

## weather report

**46°**

at noon



### Today

• Sunset, 4:30 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:06 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:31 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 36 degrees

• Humidity 47 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds north 20 mph

• Barometer 30.36 inches

and falling

• Record High 74° (1980)

• Record Low -08° (1924)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 48°

Low 22°

Precipitation none

### Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Clear; low 25-30; winds northwest 10-20 mph. Tomorrow:

Sunny; high 65; winds northwest 15-

25 mph; low 25-30.

### Extended Forecast

Wednesday through Friday.

Wednesday: dry; high 65; low 25-30.

Thursday: dry; high 50-55; low 25.

Friday: dry; high 50; low 20.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$2.10 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.96

Loan deficiency payment — 49¢

Corn — \$1.62 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.70

Loan deficiency pmt. — 29¢

Milo — \$2.32 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$3.88 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.96

Loan deficiency payment — 93¢

Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.85 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.16

Confection current — \$11/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$13 (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.

## Four arrested at U.S. border

SEATTLE — Four people were arrested by the U.S. Border Patrol and a busy U.S.-Canada border crossing was shut for 2 1/2 hours, but U.S. officials denied a report that one of those arrested was connected to a terrorist group.

The three men and a woman were arrested by U.S. officials Sunday afternoon at the Blaine, Wash., checkpoint. The woman had parked her car at a duty-free shop on the Canadian side of the border and walked across to join the three, Canadian officials said.

The crossing — one of the busiest in the United States — was shut down for 2 1/2 hours.

Their identities and citizenships were not known, but the men were in the United States illegally and had driven to the crossing from Pennsylvania in a rental car, said Constable Archie Alafritz of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

# Indian negotiators talk with hijackers

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — Indian negotiators today arrived in Afghanistan and began talks with the hijackers of an Indian Airlines plane, who have threatened to start killing passengers if their demands are not met.

The negotiators were speaking by radio to the hijackers from the control tower at the Kandahar Airport. There was no information about the contents of the talks.

The hijackers had said they would begin executing passengers today, but the deadline passed without any reports

of deaths. Earlier, the hijackers spoke by radio to a junior Indian diplomat in Kandahar and agreed to suspend their deadline until the negotiators from India arrived, said a senior Indian official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

At least one hostage has been killed since the hijacking began Friday. Passengers who had been released said the hijackers stabbed Rippan Katyal after he disobeyed their orders not to look at them.

Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil, foreign minister for Afghanistan's ruling

Taliban militia, said his government is losing patience and if Indian negotiators fail to get an agreement "we will use force to make the plane leave." He did not set any deadlines.

The hijackers are demanding several Kashmiri militants and a Pakistani-born Kashmiri activist be released from Indian prisons.

At the Kandahar airport, the Taliban said they were prepared to storm the aircraft if the hijackers had begun killing passengers. Taliban commandos were deployed around the aircraft as the

initial deadline approached, but when it passed without any visible problems, they were removed, said Taliban spokesman Rehmatullah Aga.

"We warned the hijackers that if they take any action or kill anyone on our territory, we are going to mete out similar treatment to them," he said.

Along with the seven-member negotiating team, the Indian Airlines Airbus-320 that arrived today from New Delhi, India, also brought doctors, another cockpit crew and relief supplies for the 160 passengers and crew members be-

lieved to be on the hijacked plane.

Peter Iseli, an International Red Cross spokesman at the airport, said there is one doctor among the hostages, and the Red Cross has supplied him with medicines to treat his fellow passengers for minor ailments and stress.

Erick de Mul, the U.N. coordinator for Afghanistan who has been negotiating with the hijackers since Sunday, told The Associated Press that the arrival of an Indian negotiating team

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## Evolution top story of 1999

### State's editors choose battle in state board as No. 1 story of year

TOPEKA (AP) — Evolution and higher education have been voted the top news stories of 1999 in Kansas.

Rounding out the top five stories in a survey of Associated Press member newspaper and broadcast editors were state revenues falling short of expectations, a tornado that killed six people in the Wichita area and the Kansas Legislature's approval of a new transportation plan.

The August decision by the state Board of Education to approve new science standards that de-emphasized the teaching of evolution in the state's schools was easily the top story. The standards will be used to develop state-wide tests to be given to students starting in the spring of 2001.

The board's 6-4 vote brought national attention to Kansas, much of it negative. Three national science groups refused to give the board permission to quote their copyrighted material in the standards.

Editors voted No. 2 the legislative passage of a bill to reorganize the state's higher education system.

The legislation was designed to unify the higher education system and make it more efficient. It put community colleges and technical schools under the Board of Regents instead of the Board of Education.

The No. 3 story was the state's ending the 1999 fiscal year on June 30 with \$73.4 million less than expected in revenue.

In recent years, Gov. Bill Graves and the Legislature had found themselves in the best of political times — able to cut taxes and increase spending at the same time. They knew it had to end sometime, and it did. As the year ended, Graves and most legislators were talking about ways to cut spending.

A strong May tornado that cut a path 12 miles long and three miles wide through southern Sedgwick County was named the No. 4 story of the year. Spawned by the same storm system that produced killer tornadoes in Oklahoma, the deadly twister hit Haysville and parts of Wichita, destroying thousands of homes and businesses.

