

weather report

61°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 6:54 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:31 a.m.
• Sunset, 6:52 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 66 degrees
- Humidity 100 percent
- Sky cloudy with light rain
- Winds northeast 9 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.05 inches and falling
- Record High 99° (1947)
- Record Low 32° (1981)

Last 24 Hours*

High	71°
Low	52°
Precipitation	.01

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: cloudy, chance of thunderstorms, low 50-55, winds east 5-15. Tomorrow: cloudy, chance of thunderstorms, high 70, low 45-50, winds northwest 5-15.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday and Thursday: partly cloudy, chance of thunderstorms, high 75-80, low 45-50.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

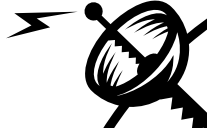


Noon

Wheat — \$2.52 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.45
Corn — \$1.98 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.90
Loan deficiency payment — 9¢
Milo — \$2.99 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.04 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.20
Loan deficiency payment — 72¢
Millet — \$3.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$7.25 cwt.
Oil new crop — \$6.90
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.13
Confection current — \$13/\$6 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$20 (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.

Stocks dive as markets open

NEW YORK — Scared investors sent stocks plummeting as Wall Street resumed trading today for the first time since last week's terrorist attacks, ending the stock market's longest shutdown since the Depression.

In early afternoon trading, the Dow was down 640 points, or about 6 percent, to 8,964. Earlier, it had recovered from a 629-point plunge in the first hour.

It was the first time the Dow had fallen below 9,000 since December 1998. The index was well below its lowest close of the year — 9,389.48 on March 22. Nearly all of its 30 components posted big losses.

Heavy trading volume topped 1 billion shares at noon. Airline, insurance and entertainment stocks were hardest hit. Selling was expected in a market fragile due to poor profits and outlooks.

Bush expects attacks

President says we will win the war

By Christopher Newton

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush said he wanted Osama bin Laden “dead or alive” and warned today of American casualties in the gathering war on terrorism. The Federal Reserve cut interest rates to shore up the economy as the nation grappled with the aftermath of the worst terrorist strike in its history.

“We will win the war and there will be costs,” the president said in a mid-day visit to the wounded Pentagon, where military planners were readying call-up orders for 35,000 reservists. He said he was confident the armed forces were prepared to “defend freedom at any cost.”

The president spoke as Attorney General John Ashcroft called for legislation from Congress this week to help authorities track elusive terrorist networks such as those that carried out last week's destruction of the World Trade Center twin towers and attack on the Pentagon.

The Federal Reserve sought to send reassuring signals to the marketplace after a week of uncertainty, cutting a key interest rate — without any advance buildup speculation — by half a percentage point.

The stock market opened a short while later, buffeted by a sharp slide in prices. Airline stock were particularly battered. Congress already was discussing a government bailout, but there were announcements of yet more layoffs in an industry that was shut down for days.

Traders observed two minutes of silence and sang “God Bless America” before the opening bell on the New York Stock Exchange. Major league baseball was returning, American flags sewn onto players' caps and uniforms, and “God Bless America” replacing “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” as the traditional crowd sing-along during the seventh-inning stretch.

Bush spoke with unusual force as he mentioned bin Laden, named as the chief suspect behind the attacks.

“I want justice,” the president said. “There's an old poster out West that said: “Wanted, dead or alive.”

He spoke as halfway around the globe, Pakistani diplomats traveled to Afghanistan at the urging of the United States, seeking to have bin Laden turned over to American authorities.

“The people who house him, encourage, provide food, comfort or money are on notice. The Taliban must take my statement seriously,” Bush said of the ruling regime in Afghanistan.

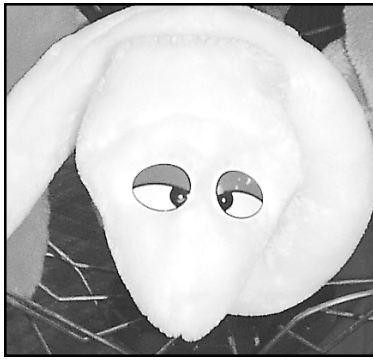
The wreckage of the World Trade Center smoldered still nearly one week after hijackers flew jetliners into the twin towers. Officials said the cost of repairing the Pentagon, hit by a third jetliner, would reach into the hundreds of millions of dollars. A fourth hijacked plane crashed in Pennsylvania.

An Associated Press list of people who have been confirmed dead in the attacks and identified by name totaled 321 today, although the toll is expected to reach 5,000 or more. In addition, 118 were listed by the Defense Department as unaccounted for after the attack on the Pentagon.

Ashcroft issued his call for anti-terrorism legislation at the Justice Department, where he also announced that the administration will place additional armed federal agents aboard commercial airliners. The legislation the administration is seeking would permit authorities to wiretap individuals, no matter what phone they use, and increase current penalties for harboring a terrorist.

“We need these tools to fight the terrorism threat which exists in the United States,” he said.

Sharing the podium with the attorney general, FBI Director Robert S. Mueller said the Immigration and Naturalization Service had detained 49 people. He also took the unusual step of publicly recruiting for the FBI, saying the agency needs English-speaking individuals with a “professional level in Arabic and Farsi.”



A creator of... PUPPETS



Martha Bishop played puppeteer with Guy Spy, the house sleuth, at the Puppet Factory on Wednesday. A neon snake (above) is made with a special fabric that glows under black light, Bishop said.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

Puppet factory hidden away

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

An international exporter has her world headquarters tucked away in the last place you would look — on a quiet, dusty gravel street south of the tracks in Goodland.

Martha Bishop has operated the Puppet Factory for 10 years, shipping 33,000 puppets all over the world this year, but the operation is hidden away in a metal building with no sign to identify the growing business.

