

## weather report

30°  
at noon



### Today

• Sunset, 5:05 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:54 a.m.  
• Sunset, 5:06 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 36 degrees  
• Humidity 58 percent  
• Sky Mostly sunny  
• Winds northwest 18 mph  
• Barometer 30.10 inches and rising  
• Record High 75° (1989)  
• Record Low -20° (1932)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 32°  
Low 27°  
Precipitation trace

### Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, low 15-20, west wind 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 30-35, low 15-20, northwest wind 15-25.

### Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday: dry, high 40, 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 — \$2.78 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.73  
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢  
Corn — \$1.83 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.84  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 15¢  
Milo — \$3.02 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.04 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.96  
Loan deficiency payment — 94¢  
Millet — \$8.25 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$6.05 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.66  
Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$14  
(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.

## Man convicted for Pan Am

CAMP ZEIST, Netherlands — A Scottish court convicted a Libyan intelligence officer of murder but acquitted a second Libyan today in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The court sentenced the Libyan agent to life in prison in the explosion that killed 270 people, many of them Americans.

The verdict was the climax of an \$80 million trial and nearly nine months of hearings at a special court in the Netherlands stemming from the bombing of the New York-bound 747. The White House said sanctions on Libya would remain in place, and U.S. officials said they will keep investigating the bombing.

The court said it was giving Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi, 48, the prospect of parole.

# County still looking to fill new job

## Commissioner says neither finalist fit description of county administrator

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

County Commissioner Kevin Rasure says he wants to hire a county administrator, but the commission hasn't found the right person for the job.

Commissioners interviewed two finalists for the new position, including one Goodland man, the first week in January but have yet to openly discuss hiring someone. Commissioners usually talk about personnel issues in a closed session.

While Chairman Chuck Frankenfeld had said the finalists were still being considered, Rasure said Tuesday that commissioners had decided not to hire either person interviewed.

"We're still pursuing it," Rasure said, "but we

haven't felt we found the right fit for the position."

The commissioners met this morning and Frankenfeld said they planned to discuss filling the position, which was created in October to help commissioners get a better handle on increasingly complex county issues.

The chairman said before the meeting that the commissioners would talk behind closed doors before making a public statement about the job. Frankenfeld wouldn't say why the commission had not hired anyone yet or whether the county planned to start accepting another round of applications.

Rasure and Frankenfeld — Mitch Tiede was absent — apparently discussed the administrator

job in one of several closed sessions, but had no comments by deadline today.

With help from the Kansas Association of Counties in Topeka, the commissioners received 11 applications in the first round, picking three finalists including Tom Betz, editorial editor for *The Goodland Daily News*.

The night before the interviews, David Chamberlin of Kansas City, Mo., dropped out, saying he had found another job. That left Betz and Roy Ridener, a Wichita man who went into administration after a career in the Army.

When the commissioners created the position, they decided the person hired would have a degree in public administration or a related discipline and

five years' experience.

Betz has a bachelor's in political science and no experience in public administration, but said his 30 years of experience reporting on city and county government qualified him for the job.

Ridener has a bachelor's in business administration and master's in both public administration and business administration, but was fired from his first job after 11 months.

Ridener, who was city administrator for a small town in southeast Kansas, said the city council hired him right before an election that flipped the council's members and goals. He said he and the incoming council just didn't see eye-to-eye.



Truck drivers parked their big rigs at Wal-Mart and other businesses along K-27 Tuesday after the Kansas Department of Transportation shut down I-70 from Goodland to the state line because of high winds and blowing snow. Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

# Winds, snow wrecked peoples' day, cars

## Blizzard conditions halted mail, paper

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Strong winds that whipped snow around, forming drifts five foot and taller, messed up a lot of peoples' day Tuesday in Sherman County, and while the winds slacked off a little today, rural roads were still icy and treacherous this morning.

The weather stopped some people from getting mail or their newspaper and a lot of people from making it to work or school. The winds, gusting over 50 mph, piled snow on streets and highways, causing drivers to slide into ditches, drifts and other vehicles.

A Highway Patrol dispatcher in Salina said there were numerous reports Tuesday and today of vehicles sliding off I-70 and sliding into each other. There were no reports of accidents with serious injuries, however.

A double-trailer rig was jackknifed near Brewster. The road was to be closed for a time while tow trucks removed the rig.

Near Edson, a highway patrol trooper and city fire fighters rescued



Tracy Higgins, a driver for the Royal Trucking Co. from Mississippi, was stuck in Wal-Mart's parking lot for over seven hours waiting for I-70 to open, and passed part of the time by getting a reporter's attention.

a Hawaiian man from his Toyota Fore-runner this morning after the truck slid on an icy highway, flipped across the median and landed on the westbound lanes of traffic.

Trooper Rich Hageman said Iosefa

Tufele, 46, was eastbound on I-70 near Edson about 10 a.m. when he lost control and rolled into the median. Dean Jensen, fire chief, said rescue workers used hydraulic tools to cut the man out of his truck, which was towed away.

