

weather report

24°
at noon

Today

Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 6:46 a.m.

Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

Midday Conditions

Soil Temperature 35 degrees

Humidity 57 percent

Sky sunny

Winds north northeast 6 m.p.h.

Barometer 30.22 inches and falling

Record High 72° (1986)

Record Low -12° (1952)

Last 24 Hours*

High 21°

Low 6°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, low 10, winds southwest 5-15. Tomorrow: partly sunny, high 40-45, low 15, wind southwest 10-20.

Extended Forecast

Friday and Saturday: mostly cloudy, 40 percent chance of snow showers, high 40-45, low 20s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.55 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.56

Corn — \$1.93 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.84

Loan deficiency payment — 15¢

Milo — \$1.63 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$3.76 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.81

Loan deficiency payment — \$1.11

Millet — \$3.75 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$8.75 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.19

Confection current — inquire

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.

CIA agent first combat death

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban said today that their supreme leader was safe after U.S. airstrikes on a Taliban “leadership area.”

At a fortress where the northern alliance put down a bloody Taliban prison riot, the bodies of dozens of pro-Taliban fighters were seen, many with their hands bound.

Meanwhile, at talks in Germany between Afghan factions on forming a post-Taliban government, the northern alliance rejected deployment of an international force to maintain security in Afghanistan.

The CIA announced the first U.S. combat death in Afghanistan: CIA officer Johnny M. Spann, killed during the prison uprising at Qalai Janghi fortress near Mazar-e-Sharif. CIA officials said Spann’s body was recovered today. The CIA provided no details on the circumstances of his death.

Troopers cleared in shooting

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

After reviewing reports on the fatal shooting of a 19-year-old Indiana man last month, County Attorney Bonnie Selby has ruled two Kansas Highway Patrol troopers were justified in shooting to protect the public and other officers.

“...I have determined that the actions taken by Trooper Brian Horney and Trooper David Albers were totally justified to protect not only the general public, but other law enforcement officers and themselves,” Selby said in a letter to Mark Kendrick, senior special agent for the Kansas

Bureau of Investigation. Selby’s office faxed the letter to *The Goodland Daily News* this morning.

The letter said Selby received reports from the Kansas Highway Patrol, the Colorado Highway Patrol, the Kit Carson County Sheriff’s Office, the KBI and the Goodland Police Department about the incident, which resulted in the death of Mark Christopher Palmer. Selby received the reports last week, but said she needed time to sort through the information.

On Oct. 26, Palmer rolled his car on I-70 in Burlington, Colo., running from the scene and from Kit Carson County officers who approached

him on a gravel road. After stealing three cars, including Trooper Alber’s, and wrecking seven, Palmer met his end on I-70 in Sherman County west of the east Goodland exit.

After he was already shot and injured, the young man, who witnesses described as looking “crazed,” tried to steal trooper Horney’s cruiser while he was still in the driver’s seat. Troopers Horney and Albers wrestled Palmer out of the vehicle, and after he allegedly grabbed for Horney’s gun, Albers shot and killed him.

Palmer, a former Colorado State University student who was apparently driving from Fort

Collins, Colo., to his home in Carmel, Ind., died from four gunshot wounds on the way to the hospital. Deputy Robert Lamb and Undersheriff Kevin Butts also went to the hospital for injuries they received while they were trying to catch Palmer.

Selby wrote that she hasn’t received the autopsy or toxicological reports. The Shawnee County Coroner performed the autopsy the week-end after the shooting.

“I have no concern that the contents of those

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Lawmakers are redrawing Northwest could lose power

By John Hanna
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Legislators are behind schedule in redrawing their own districts, but some believe they were too optimistic in predicting how quickly they could move on the politically charged issue.

The Special Committee on Redistricting expected to finish two days of discussions Wednesday. Its 34 members broke into small groups Tuesday, along party and regional lines, to discuss House and Senate districts for parts of the state.

The new district lines are supposed to reflect population shifts documented in the 2000 federal census. Johnson County and the Wichita metropolitan areas are likely to gain power, while southeast Kansas and northwest and north-central Kansas could lose.

The 15 House Republicans who serve on the committee hoped to have a proposal for new representative districts finished by Wednesday. The committee’s eight Republicans senators thought they would have a plan ready for Senate districts within three weeks.

The committee originally planned to have proposals ready for a vote Tuesday, so that it could forward its maps to the entire Legislature, which convenes Jan. 14. But any votes by the committee aren’t likely until its next meeting, Dec. 20 and 21.

