

weather report

33°
at noon

Today

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:49 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 36 degrees
• Humidity 51 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds northeast 14 mph
• Barometer 30.42 inches and steady
• Record High 64° (1951)
• Record Low -5° (1985)

Last 24 Hours*

High 59°
Low 22°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 10-15, south winds 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, high 30s, low 15-20, south winds 15-25 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: dry, high 50, low 15-20.
Monday: dry, high 50, low 25-30.
Tuesday: dry, high 50-55, low 20-25.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.82 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.64
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Corn — \$1.91 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.82
Loan deficiency pmt. — 17¢
Milo — \$3.10 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.47 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.36
Loan deficiency payment — 54¢
Millet — no posted price; ask.
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.80 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.19
Confection current — \$15/\$6 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$15
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Lawyers plead for candidates

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawyers for George W. Bush and Al Gore pleaded their cases in the high-columned solemnity of the Supreme Court on Friday before justices openly questioning whether they should intervene in the nation’s contested presidential election.
“We’re looking for a federal issue here,” said Justice Anthony Kennedy.
“Why should the federal judiciary be interfering in what seems to be a very carefully thought-out scheme” for settling elections in Florida, Justice David H. Souter prodded.
“This is a federal court,” Justice Antonin Scalia said at another point in an exchange with Joseph Klock, the lawyer representing Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris.

Troopers seeking public support

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

Some people may think all Kansas Highway Patrol troopers do is write speeding tickets, Maj. Craig Dewell says, but their jobs are much more complex.

Considering all they do, he added, Kansas troopers don’t get paid much — especially when their salaries are compared with those of other states or other law enforcement agencies.

Because of low pay, Dewell said, the patrol has trouble hiring and keeping troopers, which

means less law enforcement, less help for stranded motorists on Kansas highways and more drivers wondering where all the troopers are.

Highway Patrol officials from Goodland and across the state plan to talk about their jobs, their pay and their staffing problems at a “town hall meeting” at 7 p.m. on Tuesday at the Sherman County Fairgrounds 4-H building. Dewell said they’ll also do some listening.

He said the public, city and county officials, state legislators and other law enforcement officers are invited, bringing along any questions or

problems.

“It’s a good opportunity,” he said, “for us to provide information, answer questions and end the perception that the patrol writes speeding tickets and that’s all we do.”

The meeting in Goodland, he said, will be one of nearly a dozen to be held across the state this month. Patrol officials started the sessions on Nov. 4, scheduling 29 through December.

It’s the first time the patrol has held public meetings, Dewell said, noting that they got the idea from the Missouri Highway Patrol. He said after

years of problems with staffing and public perception, patrol officials thought it was time to talk over the issues with citizens.

“We felt like there was a lot of information lacking in regards to what we do,” he said, “and the staffing issues needed to be brought out.”

Lt. John Eichkorn, the patrol’s spokesman in Topeka, said a main reason is to get as many citizens, legislators and law enforcement officers behind them when they ask the Legislature for more

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Association helps county fill new job

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

Eleven people applied for the newly created job of Sherman County administrator, with applications coming from Kansas and other states, the director of the state association helping commissioners in their search says.

Randy Allen, executive director of the Kansas Association of Counties in Topeka, said the association has helped commissioners by writing and placing advertisements and taking in the resumes. The commission created the position in October to catch up with a growing county government.

This week, Allen said, he will review applications, make a summary of each candidate for the commissioners and rank the applicants. Later, he said, he will be involved in the interviewing process, helping to prepare questions, schedule interviews and sit in if the commissioners want him to.

Chuck Frankenfeld, acting chairman, said the commission would welcome Allen. He said interviews will most likely start this month, as the commission is back to three members.

One seat was empty for most of the month as Chairman Kenny Davis resigned on election day after Mitch Tiede, a write-in candidate who now represents District 2, defeated him. Problems organizing Sherman County’s Democratic Party caused delays, but Tiede was sworn in Thursday after Gov. Bill Graves made the appointment.

Allen said he couldn’t talk about individual applicants’ qualifications until he’s had a chance to review all of the resumes. He said he was pleased with the number of applicants, considering the position’s requirements and far-west, small-town location.

“The qualifications are rigorous,” he said, noting that it’s the type of job only persons in the business would know about. Qualifications include a degree in public administration and five years’ experience.

