

weather report

53° at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:43 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:06 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:44 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 33 degrees
- Humidity 30 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds west 12 mph
- Barometer 29.80 inches and steady
- Record High 74° (1990)
- Record Low -14° (1962)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 55°  
Low 10°  
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 20s, north winds 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, high 50-55, low 20-25, northwest winds 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday: dry, high 50, low 20-25. Saturday: chance of rain or snow, high 40, low 20s. Sunday: dry, high 35-40, low 20s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.96 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.80  
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢  
Corn — \$2.03 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.99  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Milo — \$3.37 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.43 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.35  
Loan deficiency payment — 55¢  
Millet — \$8.75 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$6.00 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.

Merger makes strong airline

DALLAS (AP) — American Airlines has agreed to acquire most of 75-year-old Trans World Airlines' assets for about \$500 million in a complex deal that will bring an end to the financially troubled TWA.  
The agreement with TWA, along with a separate pact under which American would buy some of US Airways' assets from United Airlines, would leave American and United in control of about half of the nation's air travel market.  
Under the multipart agreement unveiled Wednesday, TWA has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and will sell most of its assets to American, a subsidiary of AMR Corp., for \$500 million in cash.  
American will also assume responsibility for TWA's plane leases.

Program decision on hold

Officials debate classes on television

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

After teachers and administrators debated the value of Interactive Television classes on Monday, the Goodland School Board put off a decision on whether to drop the rarely-used, expensive program.

At the regular meeting, members asked the superintendent to look for a cheaper way to provide Interactive Television classes to students in the Goodland district.

The district's five-year contract with the telephone company that provided the service ended this month and the company has said it will not renew the agreement, which included \$1,800 monthly payments. Interactive Television classes at Goodland High School stopped at the end of the fall semester.

The board has discussed either ending the program or signing a 10-year contract with another telephone company in Brewster that provides Interactive Television — which lets students tune into other schools' classes and instructors teach classes elsewhere — to 13 other schools in northwest Kansas.

Members said the district rarely used the program because of the high school's block-class schedule, which is seldom used by other schools, and because Goodland is one of few Kansas cities in Mountain Standard Time.

The principal of Goodland High School, which houses the five-year-old program, told members students don't benefit from it, but the district's technology coordinator said the school can find ways to make it useful.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said the program — used by people in other counties, but beneficial to no students here — is not worth the price, which adds up to about \$24,000 a year, if it's not used. Board member Mike Campbell said the district could charge other districts with declining enrollments for the service.

A Spanish instructor, who teaches Interactive Television classes in Goodland, said people use the program to take college courses and she has taught classes in more than 10 counties.

Members cut discussion short — meeting and adjourning early to hear a motivational speaker at the high school — and agreed to hold a decision until the superintendent can negotiate a lower price for the service.

Superintendent Selby said he will meet with representatives of S&T Telephone, based in Brewster, this week to discuss lowering the company's charge of \$1,500 a month.

The Goodland District is one of 14 schools and technical schools in northwest Kansas that participate in the program, including the Northwest Kansas Technical School in Goodland.

In 1995, the district signed a contract with Southwestern Bell for the service, while other participants had chosen S&T as their provider. S&T is now upgrading from analog to digital, which will allow students here to take classes by television at bigger schools in southeastern Kansas. If the district signs a contract with S&T it will be for 10 years.

At an earlier meeting, members asked Karla Murray, the district's technology coordinator, to talk to technical school administrators about high school students using their program.

Susan Hall, a Spanish instructor who taught classes through the high school's Interactive Television program, said she is now using the technical school's facilities.

Murray said the technical school's schedule is full, with Superintendent Selby adding that the technical school's director proposed moving the high school's program to the technical school.

Murray said high school teachers have said they don't want to see the program go, and have suggested letting students take college-level classes by

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Jake Johnson, left, Daniel Blake, center, and Derrick Raymer, right, were three of 14 seventh and eighth graders to participate in the National Geographic geography bee on Tuesday at Grant Junior High.

The winner, Blake, has a chance at state competition. Raymer came in second and is Blake's alternate.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Geography whiz wins with 'Wales'

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

"Wales," was the answer that won eighth grader Daniel Blake first place in a geography bee held Tuesday at Grant Junior High School in Goodland.

