

The Goodland Daily News

WEDNESDAY

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2000

50¢

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Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather report

52°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 5:53 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:57 a.m.
• Sunset, 5:54 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 44 degrees
• Humidity 41 percent
• Sky mostly sunny
• Winds northeast 16-24 mph
• Barometer 29.96 inches and rising
• Record High 82° (1935)
• Record Low 05° (1952)

Last 24 Hours*

High 58°
Low 26°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy, snow likely, low mid 20s, winds north 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, dry, high mid 40s, winds south 5-15 mph, low 20s.

Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday: dry, high 50s, low 20s.

(National Weather Service)

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

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.32 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.19
Loan deficiency payment — 26¢
Corn — \$1.86 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.99
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Milo — \$2.84 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.50 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.51
Loan deficiency payment — 38¢
Millet — \$3.70 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.25 cwt.
Loan deficiency prmt. — \$3.88
Confection current — \$13/\$7 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$12 (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.

Candidates take aim anew

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Their presidential nominations secured, Al Gore and George W. Bush dug in for the eight-month battle to November.

Bush said he was braced for Gore's "politics of personal destruction and distortions," while Gore argued that Bush's "risky tax scheme" would hurt the economy.

Gore picked up rhetoric today from Bush's defeated rival, John McCain, tying Bush to conservative evangelists. Gore, who supports abortion and tighter gun laws, said Bush shares the anti-abortion views of Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell and also is a strong supporter of the National Rifle Association.

Bush brushed off as a stunt Gore's latest challenge, his promise to hold off on television ads funded by "soft money" as long as Bush does, too.

High school shifts 'block' schedule

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Goodland High School has been on what's known as a "block schedule" for four years, and at Monday's school board meeting, teachers and the principal asked to continuing using a modified version of the system.

After some pointed questions, the board approved the new schedule, which involves having all classes meet during eight periods on Mondays and four 80-minute "block" classes the rest of the week.

Teachers Jo Ann Wahrman and Mary Porterfield made the presentation. Principal Harvey

Swager was available to answer questions.

Before the change to a block schedule, the school used a more traditional seven-hour schedule which had students attending each of their classes every day of the week for about 50 minutes each period.

Under the block schedule, the students have longer class periods and fewer classes per day. Classes meet two or three times a week and class periods were increased to about 80 minutes each, with classes swapping days each week. Classes meet either Monday, Wednesday and Friday or Tuesday and Thursday one week, and switch the next.

Wahrman and Porterfield said the revised block schedule was developed by the entire high school staff, trying to find a schedule which "was the best for students."

Under the new schedule, the classes will rotate every two weeks, with "block" sessions Tuesday and Thursday or Wednesday and Friday. Students would attend all eight of their classes on Mondays, with no seminar period that day. There would be four classes and a seminar period on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday with half of the eight classes meeting on each day. In the second week the classes which met on Tuesday and Wednesday would meet on the opposite days from

the week before.

The reason for alternating days is to help students involved in sports or another activities so that they would at least have all of their classes at least three times a week during the two week period and have the class at least twice during the second week.

"What criteria did you use to make the recommendations?" asked board member Kathy Russell. "Did you have something more than gut feelings?"

The teachers admitted that there is not much

See SCHOOL, Page 4



Scouts celebrate their anniversary

Girls Scouts of Goodland had a banquet and program on Sunday night at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall to kick off Girl Scout Week. Brownie Girl Scouts (above) sang a song about what a woman can do, while dressed in assorted career clothing. Junior Girl Scouts (below) performed a skit dressed as Indians. For more photos, see the Community Page, Page 7.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Amtrak wreck sends 29 to hospitals

By Carl Manning

Associated Press Writer

CARBONDALE — Sixteen cars of an Amtrak passenger train derailed in northeastern Kansas early today, injuring at least 29 people, one of them critically.

The Chicago-to-Los Angeles train went off the track about 2:10 a.m. in a field near Carbondale, about 15 miles south of Topeka. Six passenger cars, including two sleeping cars, were among those that derailed and on their sides at the derailment site alongside a cornfield.

About 155 passengers and crew members were on the train, and all had been accounted for, Amtrak officials

said in Chicago. The cause was not immediately known, but investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board were at the scene within five hours.

The uninjured passengers were taken to a nearby school and fed a breakfast of biscuits and gravy. They then were to be housed in a Topeka hotel as they decided how to continue their trip.

Crews were working to clear the wreckage from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe track.

John Mills, a retired Amtrak district supervisor who was acting as a spokesman on the scene, said the many of the people taken to Topeka hospitals were among those in two sleeper cars.

