

weather report

54°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 4:23 p.m.
- Tomorrow
- Sunrise, 6:53 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:23 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 35 degrees
- Humidity 22 percent
- Sky Clear
- Winds North 16
- Barometer 29.86 inches and rising
- Record High 78° (1939)
- Record Low -14° (1950)

Last 24 Hours*

High	46°
Low	20°
Precipitation	—

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear; low 20; winds northwest 5-15 becoming westerly. Tuesday: Mostly sunny; high mid 50s; winds southwest 10-20.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday through Friday. Chance of rain or snow late Wednesday; high 40-45; low mid 20s. Chance of snow Thursday; high 35; low 15-20. Friday dry; high mid 30s; low 15 degrees.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Taped threat closes schools in Colby today

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

A threatening voice tape dropped in a mail slot over the weekend prompted closure of all Colby Schools today and when classes resume on Tuesday, security will be tightened, school officials said.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation was called in by Colby Police, and Postmaster James McDonald said today that he has alerted federal postal inspectors to investigate the matter as well.

Police was alerted to the threat Saturday afternoon when a postal employee called to report a suspicious envelope discovered in the drop box at the post office, said Chief Randy Jones.

Officers and school officials searched all the schools over the weekend and found no signs of any bombs, weapons or other problems, the chief said.

The closing was announced over local radio and television stations Sunday, but many families apparently did not get the message and some students showed up for class Monday. Principals were outside the middle and grade schools to explain the situation, but the high school appeared deserted.

The envelope, he told reporters at a press conference today, was addressed to the police department. There was no postage on the envelope. Inside was a cassette tape made by a person claiming to be a male student.

The person on the tape, Jones said, threatened "acts of violence" unless the Colby Board of Education changed some of its policies and decisions. However, no specific reference was made to any particular policy, Chief Jones said.

"This is a threat of violence and it could be nothing more than a hoax, but we plan to err on the side of caution," he said.

Yet one thing is for sure, Jones said: whoever is behind this has made a serious mistake.

"It would be in their best interest and smart to get together with their parents, get an attorney and march themselves into my office immediately," Jones said. "This is a felony at the state level."

However, until this threat of violence is controlled, the school district was not taking any chances.

"We are reviewing our procedures for assuring that we will be secure throughout the rest of the school year," said Superintendent Kirk Nielsen, adding that the district had decided to cancel school today because out of concern for the safety of all students and staff.

"A police presence in and around the buildings will be part of the measures the school and police will take," Nielsen said today. "The police depart-

Five hurt in shooting

FORT GIBSON, Okla. (AP) — A 13-year-old middle school student wounded four of his classmates this morning before being subdued with a gun still in his hand, authorities said. A fifth student reportedly suffered bumps and bruises.

The wounded were taken to hospitals in Tulsa and Muskogee; none of the injuries appeared life-threatening.

"He doesn't even know who it was he shot," said Muskogee County Sheriff's Deputy Terry Cragg, who spoke to the boy briefly in the isolation cell at the county jail. "There was not a hate thing. I asked him why. He said, 'I don't know.'"

Details of the capture were unclear. Superintendent Steve Wilmoth said he understood a teacher grabbed the gun from the boy and pressed him against a brick wall.

ment is going to work with school authorities with whatever means to provide a safe and secure leaning environment for the students and staff."

Nielsen is also asking that high school and middle school students not carry school bags until further notice. In addition, he said, students will not be allowed to wear coats while in class. Parents are being asked to help with security.

"The building administrators would appreciate any parent volunteers who would monitor doors at each of our buildings," Nielsen said, "and parents who would like to help can call their child's building administrator today."

Although the content of the tape was not disclosed, Chief Jones said the message by the person or faction responsible was basically that "they can do what they want and not what anyone says they have too."

And even though it appears to be the school board that is the focal point of the threats in the tape, Jones said that the threats could be taken out on the community as well.

"Trust has been taken away in our small community," said Board President Bill Miller, "and it's scary."

Anyone with information on the threats is urged to call the Colby Police at 462-4460. A person leaving a tip can be anonymous, Jones said. The schools' hotline number is (877) 626-8203.



Will Santa reward a good dog?

Kale Schields, Goodland, (top) brought his schnauzer "Baxter" to have his picture taken on Saturday during "Santa Paws" day. The Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter was holding the event at Wal-Mart to raise money, allowing pet owners to have their pet's photo taken in a holiday setting for a small fee. Kevin Winslow, Burlington, (bottom) posed with his Boston terrier "Mickey" in front of a wagon wheel, which was part of the setting. Twenty-six pets had their pictures taken on Saturday, including 24 dogs and two cats.

