

Negotiations have begun on lease for grocery

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ies to the co-operative, West said, noting that a resolution could be a couple of weeks away.

He said Bruce Gouker, the Greeley, Colo., man who plans to move here to run the store, is involved with the negotiations.

Gouker has more than 20 years experience in the grocery business, including managing groceries and food brokerages.

"We're trying to work out a mutually-beneficial lease," West said, adding that the committee wants to get in for as little money as possible.

Members plan to raise \$1.2 million to open the store and are asking families and businesses in Goodland to put up the money. The committee is hoping 500 families will invest \$2,000 each and businesses will cover the rest

with \$10,000 contributions. If the store turns a profit, investors will get money back.

The 17-member committee, who West said have all pledged money, held three meetings in November to test support for a co-operative grocery in Sherman County. They had a good response and set out to find a location.

If the group is able to secure a lease, West said, the next step will be to raise more money.

"We've had strong support, but we still need a sizable sum," he said, noting that the committee has pledged for about 40 percent of the \$1.2 million goal.

West, who was Chamber of Commerce chairman last year, added that many people have shown interest, but haven't put up their money yet.

"We decided that we needed to make sure we could get the building before

raising the remaining pledges," he said.

Wal-Mart Supercenter has been the only food store in Sherman County for about two years, since Jubilee and Mosburg's IGA closed.

A study the Chamber of Commerce and city had done in 2000 showed that the Goodland area could support another store.

Chamber representatives have been working ever since to bring a grocery downtown. After looking at options, they decided opening a community-owned store was the most viable, and have studied co-operative groceries in other states.

West said the committee will keep working as long as the community shows support.

"We're excited and we have a lot of hope," he said. "It would be a positive thing for our town."



The old Jubilee building, where a Chamber of Commerce committee wants to open a co-operative grocery. Photos by Bill Wagoner/The Goodland Daily News

101st Airborne takes over command of Kandahar base

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and soldiers arrived on the scene quickly. They were unable to find the intruders.

The area around the base is filled with ravines, ditches and abandoned mud houses.

After the base came under fire Jan. 10, Marine patrols found tunnels and hidden munitions they believed were being used to stage attacks.

The 101st Airborne took over command of the base from Marines on Saturday.

By midday today, there were 1,000 members of the famed paratrooper division at Kandahar — close to half the full deployment of between 2,000 and 2,500, Army spokesmen said.

The paratroopers prepared for a memorial service scheduled for Tuesday for the latest American casualties of the Afghan campaign — two Marines killed in a chopper crash.

Five other Marines were injured when their CH-53E Super Stallion came down about 40 miles south of Bagram air base after taking off from the former Soviet base outside the capital, Kabul.

It was flying with another helicopter to resupply American forces, military officials said.

Marine spokesman 1st Lt. James Jarvis said there was no initial indication of hostile fire. Rumsfeld said the cause of the crash appeared to be a mechanical failure.

In Washington, the Pentagon iden-

tified the dead Marines as Staff Sgt. Walter F. Cohee III, 26, from Maryland Springs, Md., a communications navigations systems technician, and Sgt. Dwight J. Morgan, 24, from Mendocino, Calif., a helicopter mechanic.

Both were assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361, part of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing based in Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, Calif. Their remains were expected to arrive at Ramstein Air Base in Germany later today.

The worst single casualty toll for U.S. forces in the Afghanistan campaign was Jan. 9, when all seven Marines aboard a refueling tanker died in a fiery crash in the mountains of southwestern Pakistan. The cause remains under investigation.

The only other fatal crash of a U.S. military aircraft since the United States began the war targeting the Taliban and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network three months ago involved an Army Black Hawk helicopter that crashed in Pakistan Oct. 19, killing two Army Rangers.

Though the war has been winding down, Afghanistan is overflowing with arms. Warlords are the chief provincial authorities and banditry is rife.

The World Food Program, the United Nations' main food agency, said today that armed gunmen stole 40 tons of food aid last week intended for drought-hit populations near Qaiser, Faryab province, about 120 miles west of the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

In Tokyo, foreign nations pledged \$2.6 billion today to rebuild Afghanistan, with about half coming from the United States, Japan and the European Union.

The United States promised \$296 million this fiscal year, in addition to the \$400 million in humanitarian assistance committed last fall.

"President Bush has made it clear that the United States will not abandon the people of Afghanistan," Secretary of State Colin Powell said at a conference of donor nations.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said an estimated \$10 billion would be needed in the next five years to rebuild Afghanistan.

Beyond the likely transfer Tuesday of Lindh, there was no immediate word

from U.S. military officials today of any other flights of prisoners from the Kandahar base to the detention facility at the U.S. Navy base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

On Sunday, 34 more detainees from the war in Afghanistan arrived in Guantanamo, bringing the total to 144.

