

weather report

81°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:46 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:58 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:45 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 70 degrees

• Humidity 54 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds south 16 mph

• Barometer 30.34 inches

and falling

• Record High 103° (1936)

• Record Low 51° (1941)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 92°

Low 62°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 60-65, south wind 10-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, 30-40 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 85-90, low 60s, south wind 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: chance of thunderstorms, high 75-85. Thursday: dry, high 75-85, low 55-65. Friday: dry, high 80s, low 50s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.57 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.52

Corn — \$2.10 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.94

Loan deficiency payment — 5¢

Milo — \$3.39 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.81 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.63

Loan deficiency payment — 29¢

Millet — \$4.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$8.70 cwt.

Oil new crop — \$7.60 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.23

Confection current — no bid

Pinto beans — \$16 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, 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.

Russia, U.S. close to cuts

MOSCOW— Russian President Vladimir Putin firmly rejected the Bush administration's push to jointly withdraw from a treaty banning national missile defenses but spoke hopefully today of agreeing to mutual cuts in nuclear weapons.

"You know our attitude toward the ABM treaty of 1972," Putin told reporters before meeting with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld at the Kremlin. "For us, it's unconditionally linked with both the Start II and Start I treaties. I would like to underline that."

He was referring to nuclear arms treaties negotiated during the 1990s, the second of which has yet to be implemented. In Russia's view, abandoning the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty would mean the end of the nuclear arms treaties, and that in turn would undermine international security.

# Judge closes down Goodland oil firm

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

An injunction was granted Thursday in Sherman County District Court against Triton Exploration, 120 W. 11th, at the request of state Securities Commissioner David Brant, who charged that the firm was running a "Ponzi" investment scam.

Sherman County District Judge Jack L. Burr granted the injunction, and placed the assets of Triton under the control of Sharon Springs lawyer R. Dean Dinkel.

The petition filed by Rick A. Fleming, general counsel of the securities commissioner, alleges that Triton Exploration has been selling securities on oil and gas leases without being registered in the state of Kansas, and that between Nov. 1998 and July 30 of this year, the defendants have taken in about \$1.2 million from about 50 investors.

The petition lists the principal defendants as Phillip R. McGuckin, president of Triton, 805 Cattle Trail, and Kirk Mitchell McNab, stepson of McGuckin, 1101 1/2 Main.

Fleming said the securities being sold are on

about eight oil and gas leases of unknown value that produce annual income estimated at less than \$25,000 in Gove, Hamilton and Sumner counties.

The petition says the securities are not registered in Kansas, and that McGuckin and McNab are not registered as broker-dealers or agents.

Fleming said the manner in which the securities have been offered constitutes a Ponzi scheme, where new investor money is used to pay previous investors, and the checks were said to be profits from production. These "profit" checks then were touted in the solicitation of additional invest-

ments.

The petition also alleges that investor funds were used for McGuckin's personal expenses.

Fleming said the securities office had been investigating Triton for about a month after receiving some phone calls about the operation.

He said McGuckin and McNab were also involved in an earlier oil and gas venture known as Cambrian Oil and the petition said approximately 39 investors lost over \$500,000 in that venture.

See LAWSUIT, Page 7

# Carnival days



Rachel and George Smollock (third car from the front) rode on the "Krazy Train" roller coaster with their children and other youngsters at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair on Friday night. The home-owned car-

nival, a main feature of the fair each August, has become more popular throughout its four-year existence.

Photos by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

## Home-owned carnival atmosphere safe

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

The scent of popcorn and cotton candy mingles with the sound of metal churning and children squealing.

Youngsters kick up dust on the Sherman County Fairgrounds, running with excited energy from ride to ride and ignoring parents' pleas to "slow down."

Older couples walk hand-in-hand to the Farris Wheel and watch the sun set over the tents that cover the "balloon toss" and "duck pond" games.

There's a sense of hometown pride on people's faces at the Sherman County home-owned carnival, which ran last week during the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair.

Brett Bahe, 13, said he attended the carnival every night to meet up with his friends, eat junk food and ride the Tilt O'Whirl and other rides.

"You can play games and win cool stuff," he said. "The rides are fun."