“It’s not the kind of job you would place in metropolitan newspapers,” he said, adding that there was an ad in *The Goodland Daily News* to let people in the area know about the job. Allen wouldn’t say if anyone from Goodland had applied.

He volunteered to help the commission “make a good hire,” he said, because the association’s goal is to make sure counties are successful and follow the laws.

The association, he said, tracks down information for counties all of the time and usually doesn’t ask for compensation.

Frankenfeld said the county pays an annual membership fee.

Except for reimbursing the association for advertising costs, Sherman County isn’t paying anything.

Frankenfeld said he feels better about moving forward with hiring a county administrator now that Tiede has filled the vacant commission seat. He said it’s important Tiede is involved.

“They’ll be working together for four years,” he said.

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Columbine survivor is a ‘walking miracle’

Teen-ager and pastor discuss tragedy

By Dana Sulsberger
The Goodland Daily News

It was a day like any other when she went to school that morning, Heidi Johnson recalled. She was worried about a math test and had gone to the library to study.

Johnson’s voice shook a little with emotion as she talked to a crowd of 100 in Burlington on Wednesday night about that day, April 20, 1999. She told how she crouched behind a big wooden table while Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris marched through the library at Columbine High School, shooting students at random.

Johnson said most of the students were shot just a few feet from where she was hiding.

Two questions ran through her mind, she said: “What is happening in our school?” and, “What if I’m next?”

Johnson said she prayed while she was laying there and she felt a peace come over her. She knew when she got out that she was a walking miracle and has decided to devote her life to teaching about God. Her speeches across the country bring the message that our time on earth is short and people need to be investing in their salvation.

“Me getting out to speak and spread my message,” said Johnson, “was part of the good that came out of this tragedy.”

Johnson came to Burlington with her father, Barry Johnson, and her pastor, Dr. Billy Wayne Epperhart, on the request of the Rev. Terry Skov with Bethel Assembly of God. They have been speaking around the country

about once a week, Epperhart said. Epperhart was a youth pastor in Burlington from 1978 to 1980, which is why he wanted to speak there.

“Usually these guys won’t speak to a crowd of less than 1,000,” said Skov, “but they made an exception to come here.”

The first funeral for one of the Columbine victims, Rachel Scott, was held at Epperhart’s church, the Trinity Christian Center in Littleton. He said it became the most watched event in the history of CNN.

“There was something about this tragedy that woke up the nation,” he said.

Johnson’s father talked about trying to find his daughter after news of the shooting came out, pausing often to collect himself. He told how he got news of the shooting and drove as fast as he could over to the school.