Earlier this year, the committee established deadlines in hopes that the Legislature could deal with redistricting quickly. In 1992, partisan and regional bickering delayed passage of

redistricting bills long enough that the state had to move its candidate filing deadline from June 10 to June 24.

But members said behind-the-scenes discussions among legislators about their districts have taken longer than anticipated, as did congressional redistricting in September and October.

“I don’t know if we ever truly thought we could get it all done (Tuesday),” said Rep. Mike O’Neal, R-Hutchinson, the committee’s co-chairman.

Senators typically acquiesce on proposals for redrawing House districts, just as representatives are supposed to stay out of Senate redistricting.

Eight Democrats from the House and three from the Senate serve on the committee, but they can do little more than argue publicly if Republicans are united on a plan.

Democrats are in their weakest position on redistricting in 40 years. The GOP holds 30 of 40 Senate seats and 79 of 125 in the House, and Gov. Bill Graves is a Republican.

In 1972 and 1982, Democrats Bob Docking and John Carlin were governor; in 1992, Democrat Joan Finney was governor, and her party had a 63-62 majority in the House.

In their first discussions with each other, Republicans were upfront about their desire to draft plans that help Republican incumbents retain their seats and make it easier for the GOP to capture open seats.

“We’re waiting to see what they propose,” said Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka. “At that point, we can enter into discussions and possible negotiations.”



Amy (left) and Mary Nicklos braved the cold weather to shop in downtown Goodland. They traveled from their home near Bonny Reservoir in Colorado to shop today. Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

Shopping break from reality

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Daily News

After a difficult year with terrorist attacks, anthrax scares and an uncertain economy, maybe people just want a little respite from the dark outlook in the world today.

Whatever the reason, holiday shopping has gotten off to a good start in Goodland, and despite the cold weather, most shoppers have been cheerful. Some shoppers have been alone, while others dragged along children, grandchildren, sisters or friends.

Goodland resident Carrie Phillips said she took her sons Daniel, 3, and Jerum, 2, to Wal-Mart to see what they want for Christmas.

Fran Reiss said she happened to have time to come up from Weskan to shop.

And what are people shopping for? According to store managers, everything from chocolates to cars.

Sales have been good at Aten’s Department Store, owner Barb Aten said, and while the store is known for clothing sales, their chocolates have been popular.

Dan Brenner said he has seen shoppers looking on the lot at his Ford-



Diane Ross shopped in J.C. Penney today with her granddaughter, Alisha Ash, who came from Wichita to visit. The store’s 50 percent off sale drew several early birds this morning.

Mercury dealership for gifts. Holiday purchases are definitely influencing shoppers’ decisions, he said, and their collection of vehicles with zero percent financing are raising sales as well.

With the break on financing that began after the terrorist attacks, he

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School may sell land for church

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

A group wants to build a new church on Kansas Avenue between First and Fourth Streets on land the Goodland School District sold in March 1999 to a Colorado woman, who planned to put up an assisted living center but never did.

The district bought 39 acres on the west side of Kansas in the 1980s, intending to build a new high school on the site.

The schools never used the land, however, and the Goodland School Board decided in 1999 to give one acre to the City of Goodland for a well and sell 6.25 acres to Joyce Miller for \$6,400 per acre.

Miller’s plans didn’t work out either — partially because the Wheat Ridge Acres Retirement Community went up on Eighth Street in 1999 — and she is selling the 6.25 acres between Second and Fourth Streets.

Superintendent Marvin Selby told school board members on Monday that Tom Harrison of Homeland Real Estate called to say a church group is interested in buying part of the district’s 39-acre tract. He said Miller owns part of

the 8.5 or so acre area the group is considering and the district owns part.

After a short discussion at the regular meeting, board members decided to start negotiating prices with the group, saying it won’t hurt to talk.

Although Selby said nothing has been decided, the board discussed splitting the 6.25 acres that Miller owns in half, with the district recovering the tract, selling the northern half to the church group and keeping the southern part. After the meeting, Selby said there would be more trading of land than buying and selling.

He told the board the group wants about 8.5 acres, and the district could sell them school-owned land to the west and north of Miller’s. He suggested the board keep the \$6,400 per acre price.

The superintendent suggested Second Street could be closed, allowing the northern acreage to extend across the street to more school-owned property, and Third Street, which stops at Kansas, could cross the 6.25 acres, splitting it in half. To do that, he said, the property would have to be replatted, which means the board would have to consult

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