

weather report

77°
at noon

Today

Sunset, 6:23 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 6:49 a.m.

Sunset, 6:22 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 58 degrees

• Humidity 31 percent

• Sky Mostly Sunny

• Winds southwest at 10 mph

• Barometer 29.84 inches and falling

• Record High 90° (1993)

• Record Low 19° (1952)

Last 24 Hours*

High 79°

Low 39°

Precipitation —

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low 50-55.

South winds 15-20 mph

Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy with thirty percent chance of rain. High 70-75. North winds 10-20 mph and gusty.

Extended Forecast

Thursday through Saturday:

Dry with highs of 75-85, lows in the 40's.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Fire trucks are fun to learn about



Troy Mannis (right), a volunteer for the Goodland Fire Department, showed equipment on a fire truck to De Burkett (far right) and her morning kindergarten class, along with the other two kindergarten classes at North School on Tuesday. The demonstration was a part of National Fire Safety Week, sponsored by Allstate Insurance through Western Insurance Agency in Goodland. Nicole Hendrich (above) climbed into the truck to get a close-up look at what's inside. The city purchased the pumper this year.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News



local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.12 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.05

Loan deficiency payment — 40¢

Corn — \$1.55 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.56

Loan deficiency prmt. — 43¢

Milo — \$2.23 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.13 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.97

Loan deficiency payment — 92¢

Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$6.25 cwt.

Loan deficiency prmt. — \$3.56

Oil new crop — \$6.25 cwt.

Confection current — \$9.00 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$16 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Shadow cast over merger

WASHINGTON — The nation's top telephone regulator cast a shadow over the proposed \$115 billion merger between No. 2 MCI WorldCom and No. 3 Sprint.

Federal Communications Commission Chairman William Kennard caught some industry leaders and experts off guard Tuesday by questioning the value to consumers of the proposed deal.

He called the deal "a surrender," and said the companies "will bear a heavy burden to show how consumers would be better off."

The FCC is not the only place the telecommunications giants will have to make their case.

"The burden will be on MCI WorldCom and Sprint to show consolidation in the long-distance sector of the market will benefit consumers," said Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, chairman of the Judiciary antitrust, business rights and competition subcommittee.

'Samborees' build memories for club's members

By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

Roasting hot dogs, hamburgers and marshmallows on an outdoor grill, playing games, cooking pancakes outside for Sunday morning breakfast, and trailer hopping to talk to friends.

That's life in the Good Sam Club, a national camping group that has chapters throughout the country, with their headquarters in California. Members pledge to help others in need, especially fellow Good Sam members.

The chapter here, the GOODsamLANDers, holds a campout, called a Samboree, at least once during the summer at Smoky Gardens, a county park south of Goodland. Some of the other places they have camped at over the years include Scott City, Atwood, Norton and St. Francis, and Burlington

and Beecher Island in Colorado.

The state organization has Samborees in spring, usually the first weekend in May, and fall, the first weekend in October. This year's spring campout was at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson, drawing close to 500 rigs. The fall Samboree was Oct. 1-3 in Winfield.

At Samborees, the campers fly an American flag, a Kansas flag, and their chapter's flag. In addition, the Goodland chapter made wooden boards in the shape of Kansas with their names on them to hang at their campsite.

Over the years, the chapter has done many "good deeds," such as mowing and picking up around the U.S. 24-K-27 intersection, repairing dolls and bikes for children at Christmas, raking leaves in the spring of 1991 at Smoky

Gardens, and donating to Dogs for Deaf, an organization that trains dogs for deaf people.

The chapter started in 1979 with five couples as charter members, Norman and Dena Schwerdtfeger; Robert and Dorothy Beckner; John and Diana Gilley, the first chapter presidents; Warren and Wilma Burk; and Dalton and Annabelle Long.

It began with an ad that Dena Schwerdtfeger saw in the newspaper about a meeting to start a Good Sam club. These couples all had campers and wanted to get together. Ted and Mayze Schults of St. Francis held the meeting.

Back when they began, members had either motor homes, fifth-wheel campers, pull trailers or overhead campers. Campouts were held from Friday evening until late Sunday afternoon.

The campers have had lots of fun over the years and many of their children grew up with Good Sam camping.

"We are like one big family," said Dena. "You feel safe when you camp out with Good Sams."

The chapter has monthly meetings. At first they met in members' homes for the winter meetings (October to March) and summer meetings (April to September) on Saturday afternoons or evenings at their campouts. Now their winter meetings are held at the Goodland Senior Center.

They've kept the local yearly dues at \$5, so joining would be affordable for anyone. The state dues of \$3 and are used to help pay for a newsletter that comes out in January and July.