His friend Chancey Taylor, 10, said his favorite ride is the Tilt O'Whirl because, "It spins really fast and you get sick."

The boys had just taken a turn on the Tilt O'Whirl Friday evening and said they were on their way to watch the demolition derby at the fairground grandstand. They weren't accompanied by their parents, but people say that's not a big deal at Sherman



One of the horses on the Merry Go Round ride at the carnival. Carnival volunteers use money the carnival makes each year and donations to buy and refurbish rides.

County's home-owned carnival.

Regi Woodard, a mother of two grown children, said she likes having the home-owned carnival better than bringing in an out-of-town company

because you know who is running the rides and manning the booths.

"You feel safer," she said, "It's just a friendlier environment."

Woodard, who works for Goodland

Greenline, was helping to run the swings ride, which the John Deere dealer sponsors. She said Greenline employees enjoy manning the ride each year.

"It's fun seeing all of the kids," she said. "They are all well-behaved."

Before the home-owned carnival was born four years ago, the fair board would hire a traveling company to bring truckloads of games, rides and strangers to Goodland each August.

The carnival was fun, but parents worried about letting their children loose on the fairgrounds since they didn't know the "carnies" who were running the rides and manning the booths.

"Sharon Springs, Hoxie and Oakley have home-owned carnivals," Gene Becker, president of the 24-member carnival board, said, "and people in the community started to ask why we can't have one too."

He said people here felt that having a home-owned carnival would create a safer, friendlier atmosphere.

"It's just a better atmosphere," he said, "with local people running the rides and booths."

Many people agreed and they got together to form Sherman County Community Services Inc., a non-

See CARNIVAL, Page 7

## Mideast violence escalates

### Israel still striving for truce contracts

JERUSALEM (AP)— Palestinians closed their shops in a general strike today and demonstrators scuffled with Israeli police, demanding that Israel give back the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem.

Despite two Palestinian suicide bomb attacks in four days and the Israeli move to expel the Palestinian presence from east Jerusalem, Israel sought to renew contacts for a truce.

But Palestinians said Israel was building up its forces around Jenin, from where the suicide bombers left for recent attacks in Israel. The Israeli military had no comment.

Outside Orient House, the PLO headquarters seized by Israel after a suicide bomber killed himself and 15 other people in Jerusalem, dozens of Palestinian and foreign demonstrators — most of them Europeans — wrestled with club-wielding Israeli police and tried to raise Palestinian flags. Ten protesters were arrested.

Palestinian legislator Hanan Ashrawi said resistance to Israeli rule is now focused on Jerusalem.

"There will mass protests, demonstrations and all types of activity until Israel gets the message," she told The Associated Press.

The United States has criticized the Israeli takeover of Orient House as "political escalation." Arab nations have expressed fury with the move, which the Israelis say is designed to reassert their authority in all of Jerusalem.

Israel captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war along with the West Bank, Gaza Strip and other territories. Israel annexed east Jerusalem days after the war, unlike the other areas. Though the annexation has not been recognized by any other country, Israel insists the whole city is its capital.

The Palestinians claim east Jerusalem as the capital of a state they hope to create.

Except for demonstrations, streets were deserted in east Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip as merchants shuttered their shops and government employees stayed home in the general strike.

"Jerusalem is ours," shouted about 2,000 Palestinians marching in the West Bank city of Nablus. About 3,000 Palestinians demonstrated in Gaza City, burning a coffin labeled "Sharon," a reference to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Sharon, meanwhile, permitted Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to resume contacts with senior Palestinian officials. In an interview with AP, Peres denied media reports that Sharon had told him not to speak to Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat.

"I have the right to meet every person I think I have to, including Chairman Arafat," Peres said.

Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer told Israel Radio he held out little hope.

"I doubt whether it will be possible to arrive at an agreement with Arafat. I think he is leading his people to a catastrophe," Ben-Eliezer said.

In the West Bank town of Hebron, about 1,500 mourners chanted "revenge, revenge" as they buried a 7-year-old Palestinian girl witnesses said was killed by Israeli army fire in an overnight exchange with Palestinian gunmen.

See FAIR, Page 7