

weather report

38°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 4:43 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:06 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:44 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 31 degrees

• Humidity 57 percent

• Sky cloudy

• Winds north 20 mph

• Barometer 29.73 inches and steady

• Record High 74° (1990)

• Record Low -14° (1962)

Last 24 Hours*

High 45°

Low 25°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy; low 20, winds west 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny; dry; high 50; winds southwest 10-20 mph; low 25-30.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday through Friday.

Wednesday: dry; high 50; low 25-30.

Thursday: dry; high 45-50; low 25.

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

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.17 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.94

Loan deficiency payment — 51¢

Corn — \$1.65 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.73

Loan deficiency pmt. — 26¢

Milo — \$2.48 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$3.97 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.03

Loan deficiency payment — 86¢

Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.95 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.95

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.

Time Warner sold to AOL

NEW YORK — Time Warner, the world's largest media and entertainment company, is being acquired by America Online for about \$166 billion in stock in what would be the biggest merger ever.

The merger announced today marks the biggest bet yet that the Internet will be one of the most dominant features in the media landscape of the future.

"This merger will launch the next Internet revolution," America Online's chairman and chief executive, Steve Case, said at a news conference.

Time Warner's chairman, Gerald Levin, said this morning, "These two companies are a natural fit."

The merger would give Time Warner a huge and powerful platform for reaching people online. AOL is the nation's largest online company with some 20 million subscribers.



Ambassadors bring smiles

By Chris Crutcher
The Goodland Daily News

The basketballs were flying at Max Jones Fieldhouse Saturday afternoon as the multi-talented Harlem Ambassadors were in town.

Slams, jams, and wild crazy ball movement drew in a crowd of all ages. The Ambassadors were playing the not so talented over-aged Gym Rats, better known as the Goodland school district teachers and staff. Proceeds from the game were to benefit the Goodland High School X-Pressos and DECA.

The Harlem Ambassadors consist of six players who have played basketball at the college and professional level, and now travel all over the world playing for charity and tons of laughs.

During half-time of the game the Harlem team gave young people a chance to win prizes and make memories. They picked out about 30 kids from the crowd put them in a circle and played catch with a basketball. When a kid dropped the pass he/she would return to their seat until the last kid was left. This child would get to take home a free Ambassador's basketball. Also during the half-time show they had two children run a race with the help of an Ambassador. The winner got to take home a Harlem Ambassador T-shirt.

At the start of the second half the



Harlem Ambassador Coach/player Ladè Majic (above) leads a group of Goodland youngsters out onto the floor during halftime of their game Saturday. The Ambassadors played catch with the young people and the winner got an autographed basketball. The Harlem Ambassadors put on an exhibition performance to benefit the Goodland High School X-Pressos and DECA. In the second half the Ambassadors spotted the Goodland Gym Rats 50 points, but with the high flying dunks by 5'8" Reggie (Fly) Thompson (top left) the Ambassadors won handily.

Photos by Chris Crutcher / The Goodland Daily News

Lawmakers begin 2000 session with lack of money

By Carl Manning
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — In years past, Kansas lawmakers showed up for their annual sessions with visions of tax breaks and pet projects dancing in their heads.

But hard times have arrived at the Statehouse, and this year it's a different story.

Legislators were scheduled to begin the 2000 session this afternoon faced with making hard spending decisions in year when all House and Senate seats will be on the November ballot.

"It's a year in which the cupboards are bare," said Rep. David Adkins, R-Leawood, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. "An election year goes easier if there are goodies to hand out. Unfortunately, this year we have to exercise incredible discipline just to get a budget passed."

He added: "This year, we buy the model without the power windows."

For the past few sessions, lawmakers were blessed with enough money to both

cut taxes and provide extra money for a great many state programs.

What a difference a year makes.

"It's going to be pretty bare bones. People with pet projects are going to have to shelve them for awhile," said Senate Majority Leader Tim Emert, R-Independence.

A simple solution would be to raise taxes and create more revenue for the state. But Emert said he doesn't see the need for a tax increase this session, and few lawmakers want to raise taxes and stand for re-election in the same year.

"We've been in the mode of tax cuts, and now we need to change to budget reductions," Emert said. "The question is, from whom do we take the money for new projects?"

State revenues for the current budget year haven't lived up to expectations. Because of that, Gov. Bill Graves wants lawmakers to cut \$67.4 million in state general spending in the current budget.

The governor planned to outline his priorities for fiscal 2001, which begins

July 1, during his State of the State speech to a joint legislative session tonight.

House Speaker Robin Jennison said that, for the first time, many lawmakers must make choices about where to spend the money, rather than having enough to take care of a full wish list.

"People who haven't had to set priorities will have to do it. We've been able to have our cake and eat it too," said Jennison, R-Healy. "It's going to be a year of choices, and for some people it will be hard choices."

