



Members of the Leadership Sherman Class of 2002 rest on the "Teepee Shuffle" log after completing that portion of the ropes course Wednesday morning. They are arranged in order by the last two digits of their phone number after shuffling.
Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Daily News

Capitol Hill continuing to check

ANTHRAX, from Page 1

Ridge said in his first news conference since taking the job last week.

"I think our antennae are up for all conceivable risks and you ought to be reassured of that," he added.

On Capitol Hill, the number of those who tested positive to exposure stood at 31, with no cases of infection reported, Kenneth Moritsugu, deputy surgeon general, told an afternoon news conference.

All appear to have been exposed to an anthrax-laden letter addressed to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., that was opened Monday, Moritsugu said.

Moritsugu said that a sweep throughout the sprawling Capitol complex will continue over the next several days to check for anthrax spores.

"At this time there is no evidence of contamination in the ventilation system," Moritsugu added.

Moritsugu added that analysis of 600 of the 1,400 nasal swab tests performed Tuesday had revealed no additional positive results in preliminary tests. "We continue to see good news," he told reporters at a briefing.

Both the CBS employee and the New Jersey postal worker contracted the skin form of anthrax, officials said. The postal worker may have handled letters to NBC and to Daschle, acting New Jersey Gov. Donald DiFrancesco said in Trenton. Test results for a second postal employee who may have been exposed to the disease were pending, DiFrancesco said.

The CBS employee, an assistant to Rather, was expected to fully recover, CBS officials said. They said that the infection was on her cheek.

"She has no memory whatsoever ... of any mail, anything in the mail that raised any suspicions whatsoever," Rather said. ABC spokesman Todd Polkes said that because the NBC and CBS news anchormen had apparently been targeted, extra precautions are being taken with mail addressed to ABC News anchorman Peter Jennings.

Meanwhile, Postmaster General John Potter, appearing with Ridge and other officials at a joint news conference on the anthrax outbreaks, said that the Postal Service would mail within the next week "a postcard to everyone in America" outlining what they should be suspicious in mail they receive.

"We believe the mail is safe it's very safe if you follow the prudent directions" we are providing, Potter said.

The officials briefed reporters as a new infection of the skin form of anthrax was reported in an assistant to CBS News anchorman Dan Rather. Ridge said that "thousands and thousands and thousands of people have been tested for anthrax exposure, and thousands of environmental samples have been taken as well. Yet only five people have tested positive for this time for anthrax."

Ridge mentioned the five previously confirmed cases of anthrax infection: two in Florida, including one who died; an NBC assistant to Tom Brokaw; the infant son of an ABC producer; and the new CBS case.

"We're in the process of confirming a sixth," Ridge said, but declined to elaborate.

Mitchell Cohen, infectious-disease specialist with the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suggested the information on the

sixth case would be announced later in the day.

Attorney General John Ashcroft, meanwhile, pledged to prosecute to the "fullest extent of the law" all cases of hoaxes involving anthrax or other biomedical threats.

Four people have been charged in four false anthrax threat cases so far, Ashcroft said.

Such hoaxes "create illegitimate alarm in a time of legitimate concern," Ashcroft said.

So far, tests on Senate workers have not turned up any instances of infection, although the number of those exposed to anthrax remained at 31 people, most of them in the office of Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., officials said.

Deputy Surgeon General Ken Moritsugu said the 31 were among a total of 3,000 nasal swabs that had been evaluated after an anthrax-laden letter addressed to Daschle was opened on Monday.

Still, tests performed at the Capitol complex were likely to show at least a few more were exposed to anthrax, beyond the 31 confirmed, said Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., a doctor. He expressed confidence that early treatment would succeed against any who might end up infected.

The threat prompted a divergent course at Congress, with the Senate staying open for at least a limited session and the House closing until Tuesday.

All six House and Senate office buildings were closed for further tests, however.

Employees on Capitol Hill lined up this morning for more testing and to receive an antibiotic if necessary.

New class learns ropes

LEADERSHIP, from Page 1

they began to get the hang of it.

When they reached the turning point, the group changed how the steps were being done to allow them to swing the trolley around the marker.

After completing the exercise, Bean asked each member what they had learned in the process. Answers included "communication is important," "designating a leader," "adapting the plan" and "supporting the leader."

Bean complimented the class on not being the slowest he had ever seen, but admitted they were slower than a group of Girl Scouts who went through the class a couple of weeks ago. He said the girls were faster because they were used to working together as a team, while this was the first time the leadership class had tried to do something together.