Editors chose as No. 5 the new transportation plan that will finance \$12.9 billion in highway, public transit, airport and short line railroad improvements over 10 years. The legislation pushed by Graves increases gasoline and diesel fuel taxes and permits the state to issue nearly \$1 billion in bonds.

Others in the Kansas Top 10:

6. Department of Aging Secretary Thelma Hunter Gordon resigns after coming under fire for her out-of-state travel. She also came under scrutiny because the agency gave a \$135,000 no-bid contract to a former deputy secretary.

7. The Legislature decides most of the \$1.6 billion the state is to receive over a 25-year period in the national tobacco settlement should be used to finance a trust fund for children's programs.

- (tie) Sprint Corp. agrees to merge with MCI WorldCom in a \$115 billion deal as it moves onto its \$920 million corporate campus in Overland Park, Kan.

## Shooting baskets in Christmas weather



Kody Murphy, Ogallala, Neb., threw a basketball at the hoop on Sunday afternoon at Central School, while his cousin Brice (front) and father Doug (behind) watched. The family was in Goodland visiting rela-

tives, Dale and Myrtle Murphy, over the holiday weekend and spent some time playing basketball in the warm weather.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

# Activities center needs quick cash

By Janet Craft

### The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland Activities Center is making a plea for local businesses to consider making a cash contribution as a way to earn tax credits for their business in 1999 and at the same time help the center make improvements.

A change in Kansas law means that even businesses which don't owe income tax can use the credits to get a refund, but businesses must make a donation this week to qualify. Time is short.

The state budgets money to go to community service organizations that will benefit children, families, and the community. Organizations have to apply for the money and must show a need. The top applicants chosen receive the money.

The center originally applied in the spring of 1998 to remodel and weatherize its building, hoping to cut costly utility bills. The many windows in the front of the old car dealership made it

hard to heat and cool. The organization received \$128,000 in contribution credits from the state during the summer of 1998, which it then had to gather money for.

Any business which pays to Kansas income tax, including corporations, trust companies, sole proprietorships, farmers, insurance companies, partnerships, banks, subchapter S corporations and businesses with rental property, is eligible to participate.

Contributions must be received by Dec. 31 to qualify for this project and tax credits. After this date, any credits the Goodland Activities Center was awarded, but was unable to fund, will be lost.

All contributions must be made by a business, not by an individual, to receive tax credits. The credit is 70 percent of the total contribution made by the business during that tax year.

In 1998, it received \$48,500 in donations but the center still needs \$40,000 to complete the work. Basically, it can

only do what it receives money to pay for.

"Everything that has been done, has been paid for," said Donna Terry, administrator of the center.

Terry said the organization is seeking money to make further improvements to the building, including insulating the brick and block walls of the gym and locker rooms, upgrading and repairing the heating and air conditioning systems, repairing doors and windows, carpeting the game room and painting the gym.

These will require \$75,000 in contributions and will provide \$52,500 in tax credits for local businesses. By donating, businesses can choose to keep tax money in their community, rather than have it go to Topeka.

Since the front of the building has been changed, the building can be kept cool in the summer and warm in the winter, said Terry.

"It really has improved," she said. After a contribution is made by an

eligible business, the contributor and the center fill out a tax credit application form, which is then mailed to the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing for approval. After approval by the department, the credit award is sent directly to the business.

The business then claims the credit and attaches the certificate to its income tax form. The credit must be claimed during the tax year that the contribution was made and goes against what is owed to the state. Any unused credit will be refunded.

The contribution is also deductible on federal returns. The taxpayer is allowed an itemized deduction for the contribution, though the amount of the contribution is added back to the Kansas taxable income for that tax year. For example, a taxpayer in the 28 percent federal and 6.25 percent state tax brackets could reduce their taxes by \$918 for a \$1,000 contribution.

For information, call Terry at 899-7242.

## Law padlocks state's rivers to canoe, float enthusiasts

By The Associated Press

Despite a wealth of scenic waterways, canoe enthusiasts in Kansas generally head to neighboring states for their weekend floating excursions.

It's not because of the streams, outdoor enthusiasts say, it's the laws that protect them.

In 1990, the Kansas Supreme Court ruled that nearly every stream in Kansas is private property, which means floating on them constitutes trespassing. Attempts to get public access areas

to the three public rivers in Kansas — the Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas have consistently failed.

Those failures are costly to both canoeists and the state, said Mike Calwell of Countryside, president of the Kansas Canoe Association.

"Stop and think about the money they're taking out of the state," he said.

Across the state line in Missouri, the situation couldn't be more different.

Many Missouri streams are public, and the state maintains 350 public access areas along streams. State conservation and park programs draw national acclaim. Floating has become a tourist attraction.

One study found that the Meramec River in eastern Missouri generates more than \$11 million worth of business a year because of its popularity as a float stream.

The Kansas Wildlife and Parks Department suffers from lack of support and doesn't wield much influence. Powerful interest groups such as the

Kansas Farm Bureau dislike the idea of canoeists floating along streams by private property.

The argument swirls around an issue called "property rights," and in the Kansas Legislature it's easy to find lawmakers willing to fight for what they see as the rights of landowners.

Outdoor recreational enthusiasts in Kansas would like to make streams public. But they're not concentrating on that. They're aiming, instead, to develop public access along the Kaw