

weather report

51°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 5:53 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:08 a.m.
• Sunset, 5:52 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 51 degrees
- Humidity 28 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds ne 7 mph.
- Barometer 30.57 inches and steady
- Record High 87° (1922)
- Record Low 10° (1997)

Last 24 Hours*

High 58°
Low 26°
Precipitation —

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: cloudy, low 30, winds southeast 10-20 changing to southerly. Tomorrow: sunny, high 70-75, low 30-35, winds south 5-15.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy, highs in the mid 70s. Monday: partly cloudy, lows 30 to 35, highs in the mid 70s. Tuesday: mostly cloudy with a chance for thunderstorms, lows in the mid 30s, highs near 70.

(National Weather Service)

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

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.73 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.61
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Corn — \$1.98 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.75
- Loan deficiency payment — 24¢
- Milo — \$1.68 hundredweight
- Soybeans — \$3.61 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.59
- Loan deficiency payment — \$1.33
- Millet — \$3.75 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$7.60 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.27
- Confection current — ask.
- Pinto beans — \$19 (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.

Bombs rock

Afghan capital

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. jets struck Kabul today, rocking the capital city with huge explosions and blasting a Red Cross compound for a second time this month.

The Taliban said they had captured and executed a noted opposition figure, accusing him of spying for the United States and Britain.

During late night bombing, three children were killed — two from one family living in the northwest area of the city and a third from the east part of town, officials at the Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital said. The United States has repeatedly said it is not targeting civilians and regrets any loss of life.

The Taliban's Bakhtar news agency reported today that Abdul Haq, a guerrilla leader in the war against the Soviets, was captured.

Prairie dogs: Keep 'em or kill 'em?

Plan would keep population down

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Ask any farmer or rancher and most will tell you that prairie dogs are a nuisance that should wiped off the face of the earth.

Daryl West, Sherman County noxious weeds

department head, told commissioners this week he gets 30-40 calls a year from farmers and ranchers complaining about prairie dogs on their land or their neighbors'.

"Most want me to go out and take care of them," West said. "I have gone out and removed the unwanted prairie dogs where I could."

West says there are over 50,000 acres of prairie dogs in Kansas, and the highest concentration in Sherman County is in the northeast corner.

"You can't fence them in," he said. "With the dry conditions we are seeing, I have seen them go right out in the wheat fields."

Unfortunately for those who feel the little squirrels are not man's best friend, the overall numbers of prairie dogs have been dwindling across the plains to the point in recent years that the black-tailed prairie dog is now being considered for listing as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. Over the past year, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has been working on a plan to give the state more flexibility in dealing with the prairie dogs and try to keep them from being listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Kansas is one of 11 states within the range of the black-tailed prairie dog, and as a group the

states are developing a strategy designed to reduce threats to the prairie dog and hopefully circumvent the threatened species list. Kansas has a state work group trying to develop a prairie dog management plan by November.

State wildlife officials do not want to see the prairie dog on the federal list because they see it reducing the state's role and bringing more federal oversight. Farmers and ranchers would have much less freedom to control the pests.

The federal listing would require that any

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Putting AMERICA Back Together



Nicole Hendrich (top), 7, and Brad Vinar, 8, both second graders at West Elementary School, painted puzzle pieces Wednesday morning in their classroom. First and second graders at West are making pins out of puzzle pieces and other knickknacks to raise money for the American Red Cross.

Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Students find help in puzzles

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Ray West, a first grader at West Elementary School, said he's putting America back together piece by piece.

The job can be messy at times, but the 7-year-old said he likes it.

"It's just a nice thing to do," West said, carefully dabbing a puzzle piece with a sponge covered in blue paint.

West is one of dozens of first and second graders in Goodland making lapel pins out of used puzzle pieces, wooden hearts and stars, buttons, ribbons and other knickknacks.

The students paint the puzzle pieces and other items red, white and blue, while teachers stay after school and work weekends, assembling the patriotic pins. The colorful brooches are popular, as people want to show support for their country after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and during the war in

Afghanistan.

The classes at West are selling the pins for 50 cents each at school functions and through businesses in Goodland. Teachers who organized the project say they've made about a thousand pins since they started last Thursday and have collected more than \$300. They say many people donate far above the 50 cent price when they hear where the money is going.

Lynette McLean, a first-grade teacher at West, said the fund raiser's theme is "Putting America back together piece by piece," with proceeds going to the American Red Cross to help families of victims killed in the attacks in New York and Washington.

A few of McLean's students were busy painting puzzle pieces Wednesday morning, working quietly as they

concentrated on the task. McLean said she and five other first grade teachers came up with the idea after deciding to raise money for the Red Cross. She said the students spend about 40 minutes each day painting.

"It's a way for the kids to get involved," she said, "and make them feel like they're doing something to help."

The teachers decided to use puzzle pieces, McLean said, because they thought supplies would be cheap and easy to find.

"We knew we'd have a lot to start with," she said, noting that teachers have used their old puzzles and parents and others in the community have donated supplies and helped glue the pins together.

Kara Smith, a second-grade teacher

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Art director off to new job

Leader takes Olympic chance

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

After more than two years as director of the Goodland Carnegie Arts Center, Rebecca Downs is moving to Salt Lake City on Thursday to take a job doing research and organizing programs for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

The 26-year-old Leoti native said she will miss her friends and the community in Goodland, but added that she doesn't want to pass up this opportunity.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work for the Olympics," she said. "After giving it a lot of thought, I decided to try for a position."

Downs, who moved to Goodland from Denver in July 1999, said she has friends and contacts in Salt Lake and had been tracking jobs there for a few months. She said she let the Goodland Arts Council, which runs the center, know she was looking, and told the group about a month ago that she had

taken another position.

Gracia Maricle, president of the council, said people can say good-bye to Downs during a reception from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday at the center, 120 W. 12th. She said the event was scheduled to open a new show of work by Kanorado native Marilyn Stoddard, but the council decided it would also be a good time for a going-away reception.

"We'll miss her," Maricle said. "She's done a very job. She's been very successful in her efforts."

Downs has expanded the children's summer arts program, she said, and has started new student art programs, held public art contests, hosted the U.S. Congressional High School Art district contest and brought in artists from across Kansas and other countries, including Brazil.

Maricle said the council has started its search for a replacement, but mem-

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Postal workers died for cause, Bush says

By Laura Meckler

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush mourned the anthrax-related deaths of two Postal Service workers today, saying they had died in the line of duty in a two-front war against terrorists.

The government already had begun testing more than 200 postal facilities in the eastern United States. "We will move quickly" to treat any workers deemed at risk, Bush promised.

A top federal health official said there was probably another anthrax-tainted letter waiting to be discovered.

Also today, anthrax was discovered

at an offsite warehouse that processes mail for the Supreme Court, prompting officials to close the Supreme Court itself as a precaution.

It's the latest on a growing list of government mail rooms where anthrax has been detected, including the Central Intelligence Agency and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. In addition, a mail handler from a State Department mail room remains hospitalized with a dangerous form of the disease.

Three weeks into the threat, the question is how anthrax made its way to these mail rooms.



Don't forget!

Everyone will get an extra hour of sleep this weekend, as the country falls back to standard time at 2 a.m. on Sunday. Of course, you'll have to remember to set your clocks back on Saturday night to catch the extra hour. Otherwise, you'll probably notice when you show up to church or work an hour early.

The switch means the sun will rise earlier for a time, but days will continue to grow shorter and sunrises later as winter approaches.

Daylight time will return on the first Sunday in April.