Photos by Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News



Good Samaritan home asks for help with elevator costs

Paul Rainbolt, administrator for the Good Samaritan Center, met with Sherman County commissioners about plans for remodeling the facility last week.

Included in the plans is the need to put in an elevator, and he asked if the county would be able to help pay at least half of the estimated \$52,000 cost.

The elevator would be part of the plans for next year, and the commissioners asked him to get bids and come back when the plans are firmed up.

Rainbolt also said the Good Samari-

tan Center will be providing a new in-home monitoring service beginning in January. He said the new monitoring system would assist people who need some daily supervision, but are still living and doing well in their own home. He said some of the people are on the center's waiting list, but would be able to continue living in their own homes until there was space in the center. He told the commissioners the service would cost about \$100 a month.

In other business, the commissioners:

• Tabled bids on a mower for the fairgrounds until they had a chance to review the information.

• Set county employee Christmas bonuses at \$100 for full time employees and \$50 for part time. To be eligible, employees had to have worked for the county for at least six months.

• Approved payment of bills for November totaling \$123,504.

• Tabled a request from Trego County requesting the county pay \$1,000 participation fee for the use of the juvenile detention center. The commissioners

want to discuss the program with the county attorney.

• Approved emergency medical services contracts with Robert Daise and Marralee Carroll. They are taking the emergency medical technician classes and have agreed to work with the county system under the contract in exchange for the county paying the class expenses.

• Tabled the paperwork on the grant for the fire truck from Kanorodo because the state had reduced the administration fee by \$2,000. They contacted

Amy Griffey of Northwest Kansas Planning and Development about the change and she advised them not to sign until she has a chance to see if the money can be restored from the state.

• Appointed Charles Whelan to the Area Agency of Aging advisory board to replace Melva Stephens, who resigned.

• Appointed Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld to the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission to replace former County Administrator Mike Irvin.

City may OK work on roof at airport

The Goodland City Commission meets at 5 p.m. tonight and will consider bids on the roof of the airport administration building and hold a hearing on the completion of the water tower grant project.

Don Bennett is expected to visit again with the commission about the proposed change of Cherry Street in front of his property. At a recent meeting, Bennett said he was unhappy with the proposed design, and the city proposed an alternative which would cre-

ate a new street along Bennett's property line to the south of 19th Street.

In other business, the commission:

• Will consider approving the contract for a new demolition grant, and the administration contract for the grant.

• Approve bids for a pole barn for the new vehicle impound yard.

• Adopt the city pay plan for next year.

• Consider resolutions committing city funds to the Kansas Department of Transportation for the delayed K-27

project. The city has been negotiating with the department to get this project moving after two bid attempts.

• Consider employee Christmas bonuses.

• Appoint two members to the city recreation board.

• Consider a requests to allow the High Plains Museum to close on Sunday during the winter because of a lack of volunteers.

• Consider a request from the Veterans of Foreign Wars for a \$250 dona-

Firemen cool off dorm room

The Goodland Fire Department was called to put out a fire around 3:30 p.m. Saturday at a dorm unit at the Northwest Kansas Technical School.

Fire damage was not extensive, but there was heavy smoke damage in the unit, officials said.

The fire started in a bedroom, where a mattress and carpet were burned, and a wall and window frame were scorched. A stereo in the room

had started to melt.

Apparently a short in an electrical appliance, possibly an alarm clock, caused the fire, said Goodland Fire Chief Dean Jensen.

Jensen said the fire department was not at the scene very long, probably around 30 minutes at the most.

"The smoke alarms did work, that's for sure," he said.

The student who lived in the room was gone, and no one was hurt.

local markets



Noon

- Wheat — \$2.12 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.87
- Loan deficiency payment — 58¢
- Corn — \$1.61 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.61
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 38¢
- Milo — \$2.40 hundredweight
- Soybeans — \$4.07 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.02
- Loan deficiency payment — 87¢
- Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$5.80 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.89
- Confection current — \$11/\$7 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$15 (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.

Storm kills two, cuts off power

WICHITA — Two people were killed and about 10,000 Wichita residents were without electricity late Sunday following the season's first snowfall, which missed northwest Kansas but toppled tree limbs and power lines farther east.

Kansas Gas and Electric said 26,000 Wichita homes lost power as 8 inches of snow blanketed the area Sunday. About 16,000 homes had power restored by Sunday night, but some of the remaining 10,000 customers might not get power back until late Tuesday or early Wednesday.

Near McPherson, two people were killed in a weather-related afternoon highway crash on Interstate 135, the Kansas Highway Patrol reported.

Deanne Rutledge, 47, and Paul Rutledge, 45, both of Frisco, Texas, were killed in an accident about 1:30 p.m. Sunday.