

weather  
report

52°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:50 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 31 degrees

• Humidity 37 percent

• Sky overcast

• Winds northwest 6 m.p.h.

• Barometer 29.83 inches

and steady

• Record High 74° (1959)

• Record Low 01° (1978)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 62°

Low 27°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, low 30s, winds west 5-10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: partly sunny, high 50s, low 30s, winds variable 5-10 m.p.h., 20% chance of rain showers.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday and Thursday: partly sunny, high 40-45, low 10s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.59 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.56

Corn — \$2.02 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.92

Loan deficiency payment — 7¢

Milo — \$1.77 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$3.86 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.84

Loan deficiency payment — \$1.08

Millet — \$3.75 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$9.10 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$ .66

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.

Intense battle  
at Kandahar

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Anti-Taliban fighters battled for control of Kandahar's airport today as bombers pounded suspected hide-outs of Osama bin Laden in the rugged White Mountains near the border with Pakistan.

Fighters loyal to former Kandahar governor Gul Agha said they fought their way into the airport compound, but were pushed back by Taliban defenders, according to Agha's brother, Bismillah.

American bombers pounded the rugged area south of the city of Jalalabad near Tora Bora, the eastern cave complex in the White Mountains that, along with Kandahar, has become a focus of the hunt for bin Laden.

In Jalalabad four huge explosions could be heard from the direction of Farmada Farm, a former bin Laden stronghold seized by anti-Taliban Afghans last month.

# Music raises money for boy



The Goodland Federated Recorders (left) played Christmas carols at the Community Music Benefit Saturday to raise money to pay for Dustin Zelfer's, 12, fourth heart surgery. The Disciples on Tour from the First Christian Church (top left) at 711 Arcade sang gospel songs at the benefit. The Goodland High School Expressos (above) brought the house down with their performance of "Your Mama Don't Dance and Your Daddy Don't Rock and Roll." Dean Graber, Mel Pfau, Jeff Mason and Kelly Beik combined music and comedy as The Barbershop Connection also entertained the audience.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran  
The Goodland Daily News

## County joins regional economic development effort

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Daily News*

Sherman County Friday approved joining a regional effort to seek a state grant to aid local businesses and paying \$13,881 to support the three-year program.

Sherman joins Kearny, Wichita, Greeley, Scott and Lane Counties in seeking a \$200,000 state grant to hire an enterprise facilitator and work with a local steering committee in each county to help local people develop their ideas into successful businesses.

The Sherman County Commissioners will be looking for people to be board members and seeking letters of support from people in the community to include with the regional proposal which has to be in the mail by Wednesday, Dec. 19.

Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld reported on the organizational meeting he and County Clerk Janet Rumpel attended in Leoti on Thursday.

The commissioners will discuss the details of the program and possible names for the county steering committee

at Tuesday's meeting which begins at 8 a.m.

Of the 10 people to be named to the Sherman County steering committee two will be representatives on the regional board. All of the members will receive some training in the program, and all the members are expected to introduce the person who is hired as the facilitator to 10 people in the community.

Frankenfeld said the program would begin in the spring if the state designates this region as one of the three

statewide to receive the state grant funds. If the state does not select the region the program will not be started, and may be disbanded.

The commissioners approved appointing Marsha Schilling to the City/County Recreation Commission.

The commissioners discussed a third party administration proposal from Blue Cross and Blue Shield covering the New York state surcharge. Both County Attorney Bonnie Selby and County Clerk Rumpel said they were somewhat confused by the form which the insurance carrier was asking the county to approve.

Karen Real of the Blue Cross Topeka office, explained by phone that since New York has established an 8 percent surcharge to pay for indigent care it was a requirement that the county join a special pool to handle the surcharge. She said the need would only be if a Sherman County person was injured while traveling in New York, but if the county was not part of the pool there could be an additional penalty of 24 percent added to the cost of hospital care.

The commissioners asked if there was any cost for approving the addition, and Real said there was no cost at this time. She declined to say if there would be a charge added in the future. The commissioners felt they were in a position where they had to approve the insurance request.

Following the pattern of the past few years the commissioners approved a \$100 Christmas bonus for all full-time county employees, and a \$50 Christmas bonus for part-time county employees who have been with the county

for a minimum of six months.

A request from the Ellis County Housing Authority of Hays to have Sherman County approve participation in a federal housing subsidy program had the commissioners a bit confused. The program has been in place for a number of years and covers 18 counties in northwest Kansas, but apparently Sherman County has not officially approved participation in the program.

The commissioners decided it would be best for a representative of the program from Ellis County come out to Goodland and explain the program before they decided to approve the request.

The cover letter indicated that the reason the Ellis housing group was making the request was that there had been some people from Sherman County asking to participate in the program.

The program is designed to help low income people with the cost of renting a house or apartment.

The commissioners approved the solid waste recycling agreement between the City of Goodland and Sherman County. The city commission is expected to vote on the agreement at tonight's meeting.

Claims vouchers for November were approved totaling \$241,630.

The only appointment for Tuesday's meeting is with Curt Way, county public works director to discuss financing road and bridge equipment.

The commissioners meet in the commission room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse located at the corner of Eighth Street and Broadway Avenue.

## Kansas gears up to raise high school grad standards

LAWRENCE (AP) — State education officials are considering a plan that would require high school seniors to demonstrate they have learned a certain curriculum before they can graduate.

Details have not been finalized but a task force is expected to provide the

Kansas State Board of Education with a rough outline in March. It would take at least two years to implement the plan.

"This will have great impact on every student in Kansas," said Alexa Pochowski, assistant commissioner in the education department.

## New living room remodeling ...



Goodland Police were investigating an accident at 212 Broadway about 11 a.m. when a pickup drove backwards over the mail box and into the living room. Emergency medical personnel were called to talk to the driver, but at press time no details of the accident were available.

Photo by Bill Wagoner / The Goodland Daily News