Hageman said Tufele was wearing a seat belt. He was taken to the hospital with minor cuts and bruises.

Tuesday, drivers parked their semi-trailer trucks at businesses along K-27 for most of the day as the Kansas Department of Transportation closed I-70 from Goodland to the state line. City workers spent their day clearing streets and helping motorists get their cars out of drifts.

Once I-70 was opened in the late afternoon, Highway Patrol troopers stationed in Goodland spent their night helping drivers who slid off the highway. Though the winds had weakened today, the troopers were back at it in the morning.

Police Chief Ray Smee said Goodland officers helped pull a few drivers out of snow drifts on Tuesday, but only had one weather-related accident.

Police reports say at 4:50 p.m. Thomas Tompkins was driving his 1977

See WEATHER, Page 7

# Board looking to improve hospital standards

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Looking for a way to improve the standards and standing of the hospital, the Goodland Regional Medical Center board approved a plan Tuesday to join the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations.

Board member Larry McCants brought up the subject and suggested that being accredited by the agency was something the hospital should look at.

He said he had done some research on the Internet and found the commission had a web site where there was quite a bit of information.

"Think it would be worthwhile having professionals come and help review

what we are doing and set the standards," McCants said. "I know it is expensive, but feel it is important to us and to the people we are trying to deliver the best service possible."

McCants said he had talked to representatives from the commission, who said they would be willing to prepare a proposal.

He said they estimated the initial cost would be about \$25,000.

"I think it is a good idea, and that we would have a lot better hospital than what we have," said board member Pete Whalen. "I think we paid Porter Memorial \$100,000 a year for about 10 years and didn't feel we got the kind of support this group seems to offer."

The newest board member, Artie Showalter said, "I agree with these gentlemen. ... I do not feel comfortable."

"I think it's something that would help," said member Lynn Hoelting. "I think we have good employees, and this could be a way to help them and I feel they can handle it."

"I guess I make it a consensus," said board Chairman Doug Irvin. "I agree, and think we need to move on this item."

McCants made a motion to pursue the membership, and it was passed unanimously by the five members present.

Tuesday was the final day for appli-

cations for the hospital administrator position, and during a lengthy closed session, the board reviewed those that had arrived.

Irvin said there were about 10 applications, and that the board would turn initial screening of them over to the personnel committee headed by Lynn Hoelting. Irvin said the committee would meet on Thursday to begin the process.

"We want to get the process moving and be interviewing as soon as possible," he said.

He said the board had not determined a target date for hiring an administrator.

See HOSPITAL, Page 7

# Rescuers uncover bodies

## Death toll in India has reached 12,000

AHMEDABAD, India (AP) — Rescuers pulled survivors from the wreckage of India's earthquake just before bulldozers began to arrive today as the government of Gujarat state said 12,000 bodies had been recovered and the death toll was likely to reach 25,000.

The estimate is based on the number of bodies recovered, those reported missing, the estimated number still lying under debris and reports gathered by government agencies, said Haren Pandya, home minister of Gujarat.

"The figure I am giving you today is the closest to the truth," Pandya said, announcing the higher numbers an hour after the state's emergency control room had said 7,162 bodies had been found.

Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes today maintained that over 100,000 had died, but Pandya said the state assessment was much lower.

The increased numbers came as several rescue teams found people alive in the rubble of buildings just as bulldozers began smashing walls and experts laid explosives to clear away the rubble.

A Russian rescue team in the town of Bhachau heard a woman screaming after a bulldozer smashed the wall of her three-story apartment building. The Russians found the woman's hand under a flattened concrete slab and held onto it until they pulled Kuntal Thakkar, 22, free. Then they freed her husband.

In Bhuj, closest to the epicenter of the 7.9 earthquake, an army team rescued a 12-year-old girl named Prianka and rushed her to the hospital.

A demolition team hammering its way through a destroyed apartment block in Ahmedabad discovered Joytosna Gandhi still alive more than five days after the earthquake tore through the western Indian state.

Gandhi was discovered next to the body of her teen-age son just as workers had all but given up hope of finding survivors and were beginning to knock down damaged buildings and clear away the wreckage.

The condition of the 55-year-old woman testified to the slim chances of surviving for five days under a collapsed building. Both her legs and one hand had been crushed by concrete beams and had to be amputated, doctors said. She was in critical condition with kidney trouble.

"I don't know how she stayed alive with her dead son next to her," said Promila Ranadive, a neighbor.

As the quake effort switched from rescue to relief, India faced expanding needs for food, clothing and shelter for survivors. The United Nations estimated there are 200,000 homeless in the western state of Gujarat where the quake did most of its damage.

Countries and groups poured in aid as foreign rescue teams made their last rounds with trained dogs and seismographs before heading home. A U.N. World Food Program flight with 41 tons of cargo, including health kits and generators, left for India on Tuesday.