The GOODsamLANDers have 18 members today; newly elected presi-

dents, as of Sept. 1, are Harold and Emma Van Vleet. Their term will run for two years. Vice-presidents are Jerry and Florene Messamore, Colby; secretary/treasurers Norman and Dena Schwerdtfeger; and wagon masters are Leslie and Alice Watkins.

For the chapter's 20th birthday, they will have a get together on Saturday at Edwards Square Dance Hall, 2431 Walnut. Past and present members or persons interested in joining the chapter are invited.

Registration will be from 9-10 a.m., with coffee and cookies. At 10-10:30 a.m., will be a welcome and sharing time.

From 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., they will have indoor and outdoor games. Lunch will be at 12:30 p.m. Ice cream and cake will be served from 3:30-4 p.m.

State budget shortfall problem is 'fixable'

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

Secretary of State Ron Thornburg says he's glad that Gov. Bill Graves announced a 1 percent budget cut early in the fiscal year to give departments as much time as possible to save the money.

Thornburg stopped in Goodland Tuesday during a trip that included talks at the Colby Rotary Colby and the Cheyenne County Farm Bureau annual banquet in St. Francis.

He also spent time talking to student leaders at Colby Community College about being involved in the political process, a project he says is important to him.

The state's budget situation is tight, but workable, he said.

"Seventy million is real money," Thornburg said of the projected budget shortfall, "but I think it is fixable. When looking at the entire state budget, being off by 1 percent is pretty close."

"The funding of the Secretary of State's office is \$3 million with half that from state funds and half from user fees. The cut of \$20,000 will come out of the general fund portion, and much of that will be that we will do as much of the moving of the office to the Memorial Building rather than hire movers."

The move of the office out of the Capitol is scheduled for mid-January, Thornburg said.

"Our 54 employees will help with the move and that will save some of what we have to cut," he said. "We are looking forward to the move and the building has



Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburg



been renovated to be more modern than our offices in the Capitol.

"The Capitol is a beautiful old historic building, but the problem is it is an historic landmark and that makes it difficult to do things like networking computers. With the new offices we have been able to wire the office to handle the modern needs, and this should help improve our efficiency."

For many people, the Secretary of State is a mysterious figure, and as Thornburg admits probably most people don't even know who holds the office. Among other things, his agency super-

vises state and local elections, corporations registered with the state and filing of Uniform Commercial Code paperwork on loans and mortgages.

"It is something of an insulation factor," he said. "As long as the office runs efficiently, it is a pretty secure position."

For Thornburg that is not enough, and he has taken on leadership in a program being promoted by the National Secretary of State Association, which he says amounts to a commitment to change our whole society. It's no small ambition.

One of the major objectives of most Secretary of State offices across the

country is voting registration and handling elections.

"We have made it as convenient as possible for people to vote, and yet we are seeing the number of those participating continue to fall," Thornburg said. "The question is why the 18-25 year-olds don't participate."

A national study of the voting patterns of the 18-25 age group shows that in 1972 when the 18-year-olds could vote for the first time 50 percent of those eligible voted. Thornburg said by 1998, the same 50 percent were still voting, but the 18-year-olds were down to 32 percent.

"When we looked at the study it was obvious work needed to be done to change the trend, and when I asked what the association was going to do, the chairman said, 'You are in charge,'" Thornburg said, adding with a smile: "I'm never going to another meeting."

But he takes the assignment seriously.

"We have developed a New Millennium program which is directed at the 18-24 year old age group," he said. "The first thing is to make sure there are no artificial hurdles or hoops in the registration process, and we need to reinforce the idea that voting is a privilege, an honor and a duty."

"Those are words you don't hear much today."

Part of the effort will be similar to the Kids Vote in Kansas program Thornburg supports. He said that program has shown an increase in both the involvement of the young people, but also the parents who become more involved because of their children's involvement.

As to the specific plans to attract the 18-25 year olds, Thornburg says there are three he is developing.

The first is to work with groups like the American Farm Bureau to make registration and voting a part of the existing leadership programs. Thornburg said he would suggest this to the annual meeting he was to speak at last night in St. Francis.

"I also want to make the same suggestions to the Boys and Girls Clubs and the Boy and Girl Scouts," he said. "We can take advantage of the fact these programs already exist, but be sure they are including the voting process as a part of that program."

"We need to make changes in education to re-inspire children and their parents. We need to explain that 'politics' has to do with everything that happens to you during the day. The time you get up has some political influence, what you eat, what you see and what you do during the day are all related in some manner to politics."

"It is important to change the perception that 'politics' is a dirty word."

"Then we need some honesty in politics and some courage."

"We need to be more truthful with the people about the process and that it is not wrong to compromise. I haven't met anyone who gets up in the morning with the idea 'How can I screw up the system.'"

"I truly get upset when someone is running for office and says, 'I am not a politician.' If you are trying to be elected, you are a politician."