

Noah's ark ...



Craig Dunn, 5, admired a wooden Noah's Ark and animals a vendor had on display at the Nu Phi Mu craft Fair on Saturday at the Max Jones Fieldhouse.
Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Kansas Sierra Club vows to preserve Lawrence wetlands

LAWRENCE (AP) — Local Sierra Club members have vowed to help preserve the wetlands where Kansas transportation officials want to build part of the Lawrence bypass.

At a meeting Saturday, the 13-member executive committee of the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club announced it would call upon the resources of the national Sierra Club to accomplish its goals.

"We will use all lawful means, we will pursue all resources and we will

seek all allies to protect the environmental integrity of these wetlands and the human rights of the indigenous peoples who hold these wetlands as sacred places," said Kansas Sierra Club chairman Scott Smith.

He said the environmental group first would pursue putting the wetlands on the National Register of Historic Places.

The South Lawrence Trafficway has been discussed for more than 15 years. The western half was completed sev-

eral years ago, but the eastern half was abandoned last year after being stalled by protests and lawsuits.

The 14.5-mile trafficway was designed to loop around the west and southern sides of the city, connecting Kansas 10 to Interstate 70 and speeding commutes between Johnson County, Lawrence and Topeka.

The state originally wanted to build the four-lane road along a route that abuts the Haskell Indian Nations University campus. State officials said

that route would hurt wetlands least and would ease congestion on 23rd Street, which is Kansas 10 as it runs through the city.

However, the Wetlands Preservation Organization, an umbrella group of environmental organizations and Haskell students and alumni, blocked the project in court.

They said the route would needlessly destroy wetlands and disturb sacred grounds where American Indians pray.

Judge throws out videotaped confession in 1968 murder case

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A federal judge in Kansas City has ruled prosecutors cannot use videotaped confessions an accused killer gave to U.S. Navy investigators.

The ruling issued Friday is a setback for the case against Michael LeBrun, a former Navy seaman from Greenwood who is accused of killing a shipmate in the Philippines 33 years ago.

On Saturday, U.S. Attorney Todd Graves said he was "absolutely" considering an appeal to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which could overrule U.S. District Judge Dean Whipple and reinstate the confessions.

"We remain committed to this case," Graves said.

The government has said the confes-

sions are essential for prosecuting federal murder charges against LeBrun for the 1968 killing of Lt. Andrew Muns while their ship, the USS Cacapon, was anchored in Subic Bay.

But Whipple ruled Navy investigators violated LeBrun's constitutional rights by not reading his rights and coerced the admissions through improper emotional pressure.

"It appears the ... agents gradually

overwhelmed LeBrun's will by questioning him in a police-dominated atmosphere, lying about the evidence against him, threatening him that his family would be ruined unless he confessed, promising him he would not be prosecuted if he confessed, and masquerading a (Navy investigator) as the victim's brother who was suffering from cancer," Whipple wrote in his order.

Farmers need change in federal, state policy

FARMING, from Page 1

ers Union, who plans to participate in the discussion, said farmers have become a tool for large companies, which force farmers to sign unfair contracts.

"Farmers are just a hired man," he said, noting that small family operations can't compete against the big boys, who merge to form monopolies.

"There's nothing wrong with contract farming," said Teske, a Wheaton farmer who said he cut his operation because he became "expendable."

"What is wrong is when there is no competition."

He said agriculture in Kansas is in sorry shape and there needs to be changes in federal and state policy, as well as a shift in how society views farmers and rural America.

"From 1992 until 1997, we lost over half of our dairy farms," he said, "and 60 percent of our hog farms."

The federal government has allowed farmers to stay in business by handing out lots of money to make up for low commodity prices, Teske said, but he noted that's not a solution.

"It keeps the economy rotating," he said, "but it doesn't help the farmer."

What would help the farmer, he said, is a farm bill that controls crop production and helps farmers make a living in the market. But, Teske said, that's not going to happen until people change their minds about farming.

"We may have to have a total break-

down in society to make this turn around," he said.

Sen. Clark said he hopes the discussion helps legislators realize they need to address farm problems, shows farmers and communities they must work together and makes agriculture a top issue with candidates running for governor.

Teske said problems on the farm are spreading to the cities, as populations are dropping and schools and other institutions are suffering.

Economic development will be part of the discussion, Clark said, because that's the key to keeping rural Kansas alive.

"How can we bring some of the industrial development in urban areas to rural America?" he said. "We need to provide opportunities for high school students to return after college."

The senator said the biggest issue in rural Kansas in the past 25 years has been a decline in Main Street business, which is putting a strain on the middle class. He said there are business opportunities, but middle class people don't have the money to take advantage of them.

"How can we revitalize the middle class in rural America?" Clark said.

Another question he asked was, "Why should urban America care about rural America?"

Clark said he hopes the discussion will help answer some of his questions.

"I can ask the questions," he said, "but I don't have all the answers."

Bush says security bill sign of nation's unity

FLYING, from Page 1

nies. Bush voiced support for the House alternative, but also signaled his willingness to sign any bill Congress sent him.

The compromise bill he signed requires all 28,000 baggage screeners to become federal employees, with the exception of five facilities that will take part in a pilot program testing alternatives. After three years, airports may seek permission from the government to return to a private system of monitoring.

In his remarks, Bush noted the differences of opinion, but said passage of the measure was a fresh sign of the nation's unity after the terrorist attacks.

"Security comes first. The federal government will set high standards. And we will enforce them," he said.

The measure was the fifth bill related to the terrorist attacks that Congress has passed and the president signed.

Others included an explicit authorization of the use of military force; a bailout of the airline industry; a \$40 billion spending measure; and provisions to strengthen the hand of federal investigators going after terrorism.

Congress is still working on two other related measures, one to stimulate the economy and another to fight bioterrorism.

Later Monday, Bush planned to address an Iftar dinner for Muslims, traditionally held at the end of daylong fasts through the month of Ramadan, in the State Dining Room at the White House.

He also was to meet with his Cabinet.

On Sunday, Bush fished with his father, the former president before leaving his central Texas ranch for Washington.

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Tuesday, Nov. 20 – 7/8 Boys BB at Oakley, 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 21 – No School, 1/2 inservice, 1/2 Thanksgiving Break.

Thursday, Nov. 22 – No School

Friday, Nov. 23 – No School

Monday, Nov. 26 – Earliest Competition - WR; B.O.E. Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 27 – 7/8 Boys BB at Scott City, 3:30 p.m. (A & B)

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