

weather report

32°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:57 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:00 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:58 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 36 degrees

• Humidity 78 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds calm

• Barometer 30.21 inches
and falling

• Record High 69° (1981)

• Record Low -9° (1963)

Last 24 Hours*

High 48°

Low 21°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 20, light northeast wind. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 40-45, low 20-25, south wind 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: chance of snow or rain, high 35, low 20. Friday: chance of snow before daybreak, high 40, low 20. Saturday: dry, high 30s, low 10-20 mph.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.94 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.80

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$1.89 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.88

Loan deficiency pmt. — 11¢

Milo — \$3.12 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.14 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.12

Loan deficiency payment — 78¢

Millet — \$5.25 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.95cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.69

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.

Bush to help poor schools

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush, seeking Democratic support for an education package submitted to Congress today, promised help to troubled schools before shifting more federal funds to private institutions.

“Our goal is to improve public education,” Bush said in an East Room send-off for an education agenda that centers around vouchers for private school education, the most divisive part of his program to hold public schools accountable for student learning.

Bush said he wants to require annual state reading and math tests for students in every grade in order to gather reliable data on “who’s falling behind and who needs help.”

“Once failing schools are identified, we’ll help them improve,” said Bush.



Jennifer Pennington, a third grader in Susan Jensen’s class at Central Elementary, and classmates used toilet paper and crayon-colored paper circles Monday to show parents and school board members, who held a meeting at Central, how far planets are from the sun. Photos by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

Television classes are on pause

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland School Board put off the fate of a system to bring television classes to the high school on Monday, saying they want to first study payment options from a telephone company that would provide the service.

During a nearly four-hour meeting, where members discussed everything from teacher negotiations to new tennis courts, the board reviewed four five- to 10-year contract offers, ranging between \$132,000 and \$180,000, from S&T Telephone. The existing system, once considered cutting edge, hasn’t been used much and some school officials wonder whether its replacement would be.

Two options included the district buying computer equipment, which would cost \$41,735 plus maintenance costs. Kathy Russell, acting board president as Dick Short was absent, said the equipment could be obsolete in five or 10 years.



Ross Townsend, a third grader in Linda McKee’s class, used dirt, hay and a blow dryer to demonstrate wind erosion.

Realizing that the district doesn’t have a deadline for a decision, members said that they would review the options and make a decision next month.

The Interactive Television prog-

ram’s cost, however, isn’t the only thing board members have to consider.

Some administrators say the pro-

See SCHOOL, Page 4

Health information is free at annual fair

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

You can learn more about your health — it’s free, no cost — during Health Fair 2001 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the Goodland Activities Center, 808 Main.

Have your blood pressure checked, body fat measured, strength and flexibility tested, height and weight taken, posture analyzed, and blood checked for oxygen saturation at no cost.

Sponsors include the activities center, the Goodland Regional Medical Center, the Sherman County Health Department, the Goodland and Topsiside Lions Clubs, the Regional Prevention Center and the Sherman County Extension Office.

Donna Terry, administrator of the activities center, said there will be 21 tables that will provide information about health care or do a health care screening.

A new booth will be provided by a group of Goodland Girl Scouts. These fourth and fifth grade girls will have a glow-germ display to demonstrate how germs pass from peoples’ hands to other people or objects and show the importance of good hand washing.

The county Health Department will have a breast-feeding display and the Prevention Center will have a display on different drugs. The High Plains Mental Health Center will tell about services they offer, while the Northwest Kansas Environmental Protection Agency which does water testing, will be on hand to tell about its services.

A HealthWave representative will be available to give out applications and information about a low-cost health insurance program available in Kansas for uninsured children and teens in families with limited incomes.

The hospital will have several departments represented at the event. The auxiliary will give out kid’s car seat stickers. The dietary department will have a dietary display. The ambulance service will check blood pressures. The hospital will do breathing function tests, plus have doctors on hand to go over results of blood tests that were done at the hospital last week.

Tender Love Home Care will show people how much oxygen is in their blood. The Veterans Administration will tell about the services they provide,

See FAIR, Page 4

Officers find convicts’ van

Trooper killed following tip

WOODLAND PARK, Colo. (AP) — A van used by two Texas prison escapees to flee this mountain town was found abandoned in a motel parking lot about 20 miles southeast in Colorado Springs today.

Police officers surrounded the four-story Quality Inn, but there was no sign of the inmates, said police spokesman Skip Arms. Earlier, a state trooper had been killed in a crash while trying to check another, similar van.

“This is, in fact, the van we’ve been looking for,” Arms said as he stood in the parking lot. “We’re checking in local hotels attempting to locate the two fugitives.”

The development came as state and federal officers followed hundreds of leads for two escaped Texas prison inmates following Monday’s raid on a trailer park that netted the peaceful capture of four others and an arsenal of guns. A seventh fugitive committed suicide Monday.

Wilma David, who works in a restaurant near the motel, told KMGH-TV she and her co-workers spotted the van in the parking lot. They peeked inside and saw duffel bags, maps and hair dye. The restaurant manager called police.

“I thought to myself, that looks like the one they’ve been describing on television,” she said. “We looked at it and the color was right.”

Arms said the van could have been

in the lot since Monday night but officers believe it arrived early today.

He also said there was no way to confirm if the convicts were in the motel. “It’s just as likely that they could have had either access to or stolen another vehicle and left the area,” she said.

Earlier today, a Colorado State Patrol trooper was killed Tuesday while pursuing what turned out to be an inaccurate tip about a van believed used by the missing men. Authorities said the trooper lost control of his car and slammed into a parked truck on Interstate 70. The van he was following later turned up at the Keystone ski resort full of construction workers.

The seven inmates broke out of the Connally Unit in Kenedy, southeast of San Antonio, on Dec. 13. The men overpowered civilian workers and a guard and stole a cache of weapons. They are also suspected in the Dec. 24 sporting goods store robbery in Irving that left a police officer, Aubrey Hawkins, dead. More guns were stolen in the holdup.

Monday’s captures and suicide took place in Woodland Park, a foothills community about 50 miles southwest of Denver. Inside the motor home, officers found a suicide note, \$5,000 in cash and 37 firearms, including 13 of the 14 weapons missing from the Texas prison, said Rich Marianos of the fed-

See PRISON, Page 4

Legislators study natural gas prices

TOPEKA (AP) — Natural gas companies are trying to assure legislators that prices should stabilize during the next few years and that recent increases don’t mean profits for the suppliers.

Gas companies and staff members of the Kansas Corporation Commission testified Monday during a joint meeting of the Senate and House Utilities committees about the factors contributing to increases in natural gas prices.

“I don’t think the market is subject to manipulation,” said Dick Brewster, spokesman for gas company BP-Amoco. “I realize there’s a great deal of people having trouble finding room in their budgets for the heating bill.”

Heating bills doubled and tripled in

many Kansas households in December, and bills for January could be even higher. The increases are attributed to a tight supply and cold weather.

Bill Eliason, vice president of gas strategy for Kansas Gas Service, broke down December natural gas bills. He said on most December bills, 80 percent of the charge was for the cost of gas; 16 percent, for delivery charges; and 4 percent, for taxes.

Kansas Gas Service tries to control prices by purchasing long-term contracts with suppliers and having natural gas in storage, Eliason said.

“Despite our efforts to control gas prices, they have risen quite high,” Eliason said.

A snow family



Eric Hellerud (front) and his father Tim of Denver added snow to a snowman they built Saturday in the front yard of Isabelle Hellerud’s home at 1618 Caldwell. Isabelle is Tim’s mother and Eric’s grandmother. They visited her over the weekend.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News