Last week, the House and Senate budget committees reworked Graves' proposed spending cuts for the current budget year. They agreed with most of his proposals.

One exception was his proposal to trim spending for public schools.

Last year lawmakers increased the per pupil spending for the 304 school districts by \$50 per student, for a total of \$3,700. Graves wanted to whittle the increase to \$37.

The problem is that lawmakers can't really start work on the fiscal 2001 budget until they decide what to do about the current budget.

That is because one state budget is based, in large measure, on what occurred in the previous budget.

For instance, if lawmakers did nothing with the current budget, they would face the prospect of cutting \$158 million in fiscal 2001, absent a tax increase.

Jennison said in past years, legislators have dealt with a current budget while considering the next budget, but this year that isn't a good idea.

"In the past it hasn't been a critical as it will be this year. I think it's important that we deal with the 2000 budget quickly," Jennison said.

There is an upside to the situation, Jennison said, in that a lack of money may keep the amount of gamesmanship in check.

"If we had more money, there would be more opportunity to play more political games. The budget is going to make it more difficult to be political this year," he said.

How much money the state has also will have an impact on other legislation. Emert estimated 85 percent of the bills introduced carry a price tag — money that has to come from somewhere in a year when there aren't that many places to look.

Classes may be offered through the Internet

The Goodland School Board will discuss a policy to allow a small number of students to sign-up for classes which could be taken at home through the Internet.

Previously Superintendent Marvin Selby talked to the board about the possibility of endorsing the remote classes being offered by the Greenbush program from southeast Kansas. Board members had a mixed reaction to the proposal, and told Selby to develop a policy as well as providing further information about how the program would operate and what the impact might be on the district's enrollment.

Also on tonight's agenda is consideration of the Zapme! Computer program which would provide up to 30 computer stations in the district which would have a restricted internet access through the Zapme system. Selby said the Topeka school district is using the Zapme system and is very satisfied with the program.

"Our librarians want to give this a try as it would provide a number of needed

computer stations," Selby said.

The Max Jones expansion is moving closer to completion Selby said. The Tactum sound deadening people completed their work Saturday and the electrician is busy putting up the lights. The backboards should be up this week, and should be ready for the painter on Wednesday.

He said the floor people are waiting to get a date later this month. for when they can bring in the material. The floor needs to be in the building for about a week before it is put down, and Selby said the contractor wants everybody out of the way before the floor is put down.

Other discussion items on the agenda include a report from Gary Gregory on the state health insurance plan; school building report cards; and an update on the school improvement plans.

The district building site councils will have an annual joint meeting on Monday, Jan. 17, and Selby said the school board will be invited to attend.

Health Fair set for Jan. 29; blood tests to be Jan. 17-21

By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

The annual Sherman County Health Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29 at the Goodland Activities Center.

Free tests will be given for blood pressure, body fat, strength/flexibility, height/weight, oxygen saturation, posture analysis, and colon/rectal hemocult. The Kansas Lions Mobile Screening Unit will provide free hearing and vision screening.

Those interested in blood tests should note an important change in the setup for this year's fair. Blood profiles will be done prior to the fair at Goodland Regional Medical Center. Those wishing to have this blood test should report to the hospital between 7-9 a.m. on Jan. 17-21. This will allow the tests to be completed, so that the results can be distributed at the health fair.

Blood work will be performed at a small cost. The blood test results will include cholesterol, sodium, potassium, blood sugar, and triglycerides.

A prostate-specific antigen blood test for men can also be performed for an extra fee. Medical personnel suggest that participants not eat after 9 p.m. on the day prior to testing in order to get more accurate results, but drinking water is permitted.

The health fair is sponsored by the Goodland Activities Center, Goodland Lions and Topside Lions Clubs, Goodland Regional Medical Center, the Regional Prevention Center, Sherman County Health Department and the Sherman County Kansas State University Research and Extension Department.

For questions, call either the activities center or the hospital.

Wallace County will also be holding their 3rd annual health fair from 7 a.m. to noon Saturday in the commons area of the Sharon Springs High School. It is free and open to the public.

The Wallace County Health Department in conjunction with the Hays Pathology Lab will be giving blood chemistry and prostate-specific antigen tests for a small fee from 7-9 a.m. only. All blood tests need to be done before eating breakfast. Free tetanus shots will be given from 10 a.m. to noon.

The Wallace County Family Practice, Rural Health Ventures, Wallace County Hospice and emergency medical technicians will be on hand to give out information and answer questions.

Additional sponsors and participants for the health fair are Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group, American Red Cross, Hays Medical Center, State of Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services, High Plains Mental Health, HealthWave, Breast Cancer Awareness Program, American Diabetes Association, Sunflower Telephone Company, EagleMED, Nature's Sparkle and Case Chiropractic.

For information, call Marj Sommerfeld, Wallace County Health Department, at (785) 852-4272 or the Wallace County Economic Development Office at (785) 852-4935.