

weather
report

46°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:23 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:53 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:23 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 39 degrees

• Humidity 25 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds northwest 11 mph

• Barometer 30.23 inches

and falling

• Record High 78° (1939)

• Record Low -14° (1950)

Last 24 Hours*

High 48°

Low 23°

Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Clear, low 25, west winds

5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny,

high 55-60, low 20-25, west winds

5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday and Saturday: chance of

snow, high 30s, low 20s. Sunday:

chance of snow, high 30s, low 20.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.80 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.66

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$1.88 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.82

Loan deficiency pmt. — 17¢

Milo — \$3.06 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.45 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.33

Loan deficiency payment — 57¢

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.

Bush's mind
on new staff

WASHINGTON — George W. Bush said Wednesday he's "pretty well made up my mind who should serve" on his White House staff, and is hard at work building his Cabinet. Al Gore pinned his fading hopes on the Florida Supreme Court in the nation's overtime election.

With two issues pending before the state Supreme Court, and two lawsuits unfolding in trial courts, Bush said, "It seems like all the different court suits are working their way to finality and hopefully we can get this over with quickly."

The Texas governor, certified the winner in Florida's make-or-break presidential contest, added, "there's a lot of work to be done."

Bush invited reporters to ask questions about his transition, at the same time Gore worked in the vice president's residence.

Hospital board passes slim budget

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Expressing confidence in the current management team, the Goodland Regional Medical Center board Tuesday adopted a trimmed-down budget and a marketing plan for next year.

Andy Laue, chief financial officer and head of the management team, told the board that while the new budget does show an anticipated loss of \$161,000 for the year, he believes there

will be a positive cash flow of \$256,872.

The loss is \$108,000 less than the budget presented in October. At that meeting, the board asked Administrator Jim Chaddic for a break-even budget. He later was terminated and the interim management team was put in charge of the hospital.

"I know we need to get the budget in line," Laue said, "and we talked about identifying fat that can be cut. Beyond

that, any cuts would also cut services. While we want to provide the lowest-cost care to our patients, we have to keep this place afloat.

"We need to work on the revenue side and make some price adjustments, which we have not done for three years. We will look at the room charges, which are substantially below others."

Laue said he was unable to say how much of a rate increase would actually translate to increased income, but esti-

mated it would add \$16,000 the first year. He also said he was going to have Jason Scheopner of the accounting department examine the hospital's whole pricing structure.

As a visible example of the administration's efforts to cut back, Laue suggested the board approve the sale of the hospital's Tahoe, which has been used by employees to travel to meetings.

"I recommend we sell the Tahoe and

take the hit on depreciation now," he said. "The vehicle is too expensive to keep, and we want to show the employees that we are trying to reduce costs. We have been asking everyone to tighten their belts."

Laue said he was reducing the anticipated budget for charity care by \$39,000 to a more realistic level, and he was anticipating an increase of \$39,000

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Pretty trees make money for groups

Angel tree a memorial to loved ones

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

An angel is assigned to Peg Hanke's parents.

Not in heaven, but hanging from a Christmas tree at the First National Bank in Goodland.

Hanke, a senior vice president at the bank, donated money to Hospice Services on Tuesday. In return, she got a white angel with a gold halo to hang on the tree next to others with crocheted wings and pipe-cleaner halos.

Attached to Hanke's ornament was a piece of paper bearing the names of her parents and her husband's father, all gone.

"It's to honor them," she said.

The Hospice Services angel tree has decorated the bank's lobby for the past five holiday seasons, said Cindy Hutchins, director of volunteers and administrative assistant for the regional agency.

She said a former director devised the program, recruiting volunteers to make the angel ornaments, to spread the word about hospice care and bring in money. Since several people made the angels, there are a few different styles.

The idea, Hutchins said, is for people to give a tax-deductible donation in exchange for an angel that serves as a memorial to a friend, relative or anything else. She said the average donation is \$10, but it doesn't matter how much people give or whose name goes on the little card.

"We don't refuse anyone," she said. "Last year, a couple of people did it for their pets. I can understand I've had special pets in my life."

Sherida Shoff, a vice president at First National, said her daughter hung an angel for her grandfather, and she plans to dedicate one to someone special before the end of the year.

"It's a good remembrance," she said, "plus it goes for a worthy cause."

Hutchins said the money is used to help provide hospice services to dying people and their families in seven northwest Kansas counties. The tree will be at the bank through the first week in January.