Bishop says she is working on a sign, but more important things have occupied her time. She moved about three months ago to the building, on 19th Street south of the railroad yards, from the basement of the Antique Warehouse on 17th.

Designing puppets, arranging for factories in China to produce them, shipping the puppets around the world, setting up an on-line service and printing brochures have kept her busy, Bishop said, and she still makes some of the puppets herself.

One of her latest projects has been a new portable puppet stage, which she started working on in February and is now ready to be shipped as soon as orders are received. The stage is made of corrugated plastic which is lightweight and safe for small children, she said, and includes back-

grounds for a health clinic, fire station, police station, school room and grocery.

The stage can be folded and hauled around easily, she said, and can be used with a variety of puppets to play the scenes.

And what a variety of puppets she has available for sale at the factory — Bible characters, neon snakes and flowers, puppet families, Lil Bear and Honey Bee and the puppet sleuth, Guy Spy.

Some of Bishop's designs have been characters in books brought to life in puppet form for the publishers, she said, including Lil Bear and Honey Bee, which she got permission to sell herself.

Working with publishers, she said, she normally works up the designs, the publishers ask for changes, changes are made until the design meets the publisher's approval, and finally the puppets are produced, she said, then delivered directly to the publisher.

For the puppets to be produced in China, Bishop said, the designs have to be translated into Chinese and the measurements to metric.

When the puppets are finished, they are packed with a list of pieces, and loaded into an ocean-going container. They go through customs in

China, a ship is booked, a crane is used to load the container onto the ship, and the puppets spend up to a month on the ocean crossing. When they arrive in this country, someone is hired to pick up the shipment in Los Angeles, it goes through customs again and then is put on a train.

Puppets can be shipped directly to customers, she said, but many are shipped to the factory in Goodland, where they are stored in boxes ready to be shipped out to buyers. She has exported to several European countries, Bishop said, and to Africa, Australia, Japan and Canada.

She also orders animals from the factories in China for area carnivals, including the county fairs in Goodland, Oakley, St. Francis, Oberlin, Leoti, Tribune, Sharon Springs and Benkelman, Neb.

The carnivals want quality animals for prizes, Bishop said, and she is able to get them by ordering in bulk from the factories. She orders large boxes of animals and Looney Toon characters, and isn't usually specific but orders a certain number of large, medium and small animals.

Besides working with her puppets, Bishop said, she is in a group called Mam-tec which includes five women

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County may help business

Grant would offer low-interest loans

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Assisting existing and new businesses with an infusion of capital may become a bit easier if the Sherman County commissioners are successful in getting a \$100,000 state grant to develop a revolving loan program.

The idea was presented to the commissioners last week by Steve West, president of the Goodland Chamber of Commerce and of Western State Bank; Ron Harding, executive director of the chamber; and Randy Hrabe of the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission out of Hill City.

West told the commissioners the revolving fund would allow local businesses to receive low interest loans of up to \$15,000 to assist in creating new jobs or keeping current jobs. He said there is a built-in administration cost of \$10,000 which was part of the \$100,000 grant.

Hrabe said the loans could be for most anything a business might need, and that each application would be reviewed by a local committee before it was approved.

“The idea is to help businesses with some low interest money that might make the difference between getting a new business off the ground or keeping a good one open,” Hrabe said. “These are somewhat high risk loans in that despite their efforts, the businesses might fail. If they are successful, then they will pay the loan back over time and the local committee will be able to make more loans.”

The commissioners agreed to pursue the grant request for the \$100,000, which has to be in by Oct. 15, and the first step will be for a public hearing on the matter at the next commissioners' meeting on Tuesday.

Administration of the program will be handled by Hrabe and the development group, which already have similar programs in Thomas, Rawlins, Decatur and several other counties.

The local review of the loan applications will be handled by the Chamber's economic development committee.

Hrabe said the loan guidelines require that each loan made must create at least one new job, and about half of the loans must be to moderate to low income people who are in business or trying to start a business.

The initial round of loans are supposed to be done in two years.

“The state likes to see downtown businesses rather than out-of-a-home type,” Hrabe said.

After the initial round of loans, the administrative fee is 3 percent, Hrabe added.

“The interest rate can be as low as 4 percent or up to what the board wants,” he said. “

Each loan has to be reviewed by the state Historical Society and there is a state environmental review. These usually take about 30 days, and we figure from the time we get the application to

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Board gets bids

The Goodland School Board will hold a special meeting on Tuesday to review bids to install air conditioning and heating in the high school lunchroom and kitchen.

The board will meet at noon at the administration office on Main Avenue. The board decided to take the bids at a meeting last week. The work will be included in a remodeling project at the high school, where contractors are building new rooms on the second floor.

The remodeling should be finished by the end of the year, officials say.

Budget, loan hearings on agenda

The Sherman County commissioners will hold two public hearings on Tuesday, talking with people and answering questions about the proposed 2002 budget and on a state grant to give businesses low-interest loans.

The commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. at the courthouse on Broadway north of Eighth, with the budget hearing starting at 8:30 a.m. and the grant hearing at 9:30 a.m.

People shouldn't have too much to

complain about on the budget, as the commissioners propose dropping the county's tax rate 10.4 percent, or 5.367 mills, to 46.478.

After the hearing, the commissioners will likely approve the budget, which has been reviewed by Mark Bauer, the county's auditor.

The commissioners want public comment on applying for a \$100,000 state grant to establish a revolving loan fund.

Chamber of Commerce leaders brought the idea to the commissioners last week, saying loans up to \$15,000 would be available to businesses to help create or keep jobs.

In other business, the commissioners will talk with Curt Way, manager of public works, about buying a truck and snow removal equipment, and with County Attorney Bonnie Selby about getting cable television access in her office.