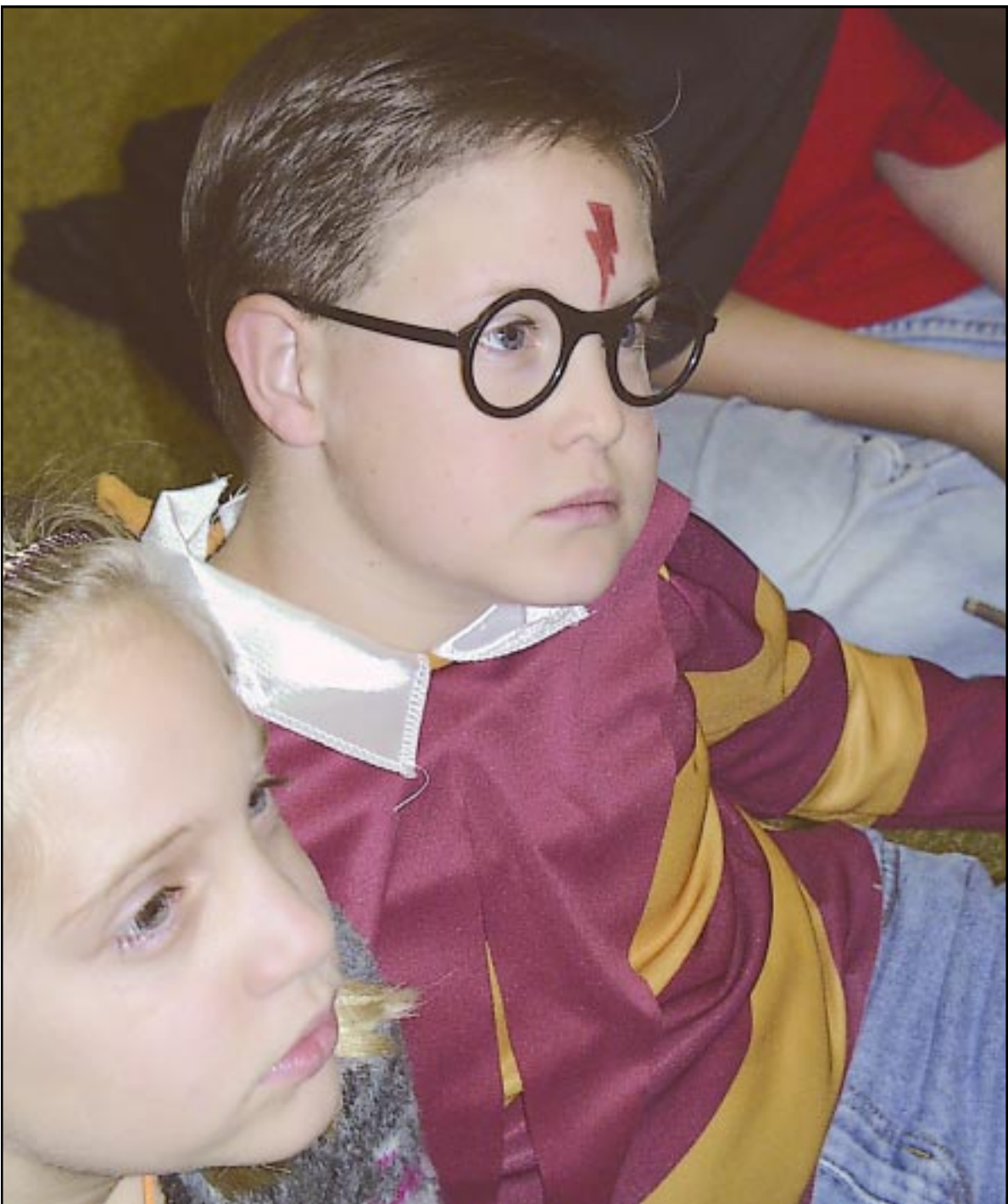
He and other parents had to wait at a crowded elementary school near Columbine as busloads of students were brought across a stage and he searched desperately for his daughter’s face.

“I waited for over an hour as other parents took their children home,” he said, “I looked around and there weren’t many others left waiting.”

Finally, he said, his wife called and told him that Heidi was OK and gave him a number to call.

“We were at separate ends of the school property,” Johnson said. “She was a mile away on one side and I was a mile away on the other side and a thou-

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Brandon Douglas, winner of the Harry Potter look-alike contest, watches the “magic” science show put on at the Goodland Public Library. Photos by Rachel Miscall and Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

Wizards attend Hogwarts’s

By Dana Sulsberger
The Goodland Daily News

What is it that could draw a crowd of young wizards to the Goodland Public Library on a Thursday night?

They weren’t looking for hexes or spells in the large selection of books or searching for the elusive “everbean.”

So why did kids, dressed like the famous young wizard Harry Potter, line up in the library?

They came for the libraries version of Harry Potter’s Hogwarts’s School of Wizardry.

“I organized this to try and draw students here in the middle of the year,” said Karen Gillihan, the children’s librarian.

She said in the summer, it’s easy to get kids to come to the library, but during school, when they have so much else going on, it is more difficult.

“The difference,” Gillihan said, “is tonight we will be practicing my brand of magic — science.”

The Harry Potter books, by British author J.K. Rowling, are tremendously popular among kids, she said, and about 20 children came to the library to see amazing science experiments with natural gas, electricity and air.

While children gathered outside of the room where the games were to be held, one young kid gazed up at a Harry Potter look-alike and could be heard to whisper, “Will you disappear me?”

Then the kids filled into the library. First up was the “everbean” guessing contest.

“Everbeans” in the Harry Potter books, the librarian explained, are kind of like jellybeans but come in every flavor you could imagine.

Dani Mangus, almost 3, and Devin Mangus, 10, were among the Potter look-alikes that competed last night. Dani carried a Harry Potter doll made by a neighbor.

Devin excitedly explained that he had read all four of the books in the Potter series. He said his mom heard about the library program on the radio and wanted to bring him and his sister to the event.

“The first of the books was the most exciting,” said Devin. “I liked when he was just getting used to the Hogwarts school.”

It seemed that every kid at the library had read at least

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Michael Smith, dressed as Harry Potter, lit bubbles of propane with a small torch on Thursday night.