The next exercise was the "Teepee Shuffle," which required each team member to balance on a log and then change places, depending on what Bean decided to have them do. This time he told them they could not talk, but had to arrange themselves based on the last two numbers of their phone number from lowest on the left end to highest on the right end.

For some, getting their balance on the log was tough enough, and now Bean wanted them to rearrange without stepping off.

The first part was trying to figure out who was the lowest and how to communicate that without talking. Goodwin had the lowest number "00" and he had to shuffle around at least five of the team members to get to the left end.

At the conclusion of that exercise, Bean again asked members what they

learned. Not being able to talk was a big hindrance to communication they all agreed, and working out how to signal the numbers was a key item.

At the "Nitro Crossing," which was the third activity, the class members worked out a plan to swing the class members from one side of a pretend river to the other.

The first attempt looked like it was going to work well, until it came time for one member to carry a glass of water across without spilling it.

They had over half the team across when the water was spilled, and had to start over.

This exercise took a bit more coordination and planning, but they finally managed to accomplish the task. Next was the "Mohawk Walk" and the last was the "Spider's Web," which tested how much trust had been built up through the morning.

Group working on loans

CITY, from Page 1

could pay dividends if the cooperative does well.

West said another project the committee is working on is a revolving micro-loan program.

He said the county has applied for a \$100,000 state grant to start the program, which would allow the committee to make low interest loans of up to \$15,000 to new or struggling businesses in order to create and keep jobs in Goodland.

West said he is optimistic about the county being approved for the grant, and has had representatives from four businesses already approach him about the program. When businesses repay the loans, he said, the money will go back into the fund for new loans.

West said the committee is helping S & T Telephone set up their Goodland office, has incurred ex-

penses from that project and has six projects in progress that he cannot discuss publicly at this time.

In other business:

• In the commissioners' reports, Dean Blume said he had learned that there have been 19 dumpster nuisances in the last month. The inappropriate disposal of some items have cost the city extra time and money in collecting trash, he said.

• The commission approved a request for \$6,445 from the state for the water improvement project. The work has been paid for and the city is now asking to be reimbursed by the state.

• The commission approved payment in the amount of \$15,423 to APAC for the brick intersection project for the intersection of Sixth and Main Avenue.

• The commission approved a request for reimbursement from the Kansas Department of Transportation in the amount of \$10,796 for the work on

the intersection of Sixth and Main. The city has to pay 30 percent of the cost of the project and will be reimbursed for 70 percent.

• Ed Wolak and Rod Blake have served three-year terms representing the city on the Board of Directors of the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska, which just expired.

The commission approved their reappointments as director and alternate director.

• City Manager Ron Pickman said Wolak, public works director, plans to attend the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency meeting in Wichita and asked that any commissioners planning to attend let him know. He also asked commissioners interested in attending the Kansas League of Municipalities Regional Supper and the Kansas League of Municipalities Leadership Academy to let him know.

School districts file lawsuit against state

TOPEKA (AP) — Attorneys for mid-sized school districts say the Legislature is not abiding by the state constitution and providing enough money to carry out the policies of the State Board of Education.

That accusation is spelled out in documents filed in Shawnee County District Court as part of a lawsuit by districts against the state. The legal battle over the distribution of the state's \$2.36 billion in aid has lasted more than a decade.

The pending lawsuit was filed in 1999 and names the Salina and Dodge City school districts as plaintiffs, though several other districts are helping cover legal costs.

A trial is set for Dec. 3. Presiding will be District Judge Terry Bullock, whose opinion in an earlier lawsuit led the Legislature to enact a new school finance law in 1992. The Kansas Supreme Court upheld that law in 1994.

Dan Biles, attorney for the State Board of Education, called the latest

filing "an act of desperation."

Wichita attorney Alan Rupe represents the plaintiffs in the latest lawsuit and has been involved in previous school finance litigation. Rupe said changes legislators have made to the school finance formula since 1992 have put some schools at a disadvantage.

For example, the base state aid per pupil is \$3,870 for the 2001-02 school year. However, extra money is based on a school's enrollment.

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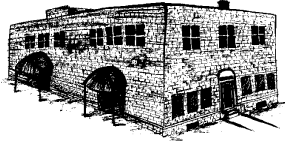
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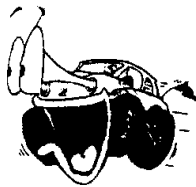
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