

## weather report

36°

at noon



### Today

• Sunset, 6:05 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:38 a.m.

• Sunset, 18:06 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 35 degrees

• Humidity 82 percent

• Sky cloudy

• Winds south 19 mph

• Barometer 29.99 inches

and falling

• Record High 87° (1988)

• Record Low -3° (1931)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 34°

Low 28°

Precipitation trace

Snow trace

### Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy, 30 percent chance of scattered rain or snow showers, low 30, south wind 10-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, 30 percent chance of precipitation, high 45-50, low 30, southeast wind 5-15 mph.

### Extended Forecast

Thursday and Friday: chance of rain, high mid 40s, low 30-35. Saturday: chance of rain and snow, high 40-45, low 30.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## Truck wrecked on detour

### Woman rolls vehicle on local access road

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

A St. Francis woman, driving home on a gravel road that's been labeled the "local access road" while K-27 is closed for reconstruction, escaped injury Saturday after her sport utility vehicle rolled two and a half times.

The state closed the highway Thursday, with the opening deadline set for November. The official detour is 30 miles to the east through Colby, but the county upgraded gravel roads to allow people to travel between Sherman and Cheyenne counties.

A Sheriff's deputy reported Kari L. Milliken, 30, was driving her 1996 Ford Explorer north on County Road 15, west of Goodland, about 8 a.m. when she lost control of the vehicle, swerving off the road less than a quarter of a mile south of the intersection of Roads 15 and 69 in Sherman County.

She reported that when she tried to get back onto the road, her vehicle rolled two and a half times, coming to a rest on its top in the west ditch.

Milliken was alone, reportedly, and was wearing a seat belt. She wasn't taken to the Goodland hospital, and her vehicle was towed away.

In a weather-related accident, a Missouri truck driver received head and facial injuries Monday morning after his semi tractor-trailer slid across an icy I-70.

A Sheriff's deputy reported Marschall W. Skaggs, 45, Bonne Terre, Mo., was driving his '73 Peterbilt tractor-trailer rig west on I-70 shortly before 6 a.m., when he hit a patch of ice on the bridge directly east of Kanorado. A storm had dropped about an inch of snow on Sherman County the night before.

Skaggs' lost control of his vehicle, the report said, allowing it to slide across the median and hit a guardrail and a few wooden posts before coming to stop facing east and blocking the eastbound lanes of traffic.

Skaggs reportedly was wearing his seat belt and was alone in the vehicle. His rig had to be towed away.

Deputy Robert Lamb said Skaggs had injuries to his head and face, but didn't want treatment.

## Lawmakers working on new budget

TOPEKA (AP) — Legislators resumed work on the state budget today after the House approved the least controversial spending bill on its agenda.

The House's 95-26 vote was on a bill that would set aside nearly \$110 million for construction and renovation projects during the state's 2002 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

The bill went to the Senate, which approved its own capital improvements bill last week.

It was the first of three budget bills House members were supposed to tackle this week.

House members also tentatively approved another making changes in the current budget, on a voice vote after little debate. Final action on it was scheduled for Wednesday.

A third House bill contained most of the state's 2002 budget, and representatives planned to take it up Wednesday.

Similarly, senators planned to consider their own bills for fiscal 2001 and fiscal 2002 spending, starting with fiscal 2002.

Gov. Bill Graves proposed a \$9.15 billion state budget for fiscal 2002, one that would keep spending about the same as in fis-

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## Pump it



Chris Stinemetz, 20, lifted weights at the Max Jones Fieldhouse weight room Monday evening, while Nick Yeager, 19, spotted him. The young men are students at the Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

## Classes to teach storm spotting

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Spring can bring tornadoes, thunderstorms, flooding and other dangerous weather, so the National Weather Service in Goodland is offering to teach people how to spot severe storms and how to react.

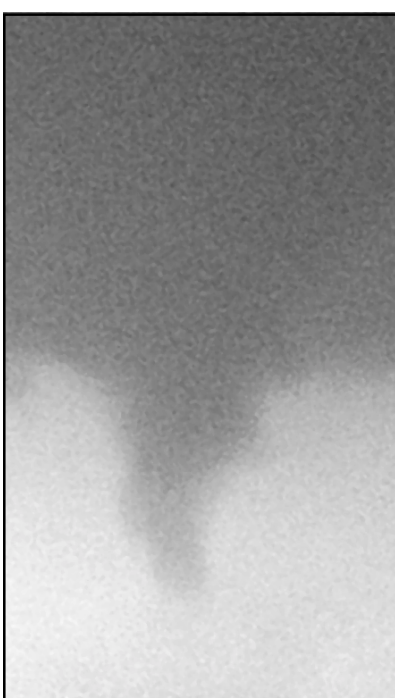
Those in Sherman County interested in learning about severe weather and becoming storm spotters can attend the annual storm spotter training class at 7 p.m. Thursday at the National Guard Armory in Goodland.

Kevin Lynott, weather coordination meteorologist with the National Weather Service office, said the main purpose of the free classes, offered across northwest Kansas, are to train people how to spot dangerous storms. He said spotters can then alert meteorologists, who can warn the public.