Besides the six passenger cars, 10 cars carrying mail and other light freight at the rear of the train derailed, Amtrak spokesman Cliff Black said in Washington. Altogether, the train had 27 cars.

The derailment occurred as the Amtrak "Southwest Chief" rounded a gentle curve on flat, rural terrain, Mills said. The train was going about 60 mph, well within the speed limit.

Black said the train's four engines safely passed the point where the cars derailed.

Richard Gray, 51, of Aurora, N.Y., was in one of the sleeper cars that overturned. He said that he and his mother, Dorothy Gray, 92, were both asleep.

"We heard a loud noise, we started rocking and went over," he said. "It was an unnatural sound. It was kind of eerie when the bottom is up."

Robert Daveler, 19, of Madison, Wis., was in a double-deck coach two cars ahead of those that derailed.

"I was sleeping and woke up about two minutes before the accidents," he said. "The lights flickered. There were three big jerking motions. It seemed like they hit the brakes real hard and stopped a few seconds later."

The train left Chicago at 3:20 p.m. Central Time Tuesday, Amtrak said. Passengers were to be taken to their destinations by alternate transportation.

Suspicious cop nails gang with \$13,000 in goods, forged credit cards

OVERLAND PARK (AP) — A police officer's suspicions about a shopper with a two-way radio led to three arrests and possibly the breakup of a national credit card theft ring.

Federal charges were expected to be filed today against the three men, all from California and all being held in the Johnson County Jail. State charges alleging that the men used counterfeit credit cards to buy about \$13,000 worth of perfume and jewelry were dropped Tuesday. Police believe the merchandise, along with

thousands of dollars of other stolen items found in a hotel, was to be sold on the black market.

According to Overland Park police, the case began when Officer Richard Medley went to Oak Park Mall to pick up a suspect at the J.C. Penney store in an unrelated shoplifting.

Medley noticed a man with a two-way radio and thought he was a security guard, but learned otherwise from a store employee.

Because it's unusual to see a shopper with a two-way radio, Medley went outside and watched

the man get into a van and drive to another parking area, near the Nordstrom department store.

Back inside the J.C. Penney store, employees told Medley the man had just bought a \$3,800 ring and about \$5,000 worth of perfume with a credit card. The store employees called the credit card company, which called the cardholders and learned they knew nothing about the purchases.

Medley then called for assistance and another Overland Park officer, Sgt. John Jackson, blocked the van in the parking lot.

Jackson saw three men ready to carry off about \$4,000 worth of perfume purchased with a credit card at Nordstrom. He arrested all three.

In the van and the Merriam hotel where the three men were staying, officers found tens of thousands of dollars worth of jewelry, perfume and electronics. They also found about 50 counterfeit credit cards bearing names matching fake identification cards and passports at the hotel.

"The amounts here are staggering," Jackson said.

Citizens still want pavement

County delays word on Nemechek Road

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

A handful of citizens showed up at Tuesday's Sherman County Commission meeting, expecting a decision on the Nemechek Road pavement. They were disappointed.

Commissioner Kenny Davis told the group that the commissioners had not met to discuss what they were going to do about the road now that a petition for a special benefit district to maintain the pavement has failed. County Clerk Janet Rumble determined that it did not have enough valid signatures.

The citizens may have shown up because of a conference call Friday among County Attorney Bonnie Selby and Ron Vignery, the lawyer who represented the citizens for a proposed special benefit road district, and Robert Perry, a lawyer from Auburn, who Vignery was consulting with.

Davis told the citizens that the commissioners would not be deciding anything on the road situation today but that "a statement" would be made at next Tuesday's meeting. One resident asked what time, so the issue was put on the agenda for 8:30 a.m. next week.

Later in the meeting, Selby came to talk to the commissioners about the conference call. She said she was approached by Vignery about being on a conference call with him and Perry. She said she would have one of the commissioners with her.

She and Davis then met in her office on Friday for the call. Vignery had some of the citizens who want to save the remaining four miles of oil on the Nemechek Road with him in his office.

Selby said Perry suggested alternatives for the citizens to go about keeping the oil road. Rather than filing another petition, Selby said, it was suggested that the citizens tell how they would like to see the Nemechek Road taken care of.

Perry proposed setting up a nonprofit corporation as one option. People committed to investing their time and money would be members of it.

Commissioner Chuck Frankendorf asked whether, if this group could do this for four miles, could others do this for other roads?

In other business, Roxie Yonkey, Goodland, was appointed to the county communications board to fill a vacancy left by Mark Heckman.

Also, the two bids on the mowing of county roads were turned in and Darrel Schrader came in with a low bid of \$24 per swath mile. The other was by Ron Lucas of Goodland Greenline. Commissioners approved Schrader's bid.