

**weather
report**

**59°
at noon**



Today

• Sunset, 4:37 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:38 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 22 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds west 11 mph
- Barometer 30.07 inches and falling
- Record High 68° (1956)
- Record Low -19° (1959)

Last 24 Hours*

High 70°
Low 24°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, low 30, west winds 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, high 50, low 20-25, north winds 15-25.

Extended Forecast

Sunday through Tuesday: dry, high 35-45, low 15-25.

(National Weather Service)

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

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local
markets**

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.92 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.75
 - Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
 - Corn — \$2.00 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.98
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 1¢
 - Milo — \$3.33 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$4.43 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.31
 - Loan deficiency payment — 59¢
 - Millet — \$8.75 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$5.90 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.94
 - 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.

Time is short for peace deal

WASHINGTON — An Israeli diplomat is planning to reassure President Clinton Friday night that his government accepts the president's outline of a negotiated settlement with the Palestinians.

The diplomat, Gilead Sher, is doubtful a deal can be closed in the two weeks Clinton has in office.

"The chances of a breakthrough or even of progress by Jan. 20 are slim," Sher told Israel public radio between meetings Thursday and Friday with State Department and White House mediators.

Sher is taking to the White House a detailed response to Clinton's proposals. Contents of the six-page document, addressed to Sandy Berger, the president's national security adviser, were not disclosed. But an Israel official said his government had accepted Clinton's formula for an accord.

Legislators want school finance plan

TOPEKA (AP) — Gov. Bill Graves doesn't plan to give legislators what they want most from his State of the State address. Some lawmakers worry that the debate over education spending will be stalled as a result.

Legislators generally list public school financing as the biggest issue of their 2001 session, which is to convene Monday. But Graves has said he won't outline a specific proposal when he gives his annual address to a joint session of the House and Senate on Mon-

day night.

The governor contends that legislators should focus on schools' needs first, then talk about how to find the money. He has said he wants to see what legislators will support, and that outlining a plan too early could divert their attention.

But many legislators say that school finance is such a big issue that Graves must guide the legislative debate.

"School finance is not going to solve itself, and it's not going to be solved

with easy choices," said Sen.-elect Derek Schmidt, R-Independence, a former Graves aide. "It's the sort of issue that requires leadership from the governor."

Aid to public schools is the largest item in the state budget, accounting for more than \$2.26 billion.

The State Board of Education has proposed an increase in spending of more than \$200 million for the state's 2002 fiscal year, which begins July 1. A task force appointed by Graves as

part of his Vision 21st Century Initiative recommended \$215 million in new spending.

But the debate is about more than money. Many educators question whether state dollars are distributed fairly under the 1992 Kansas school finance law.

A federal lawsuit filed by the Dodge City and Salina school districts, with the support of 12 others, contends the formula unfairly denies minority and disabled students their fair share of

funds.

Many school officials complain about the disparity in state aid among school districts of different sizes, and about how the law takes money away from districts with declining enrollments.

"If there's going to be a major change in school finance, it's going to take bold leadership from the governor," said House Minority Leader Jim Garner, D-

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Steven and Tonia Vallejo of Sharon Springs admired their baby daughter, Jayden Elise, who was the first baby born this year in Sherman County. She was born Wednesday afternoon at the Goodland Regional Medical Center. Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Sharon Springs' couple have first baby

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

After a troublesome pregnancy and an abdominal birth that brought a baby into the world four weeks early, Tonia and Steven Vallejo are parents to the "First Baby of 2001" and will be showered with gifts because of it.

"It made no difference whether the baby was a boy or a girl," said Tonia Vallejo, 25, rocking her little girl, Jayden Elise, on Thursday in a room at the Goodland Regional Medical Center. "I was just happy to hear her scream, and boy did she."

Jayden is the Vallejos' first child and

the first baby born in Sherman County in the year 2001. The 5-pound, 4-ounce girl, who will live with her parents in Sharon Springs, was born on Jan. 3 at 12:43 p.m. by cesarean section.