Human rights groups have expressed alarm about the treatment of detainees, saying the small, open-air cells at Guantanamo fall below internationally accepted standards for prisoners of war.

Britain asked the United States on Sunday to explain photographs from Guantanamo that appeared in British media and show al-Qaida and Taliban prisoners kneeling on the ground in handcuffs.

Israeli troops take over West Bank town, first in 16 months

ap news capsules

By Associated Press

TULKAREM, West Bank — For the first time in 16 months of fighting, Israeli troops took over an entire Palestinian town today, imposing a curfew, searching homes and arresting suspected militants in retaliation for attacks on Israeli civilians.

One Palestinian was killed and eight were wounded by Israeli fire in the West Bank town of Tulkarem.

The raid was the latest in a series of unprecedented reprisals for a deadly Palestinian shooting attack on an Israeli banquet hall last week. It was seen as a further blow to the standing of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat who has been unable to leave his West Bank compound, with Israeli armored vehicles parked outside.

Israeli officials said the aim of the raid was to round up militants and prevent future attacks.

Palestinian officials accused Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of trying to topple Arafat and destroy peace prospects.

At about 3 a.m. today, dozens of Israeli tanks and armored personnel carriers, backed by helicopter gunships, rolled into Tulkarem.

Palestinian gunmen shot at Israeli troops, drawing return fire. The heaviest fighting came in the Tulkarem refugee camp, where gunmen had fled after Israeli troops took over the adjacent town.

GOMA, Congo — Lava flows from a volcanic eruption ignited a gas station today, killing about 50 people who were trying to siphon fuel from the elevated tanks, witnesses said.

A massive fireball erupted at 8:30 a.m., leaving a huge black cloud hang-

ing for hours over Goma. One-third of the town's 500,000 residents were not forced to flee after Thursday's eruption.

The Congolese were at the station trying to steal gas and diesel fuel when the tanks ignited, killing 50 in the initial explosion, said Chiza Barabara, who lives near the petrol station.

Other tanks later exploded, but he knew of no more casualties.

The station is located by one of the main lava flows, but the lava has cooled enough for people to walk across it.

NATIONAL

PINELAND, Texas — A man was arrested on murder charges for allegedly driving over a hitchhiker he picked up because he couldn't carry through on a promise to pay for gas money, authorities said.

Ken Bimbo Tillery, 44, was visiting a Jasper trailer park Friday night when he began looking for a ride home. Blake Little, 34, and three others offered a ride home in his pickup truck after agreeing on a price of \$5 for gas, Sabine County Sheriff Tom Maddox said.

But the sheriff said the price for gas went up during the trip, first to \$25 and then \$50 by the time the group arrived in Pineland, about 130 miles northeast of Houston.

"They went by his house, but didn't drop him off because they were going by the gas station," said Maddox. "They got to the gas station, and that's when Tillery tried to depart by running."

The truck's occupants chased Tillery

along a road and a scuffle ensued. Tillery was apparently held captive before he was run over, investigators said.

Little, 34, of Jasper, was arrested Sunday on murder charges. Investigators believe both drugs and alcohol were involved.

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — "A Beautiful Mind" was named best drama and its star Russell Crowe won the top dramatic actor trophy as the Golden Globes rewarded stories of love under the duress of madness, despair and illness.

"A Beautiful Mind" collected a leading four Globes Sunday night and was followed by triple winner "Moulin Rouge," which was awarded the Globe for best musical or comedy and earned a best actress honor for Nicole Kidman.

If conventional wisdom holds, the Golden Globe recognition will be a boost for the Oscar chances of the two films when the Academy Awards are presented in March.

"A Beautiful Mind" captured the attention of Hollywood Foreign Press Association voters with its dramatization of the true-life story of Nobel prize-winning John Forbes Nash Jr., a schizophrenic math genius who rebuilds his life with the help of his devoted wife.

The hyperactive musical "Moulin Rouge" blended fantasy storytelling techniques and anachronistic pop songs in a tale of forbidden romance.

Kidman plays a dyed cabaret singer wallowing in sadness until a dashing

romantic, played by Ewan McGregor, sweeps her off her feet.

NEW YORK — More than two years after a glitzy and much-hyped launch, Talk magazine, a glossy monthly founded by former New Yorker editor Tina Brown, is shutting down.

Brown blamed the poor economic climate for the demise of Talk, which was introduced with much fanfare in the summer of 1999 with the backing of Miramax Films and Hearst Corp., a major magazine publisher.

A separate book publishing venture called Talk Miramax Books, which is wholly owned by Miramax films, will continue to operate. The book division has fared far better than the magazine, putting four titles on the New York Times best-seller list.

Talk debuted with a widely discussed profile on former first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and a celebrity-packed party on Liberty Island. The magazine moved the party there after a public showdown with former mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who blocked plans for a party at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

CHARLESTON, S.C. — A police officer and a paramedic were killed in a weekend shooting spree, the fourth time in three weeks that a law officer has been gunned down in South Carolina.