The angel tree has become popular, Hutchins said.

Last year, hospice workers had to bring a smaller tree to the bank because the big one was completely covered in angels.

The tree made about \$1,000 last year, Hutchins said, and it brought in \$400 on Friday, the first day it went up this year.

The program, she said, is expanding into other counties the agency serves.

An angel tree went up at the Wallace County courthouse last year, she said, and one will go in the lobby of the First National Bank in St. Francis this year.

There will be a ceremony when the trees are put up, Hutchins said, at 3 p.m. Thursday (Central Time) in St. Francis and 10 a.m. Friday in Sharon Springs.

Anyone who wants to come is invited to attend.

Shoff said the bank agreed to put up the Goodland tree five years ago because they wanted to help Hospice.

"We just thought it was a useful project for the community," she said,



Peg Hanke, First National Bank senior vice president, got to hang an angel on a Christmas tree in the bank on Tuesday in return for her donation to Hospice Services in Goodland. The angels serve as memorials to friends and relatives, whomever the donor chooses.

Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News



A crocheted angel made by volunteers for Hospice Services' angel tree.

"and the bank is in a central location where everyone visits."

Hutchins said the service is grate-

ful to people who donate.

"There's a little bit of angel in all of us," she said.

Paw tree helps feed stray pets

This Christmas you can give homeless animals the gift of hope. For a \$5 donation, the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter will put a paw ornament on its "Tree of Hope" in memory of a beloved pet or person.

The tree is in the lobby of Western State Bank in Goodland. Donations and names for the ornaments will be accepted through Saturday, Dec. 23.

All of the donations will go to help run the shelter's foster care program, said Sandy Rodgers, chairman of the foster care committee. She said the money will go for food and spaying, neutering and veterinary expenses for animals in the shelter's care.

Rodgers said since June, the shelter has helped 120 animals, mostly dogs. The shelter has about 40 dogs in foster care today, she said. Since the group does not have a building, volunteers care for the dogs at home.

This is the fourth year the shelter board has done this tree fund-raising project. Volunteers include Clyde and Jan Lambertz, Gordon Pettibone, Sharon Bowker and Rodgers.

Mail donations to Sandy Rodgers, 814 Washington, Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Players topside for tipoff

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

Thursday will kick off the annual three-day Topside Tipoff basketball tournament, where teams from all over the Tri-State area will compete for the title.

Goodland's Cowboys and Cowgirls will compete along with teams from Burlington, Holyoke, Wray and Yuma in Colorado, McCook and Morrill in Nebraska, and St. Mary's of Colorado Springs, in games from Thursday to Saturday.

Things kick off on at 2 p.m. Thursday, when the Burlington girls will face Morrill in the Max Jones Fieldhouse. At 4 p.m., the Yuma girls will face St. Mary's in the new gym. Goodland will get its first chance to play at 6 p.m. against Holyoke in the Max Jones Fieldhouse and the final girls game of the opening round will be Wray against McCook at 8 p.m.

The boys will start their action at 2 p.m., also with Burlington going up against St. Mary's in the new gym. McCook will face Wray at 4 p.m. at Max Jones. Holyoke will play Yuma at 6 p.m. in the new gym and the Goodland boys will see their first action at 8 p.m. against Morrill in the main gym.

The games will continue at 2 p.m.

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Troopers vent pay, staff woes

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County should have five state troopers patrolling its highways for 16 to 18 hours a day, but today there are two, and one of them is the supervisor for a five-county area.

Though he should be supervising the force and working on administrative duties, Lt. Kevin Winston says he's been out working accidents and ticketing speeders.

"I'm allotted four troopers in Goodland," Lt. Winston told fellow troopers and citizens on Tuesday night, "and I have one. I'm wearing a lot of hats that I haven't worn in a long time."

Patrol officials with Troop D in Hays, which covers 18 counties in northwest Kansas, talked about the agency's history and troopers' training and jobs at a "town hall meeting" at the Sherman County Fairgrounds. They sketched a picture of a respected, successful agency with big problems — the lowest pay for a state patrol in this region, having trouble recruiting and keeping troopers — and asked for support when the patrol goes to the Legislature for higher salaries.

Sgt. Rick Langdon, Troop D spokesman and recruiter, said there are 11,000 miles of state highway running through Kansas, ranking the state fourth in the country for the most highway miles. But, he said, Kansas isn't even close to fourth when it comes to the number of troopers patrolling its roads.

"There are 105 counties in Kansas,"

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