The parents said they weren't expecting to have the New Year's baby because Jayden was supposed to be born sometime around Jan. 25. Tonia Vallejo, however, was diagnosed with gestational diabetes and when the baby started losing weight, doctors advised an early birth.

There were other problems, as Tonia went to Goodland's hospital

two and a half weeks ago saying she was going to give birth. Doctors were able to stop the premature labor.

But, as the saying goes, "Every cloud has a silver lining," and after a rough few months, the Vallejos will be showered with gifts as part of the annual "First Baby of 2001" contest sponsored by the Goodland Medical Center, The Goodland Daily News and Goodland merchants.

More than 20 merchants and donors are offering presents and gift certificates to the first baby and her parents. The Vallejos have 60 days to collect the gifts and services.

Sponsors include the hospital, gift basket with formula, diapers, baby book, and more; Klip 'N Kurl, free first haircut for the baby; Goodland Daily News, 6-month subscription; Garcia's Home Furnishings & Appliance, discount off rocking chair or glider; "First Baby of 2001" contest sponsored by the Goodland Medical Center, The Goodland Daily News and Goodland merchants.

Elliott's Inc., Armetale Alphabet Plate; First National Bank, \$50 Savings Bond; Grass Roots Lawn Service, \$20 gift certificate; McDonald's, \$25 gift certificate; Aten Department Store, \$25 gift cer-

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Board cuts meeting to hear speaker

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland School Board plans to meet early on Monday so members can hear a motivational speaker from Arizona talk to parents about their role in education.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said the regular meeting will start an hour early at 6 p.m. so the board can head over to the high school to hear Carl Boyd speak. The talk, "What you as a parent can do for your child's education," starts at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Boyd, an award-winning teacher who has been in education for 36 years, spoke to teachers at the start of the school year, Selby said, and the district was so impressed that they decided to bring him back.

The man nicknamed "The Advice Teacher," planned to speak here in early November, but health problems post-

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Board will decide to keep or sell gym in March

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Superintendent Marvin Selby said Thursday that the school board decided last spring to let the district use the school gym in Edson through the winter and wouldn't make a decision about keeping or selling it until March.

In March, the school board visited the gym and talked with a group of citizens who live in Sherman County and want to use the gym as a community center. The board had considered selling the Edson gym and asked Selby to find out what the property is worth.

Selby said he has tried to determine a value for the gym, but said it's very difficult to find out what a gym in rural Kansas is worth.

The Edson school was closed in 1973. The school part of the building was bought by Marlin and Melvin Musil in the early 1980s and Marlin later lived in it, but the school district still owns the gym.

Selby said in March the board will make some more decisions and will have a total of custodial and maintenance costs.



Terry Daise, seventh grade girls basketball coach, instructed players Thursday at the Edson gym. The Goodland school district owns the gym and uses it for practice. The school board will decide in March to keep or sell the gym. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

"By then, we'll know what it costs us to maintain it for a year with limited use," he said.

The Edson group wanted to create an agency to get a grant to operate the gym as a community center and asked

the board about giving the building to the community. The board decided to wait a year before making a decision.

Selby said one of the school board's main concerns about using the Edson gym is school buses driving on Old Hwy. 24 when weather is bad.

The school district is using the Edson gym four days a week for junior high basketball practice when the weather isn't bad, Selby said.

At this time, the seventh and eighth grade girls trade off practicing between the Edson gym and the new junior high gym at the Max Jones Fieldhouse. No games are played there. The junior high boys also used the gym for basketball practice.

In 1999, the school district used the National Guard Armory on the north edge of Goodland and the Edson gym for basketball practice.

Selby said there are about 36 seventh grade girls out for basketball and about the same number of eighth grade girls, so having the two teams practice together in one gym doesn't work.

The district pays a custodian for

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