the district includes Board members Russell and Jane Philbrick, Superintendent Selby and Board Clerk Pat Juhl. The team for the teachers includes Porterfield, Birkley Barnes, Rebecca Musil, Sharon Wisdom and Diane Koch.

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

The final regular meeting for the Sherman County commissioners for the month will be 8 a.m. Wednesday, and the agenda will include information on state highway projects from Kansas Department of Transportation District Engineer Chriss McDiffett.

His report relates to state assistance for local access roads while K-27 north of Goodland is torn up in two years, and also this summer, while the bridge at Caruso is replaced on old U.S. 24. The county plans to use Eighth Street out to Road 14 and then south to I-70 as the bypass this year while the bridge is replaced, and then use Road 15 north



## Clowning around for Elks event

The clowns Casey (left) and Sparky (above) were big attractions Saturday during the 12th Annual Goodland Elks Love Benefit auction and talent show. Casey made a hit with the younger crowd with balloon animals he created and Sparky had a wheel with great things for the youngsters to win. The annual event, co-sponsored by KLOE/KKCI and the Goodland Daily News, raises money for area non-profit organizations.

Photos/Goodland Daily News

# County to get report on road aid

from Eighth as the local access while K-27 is under repair.

McDiffett had told the commissioners and representatives from Goodland the state would provide some financial assistance to the county for the roads.

The commissioners will consider leasing the farm ground around the new landfill site to Alan Townsend, who has been farming it in past years.

Under the old business, the commissioners will discuss a split-shift pay scale for dispatchers being proposed by Mary Messamore, head of central dispatch, and discuss whether to use bonds for the bridge replacement project. At the last meeting Larry McCants of the First National Bank suggested the com-

missioners consider using a lease program to pay for the bridge project. However, Mark Barber, the county auditor, will discuss using bonds because of the uncertainty about the tax lid.

Representatives of the Sherman County Historical Society will talk to the commissioners about donating two computers for their use. The computers are currently not being used, and are of an older type.

County Treasurer Shelby Miller will meet with the commissioners concerning the Check Write program which was recently installed in her office. Apparently some additional software was installed, but the program will not be implemented until next year.

The commissioners will be asked to sign a certificate as part of the master lease program the Goodland Regional Medical Center is considering. The lease, through the First National Bank, will pay for the completion of the medical clinic and purchase the equipment for the clinic and the remodel of the Intensive Care Unit.

Terry Sandoval of Kansas Cellular will meet with the commissioners concerning a new rate plan for Sherman County, and the commissioners will consider whether county employees could be allowed to participate.

Steve Duell is scheduled to meet with the commissioners about a building for the fairgrounds.

# Bill to help schools losing enrollment prompts talk of forced consolidation

By Lew Ferguson

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Some urban lawmakers say it may be time to seriously address a need to consolidate school districts.

More than three decades ago, the state went through a round of consolidation that reduced the number of school districts to 304. But it caused such a rift between rural and urban legislators that many scars still haven't healed, especially in sparsely populated western Kansas.

Metropolitan senators raised the issue again Thursday night during debate on a bill that would provide districts that are losing students an extra \$3.1 million next school year.

The Senate's 27-12 vote sent the measure to the House. It would let school districts with declining enrollments average their current year's enrollment with the two immediately prior years, giving them a higher count

for computing their state aid.

"For the sake of the children of Kansas and the taxpayers of Kansas, it's time we get very serious about the subject of school consolidation in the state of Kansas," said Sen. Rich Becker, R-Lenexa.

"There is a growing number of school districts with enrollments so low they can't operate in an efficient manner," said Sen. John Vratil, R-Overland Park.

Sen. Alicia Salisbury, R-Topeka, said, "I'm not going to say the 'C' word (consolidation). But I would say throwing \$3.1 million at this problem in this session isn't the answer either."

"Can we expect next year they'll need three past years," for averaging of their enrollments, asked Sen. Pat Ranson, R-Wichita.

In the northwest corner of Kansas, tied an amendment to give the small districts five times more money.

The amendment failed. It would have let districts use their enrollments from two years earlier to compute their state aid for 1999-2000, effectively wiping out two years worth of declining enrollments and costing \$16.2 million.

As passed, the bill would provide more money to 124 of 189 Kansas school districts that lost students between the 1997-98 and 1998-99 school years. Only 115 districts had stable or growing enrollments this year.

Sen. Barbara Lawrence, R-Wichita, chairwoman of the Senate Education Committee, defended helping districts struggling with declining enrollment. "This is a problem that will not go away," Lawrence said. "It makes budgeting difficult when you lose enrollment. These districts still have to have to have the same number of teachers."

## School board to meet Tuesday

The Goodland School Board will hold a special session at noon Tuesday at the district office to consider bids for restrooms and a concession stand at the track.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said it is possible there may be another offer on school land which a developer wants for a retirement center

The restrooms, at the district track facility about two blocks east of Max Jones Fieldhouse, would include a concession stand and announcer's booth.

Selby discussed an estimate on the project with the board at an earlier meeting, and the board wanted to consider any possible bids.

## Smiling e-mail hold virus

NEW YORK (AP) — The e-mail might be smiling but the danger is real.

Security experts are warning computer users to be on guard today for "important" e-mail messages that carry a computer virus called "Melissa."

Melissa, heralded by symbols that form a winking smiley face, usually contains the subject line, "Important message," and the body says "Here is that document you asked for ... don't show it to anyone else."

Unwitting users may think they are receiving e-mail from a friend because the virus plunders address books.

Several businesses and governments around the world have contacted Carnegie Mellon University's Computer Emergency Response Team for help with the virus.

Melissa spreads via Microsoft's widely used Word 97 and Word 2000 documents which can be attached to e-mail messages, as well as Microsoft's Outlook e-mail program.

If a computer user opens the infected Word-format document, the virus propagates itself by reading the user's e-mail address book and sends an infected message to the first 50 entries