The question was: "Cardiff is the capital of which of the four major political units of the United Kingdom?"

The school-level bee, which 14 seventh and eighth graders competed in, was the first round in the 13th-annual National Geographic Bee with a chance at a \$25,000 college scholarship. Blake, the son of Rod and Peggy Blake, said he didn't expect to win.

"I was surprised," he said. "I was

shocked."

He said some of the questions were pretty tough.

"Some of them I knew and some were just complete guesses," he said.

Second place winner was eighth grader Derrick Raymer, who is the son of Steve and Debra Raymer.

Third place went to Alano Rodriguez, a seventh grader who is the son of Mary and Modesto Ramirez.

As the winner, Blake will have his name put on the geography bee plaque in the school's trophy case.

He will take a geography test, consisting of 70 questions, this week at the school. If his score is in the top 100, he



Daniel Blake

will be eligible to compete at the state contest on April 6.

State winners will advance to the national championship to be held May 22 and 23 in Washington. Alex Trebek, host of the television show "Jeopardy" will preside at the national finals.

Brenda Linin, seventh grade social studies teacher, said in the eight years she has been involved with the competition, three of the students have gone on to state.

She said if for some reason, Blake can't take the test, then the second place winner will go.

Fourteen students competed in the contest held for the ninth year at the

school. Students competed in their homeroom classes by answering seven questions, then the students with the best scores qualified to compete in Tuesday's contest.

The questions, which were current as of October, were prepared by the National Geographic Society and pertained to culture, geography and current events, Linin said.

Dick Liess, activities director at Goodland High School, read the questions to the students.

Other contestants were Jon Beeson, Justin Holloway, Alex Weis, Lacey Ridder, Kalan Lambrecht, seventh graders; and Emily Burkett, Jake Johnson, Anthony Benavides, Abby Murray, Craig Mason and Amy Cebula, eighth graders.

Board fills two positions, accepts resignation

The Goodland School Board hired an elementary school counselor and bus driver on Monday and heard that a band instructor who has taught in Goodland for two years is quitting.

After a five-minute closed session, the board approved hiring Theresa Riddle, a counselor from Salina, in the middle of the year. Superintendent Marvin Selby said at the regular meet-

ing Riddle will start work on Jan. 15.

The superintendent said earlier the district has been looking for an elementary school counselor for over six years. He said Rhonda Williams and Nancy Farris are counselors at the high school, and Sally Bruce is a counselor at Grant Junior High, but there is no counselor at West, North and Central elementary schools.

The board hired Dale Neill of Goodland to replace a bus driver who resigned last year, and accepted the resignation of Tom Miles, a band instructor the district hired two years ago.

In other business, the district:

•Temporarily accepted a \$69,907 bid from SolutionPros of Lenexa, represented by a Goodland man, to install voice-over Internet protocol tele-

phones in all of the district's classrooms and teachers' rooms.

Since it was the only bid, members asked Superintendent Selby to investigate prices on the handsets, which can be plugged into an Internet line. The board won't officially accept the bid until March, when the district hears if it qualifies for a federal program that will refund 68 percent of the cost.

Lighting a fire



On Monday evening, Goodland High School wrestling cheerleader Erinn Hardy put a picture of one of the school's wrestlers on a wall at the Max Jones Fieldhouse. The pictures, flames and the words "Light The Fire From Within" decorate a portion of the wall along the catwalk.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Bush looks for a new labor head

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Bush is searching anew for a labor secretary, saying he was saddened by the withdrawal of Linda Chavez in a controversy over her relationship with an undocumented immigrant.

"I absolutely believe she would have been a great Cabinet secretary," Bush said Tuesday night at Andrews Air Force Base after arriving for a three-day visit to the nation's capital.

Still, "I understand her reluctance to move forward," Bush said.

The president-elect met at the Pentagon Wednesday with outgoing Defense Secretary William Cohen and members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Afterward, he said the briefing went "very good" but declined to answer reporters' questions.

He also was to meet with budget advisers in the afternoon. Though hoping to divert attention from the Chavez flap, Bush had no plans to make high-level appointments Wednesday, and aides said an announcement of Chavez's replacement was not imminent.

Republican advisers suggested Bush might fill the post of U.S. trade representative as early as Wednesday.