"It's very unusual anywhere in the state to have this number of attacks on police officers in such a short period of time," Police Chief Reuben Greenberg said Sunday.

Dennis Elisha LaPage, 36, is the latest victim, gunned down in a Saturday night shooting that also left paramedic

Anthony Pirraglia, 47, dead and a nurse wounded.

Marko Dupree Drayton, 19, of Charleston, was charged with two counts of murder, assault and battery with intent to kill and possession of a firearm during the commission of a violent crime, Greenberg said.

Pirraglia, a flight nurse who worked with the Medical University of South Carolina's emergency helicopter service, and Mandy Larson, an intensive care nurse at the university, were at a restaurant when they heard a traffic accident. When they rushed to the scene and asked one of the drivers if he needed help, Drayton, without provocation, shot and killed Pirraglia, the chief said.

The gunman fled and later shot LaPage, who was off-duty and working as a security guard at a private dorm for college students.

WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON — Vowing to issue subpoenas if necessary in the Enron Corp. affair, a House panel hopes to get the conflicting stories of the company's accounting firm and the auditor it fired for the destruction of thousands of documents.

Arthur Andersen chief executive Joseph Berardino said the firm's lead auditor on the Enron account, David Duncan, displayed "at the least ... extremely poor judgment" for his part in discarding documents last October and November.

Duncan has told investigators he was simply following the advice of Andersen's legal department when he directed the shredding.

The House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on oversight and investigations has scheduled a hearing for

Thursday.

The tentative witness list includes Duncan, legal department attorney Nancy Temple and Berardino or another top-ranking Andersen official.

It was uncertain whether Duncan would appear voluntarily.

"We have made it clear we'll be prepared to subpoena any reluctant witnesses," said Ken Johnson, spokesman for the Energy and Commerce Committee.

WASHINGTON — A 30-day "cooling-off" period was issued Sunday to prevent a strike by disgruntled United Airlines mechanics.

In a brief statement issued by the White House, President Bush said he "remains concerned about the effect an airline strike could have on the traveling public and on the economy."

A Presidential Emergency Board appointed in the labor dispute between United and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace workers sent a fact-finding report to the White House on Sunday. With the issuance of the report, the cooling-off period takes effect under provisions of the National Railway Labor Act.

United, which tends to carry a high proportion of business and overseas travelers, was hard hit by the travel slowdown after the Sept. 11 terror attacks and has been losing some \$15 million a day, the report said.

The board report said while United makes a compelling case for its employees to share in the concessions needed to enable the airline to survive, United's argument falls short of supporting the position that the mechanics should receive no immediate pay increase.

Senate committee has hearings on budget plan

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer
TOPEKA — Chairman Steve Morris expects his Ways and Means Committee to hear plenty of reasons why it shouldn't endorse a budget balancing plan drafted by him and Senate President Dave Kerr.

But Morris hopes his committee will give its approval anyway.

The plan from Kerr, R-Hutchinson, and Morris, R-Hugoton, is designed to eliminate a projected \$426 million gap in the budget for the state's 2003 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

It would tap into the state's rainy day funds, cut the current state budget, then freeze spending in fiscal 2003. It also would use extra federal nursing home payments and money from the state's portion of a legal settlement with tobacco companies.

Their plan is an alternative to Gov. Bill Graves' proposal to increase taxes \$228 million. The governor's package would cut some agency budgets, but it would permit an increase in aid to pub-

lic schools and new spending on other items.

The Senate Ways and Means Committee has three days of hearings scheduled on the Kerr-Morris plan, starting at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday. Those hearings give agencies and advocates the chance to voice concerns about possible cuts.

Morris said he hopes the committee will act quickly, so that agencies have more time to deal with cuts in their current budgets.

"We may have to do some tweaking, but I don't want to get into a lot of details, because we don't want to have time for that," Morris said.

The \$426 million gap in the budget is the difference between projected revenues and spending commitments for fiscal 2003.

Most other state agencies would have their current budgets by 2 percent, then frozen in 2003.

Those changes would save about \$156 million. The plan also would rescind commitments for new spending

about \$308 million in new spending. The Kerr-Morris plan would decrease current school budgets by \$39 per student, from \$3,870 to \$3,831, then freeze it at that level for 2003. It also would cut the 2002 budget for higher education 1.2 percent, also imposing a freeze in 2003.

Most other state agencies would have their current budgets by 2 percent, then frozen in 2003.

Those changes would save about \$156 million. The plan also would rescind commitments for new spending

on higher education and road projects and capture cost savings associated with employee benefits.

Graves objects to the proposal because it would reduce the state's rainy day funds by \$104 million.

Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka, said he doubts the plan will have support from Democrats. He and House Minority Leader Jim Garner, D-Coffeyville, have criticized its proposed cuts in education and social service spending.

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