

weather report

42°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:59 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 30 degrees
• Humidity 43 percent
• Sky cloudy
• Winds southwest 15 mph
• Barometer 29.99 inches and falling
• Record High 66° (1962)
• Record Low -16° (1963)

Last 24 Hours*

High 26°
Low 16°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, low 20-25, west winds 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 45-50, low 15-20, west winds 15-25 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: dry, high 40s, low 15-20. Sunday: dry, high 40s, low 20s. Monday: chance of snow, high 30s, low 10-20.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.70 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.59
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Corn — \$1.90 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.85
Loan deficiency pmt. — 14¢
Milo — \$3.07 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.45 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.39
Loan deficiency payment — 51¢
Millet — \$9.00 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.85 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.96
Confection current — \$15/\$7 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.

Commission allows merger

WASHINGTON — The Federal Trade Commission unanimously approved the merger between America Online and Time Warner — the largest proposed in U.S. history — after the companies pledged to protect consumer choice for the next generation of Internet services and content.

Thursday's decision clears the way for the Federal Communication Commission to complete its review — the final hurdle before the companies can consummate the \$111 billion deal. But FTC approval moves the companies far along in their quest to complete a merger they announced in January.

The FTC accepted a consent decree that addresses a range of anti-competitive effects of the deal. They include safeguards to prevent the company from shutting out other Internet providers.

Sheriff to offer service

Commissary would sell items to inmates

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Sheriff Doug Whitson met with the Sherman County commissioners Tuesday to talk about putting a commissary in the Sherman County Bastille for prisoners.

Whitson said profits from the operation could be used to buy equipment for the jail as well as to restock food supplies. He said the plan is to have candy bars, crackers and soup to sell to prisoners.

Whitson said it would save his deputies some time because they wouldn't have to run after snacks.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said Treasurer Shelby Miller would have to set up a separate account.

"Go ahead and do it, then," said Chuck Frankenfeld, vice chairman of the commission.

Whitson said he has been talking with J.B. McClure, owner of McClure Plumbing and Heating in Goodland, for two months about two toilets that need to be replaced in the jail. Whitson said McClure is having trouble finding ones the same size. He said the toilets would cost about \$800 apiece, but he doesn't know the cost of labor. He wants to get it done on this year's budget and wondered if that could be done. Whitson said one of the toilets has been in place since 1972.

Emergency vehicle designation for wreckers from McB's Motors in Goodland was on the agenda, so it was brought up while Whitson was there. Whitson said Virgil Baumfalk, owner of McB's, had two of his wreckers in Thomas County, so the emergency status for them could be pulled. On his new wrecker, status was denied. Whitson said the sheriff's department had no problem with allowing the red and blue lights on the wrecker, but he would be taking responsibility if something happened.

The commissioners decided to put an appointment to the board of the Goodland Regional Medical Center on the agenda for their next meeting. In their discussion, Frankenfeld said he would recommend Ardy Showalter. Commissioner Mitch Tiede said Dr. Robert McCullough had called him, but that was before he was sworn in, so he wanted to talk to McCullough again. Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he had talked to Linda Franklin, who all the commissioners agreed would be a good choice, about the position, but she turned it down.

Mike Miller of Miller's Construction, general contractor on the handicapped restroom and elevator project at

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Library takes food for late fees

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

During the holiday season, the city library is helping to provide less fortunate families in Goodland with a nice Christmas dinner.

For the month of December, the Goodland Public Library will be taking food instead of fines for late books.

As they have done in every recent holiday season, the library will be gathering food for needy families and also persuading people to return books that are long overdue.

The food goes to the Genesis Food Bank program. Along with food collected by young volunteers during the first weekend in December, it will be boxed and distributed later in December to a list of over 100 families in the

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Students free energy

Students at West Elementary School were doing jumping jacks, high kicks, sprints, turns and back kicks behind the school on Wednesday afternoon. Christy Musil (above, left to right) Shayla Lamb and Samantha Galden jumped up and down waving their arms, while Garrett Figgins (wearing the Santa hat) kicked so hard he fell down. A group of girls (below) ran back into the school after the exercises. The kids, who were supervised by a teacher, said it was a good way to let out their pent-up energy.

Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News



Bush laboring over transition into office

By Tom Raum

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN, Texas — President-elect at long last, George W. Bush labored on his transition to power on Thursday as Democratic leaders of Congress professed their willingness to work across party lines.

"Bipartisanship isn't an option any more," said Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle. "It's a requirement."

Sen. Joseph Lieberman, Gore's run-

ning mate, resumed his duties in the Senate and delivered a concession-style speech of his own. Bush and Vice President-elect Dick Cheney "are in my prayers," said the Connecticut Democrat, who made history as the country's first Jewish candidate for national office.

Bush was in Austin, where he attended church services on the morning after Al Gore officially ended the nation's overtime election with a na-

tionally televised concession speech. The Texas governor "decided that he wants to start this on a message of prayer and healing," said aide Karen Hughes.

"I was not elected to serve one party. But to serve one nation," Bush said Wednesday night in his first speech to the nation as president-elect. He will take office on Jan. 20 as the nation's 43rd chief executive.

The Texas governor sat alongside his

wife Laura in the first pew of the Tarrytown United Methodist Church at the special service. Country and western music star Larry Gatlin sang a song he wrote for the occasion, with the refrain, "Come let us reason together, and heal the hurt deep inside. Let us reach out our hand to our brother, and heal the great divide."

The theme of reconciliation was sounded by Rev. Kirbyjon H. Caldwell, a Methodist minister from Houston.

Program spreads word of good characteristics

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

The definition of friendship is to make and keep a friend through mutual trust and caring. And friendship is the Goodland Lifeskills program word for December.

The program grew out of a committee called School and Community Acting Together, or SCAT, that was started in the fall of 1998. The committee comprises parents, teachers, community members and a high school student. It is co-chaired by Mary Porterfield, who teaches Spanish at Goodland High School, and Jane Philbrick, a member of the Goodland school board.

It started because teachers wanted to improve discipline in the schools. They talked to the school board and decided to form a committee.

The program was designed as a long-term way to teach students appropriate behavior for a civil society, Porterfield said.

The committee wanted the school, parents and community involved in the program, not just the kids.

There are 18 "lifeskills words" that are used, but since the school year only runs for nine months, the words run on a two-year rotation.

The skills pushed by the program are integrity, initiative, flexibility, perseverance, organization, sense of humor, effort, common sense, problem solving, responsibility, patience, friendship, curiosity, cooperation, caring, courage, pride and resourcefulness.

Porterfield said the list came about from a teachers' in-service workshop that covered these life skills. The committee decided that since Goodland teachers were already familiar with these words, it would use them.

Before the program was implemented, some of the teachers had already picked it up and were using

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