Lynott said the class, presented once a year by weather service meteorologists, is also designed to educate people on severe storms, teaching them how to stay safe in the face of dangerous weather.

During the two-hour class, he said, participants will learn about different types of storms and what to look for in the sky before or during a storm.

He said spotter information, along with the weather service's Doppler radar system, gives meteorologists a bet-



A tornado near Ruleton in November that damaged a home.

ter chance of warning the public about severe thunderstorms.

"To help save lives and property," he said. "That's our mission."

In addition, Lynott said, participants will learn about rules of safety during a storm, the importance of having storm spotters and identifying different types

of thunderstorms.

Lynott said those who attend will be given a fun quiz about Kansas weather and watch video clips of tornadoes and other severe weather.

Once storm spotters are trained, Lynott said, they are the eyes, ears and voice of what's happening on the ground during a storm. He said there are quite a few trained spotters in Sherman County, but about 80 to 85 percent live in Goodland or Kanorado.

He said Sherman County could use more rural people to help spot dangerous storms in isolated areas of the county — where most storms usually hit. At least two tornadoes hit Sherman County last year, damaging land and property in rural areas.

Lynott said he travels to all 19 counties in the weather service office's warning area to present these spotter training classes. The warning area includes 13 counties in northwest Kansas, he said, three in eastern Colorado and three in southwest Nebraska.

Spotters who have been certified over the past few years are asked to bring their severe weather reporting magnets with them to the class.

For information, call Mary Messamore, Sherman County communications director, at 899-4575 or the Goodland weather service office at 899-7119.

## Bush pushes tax cut

### President pleads for speed on hefty plan

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (AP) — President Bush made an urgent plea to speed up his tax cut, saying today, "We need an immediate stimulus for our economy."

"I strongly support the idea of backdating tax relief to get cash into consumer's hands as quickly as possible," Bush said, seizing on an idea proposed by GOP congressional leaders and later embraced by Democrats.

He called the economy "somewhat winded but fundamentally strong" as he wrapped up a two-day swing aimed at shoring up support for his \$1.6 trillion tax plan among Democrats.

And, answering criticism, mostly from Democrats, that he had portrayed a gloomier picture of the economy than necessary, Bush told the Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce: "It's the president's job to look for warnings of economic trouble ahead and to heed them."

Bush traced recent economic woes, from energy shortages to the stock market decline, to the years when Bill Clinton was president. "The trend is clear and the need for action is urgent," he declared.

Bush made his pitch as Democrats on Capitol Hill unveiled their own alternative tax plan, calling for every taxpayer to get a \$300 rebate this year and reducing the lowest tax rate from the current 15 percent to 10 percent.

Rates should be reduced permanently, he said.

"Tax relief that gets yanked away next year is not such good news," he said.

Bush's plan would also lower the top tax rate from 39.6 percent to 33 percent. It is that proposal that causes Democrats to complain that his plan would mostly benefit the wealthy.

Despite Bush's cautions about sluggishness in the economy and the stock market, he spoke on a day when markets rallied after a report showed consumer confidence to have risen sharply in March after five consecutive months of decline.

Bush praised the House of Representatives for passing central elements of his tax cut plan earlier this month, calling it, "real, meaningful tax relief."

"We've made progress, but there's a lot of work to be done," he said.

The Senate, divided 50-50 between Republicans and Democrats, has yet to consider the plan.

Bush contended that his policies on education, energy and free trade are also critical for the economy's continued health.

He cited "an ominous growing gap" between supply and demand for energy. "The lights are dimming in California," he said, noting that state's electrical shortages and high prices.

Bush sought to put the blame on his Democratic predecessor, saying, "People are paying a high price for years of neglect."

The president also addressed Democratic assertions that his tax-cut plan is reckless and risks gobbling up projected budget surpluses.

He said he had used conservative budget projections that assure a tax cut of the size he is advocating can be achieved "without fear of budget deficits."

Administration officials say they have calculated into their projections a slowdown this year and next.

Earlier, administration officials said they might be willing to delay Bush's repeal of the estate tax to make way for a larger and quicker income tax break aimed at spurring the economy this year.

"But I want to stress, it's a matter of delay, and it's not delay for 25 years," White House economic adviser Lawrence Lindsey told USA Today. "It's a delay for maybe a year or two."

Bush mentioned his plan for repealing the tax in his speech, but did not indicate whether he would go along with postponing repeal.

"The American economy is like a great athlete at the end of the first leg of a long race — winded, but fundamentally strong," Bush said.

## afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press



1 p.m.

## Bombs go off near mall, bus

JERUSALEM — Palestinian militants set off two explosions in Jerusalem six hours apart today, one by remote control near a shopping mall and the second when a man with explosives strapped to his body blew himself up outside a bus.

One person was killed, apparently the bus attacker, and about two dozen people were injured in the back-to-back explosions that came after Monday's killing of a 10-month-old Israeli girl by Palestinian snipers in Hebron.

The attacks coincided with the start of the Arab League summit in Jordan and placed growing pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to retaliate.

Sharon was elected last month on a promise to restore security to Israelis, but the government has been reluctant to respond during the summit.