



Charley Thorson (left), owner of Thorson Floor Covering, installed tiles on the floor of the boys' bathroom in the high school on Wednesday, while an employee Matt Carmichael watched. The remodeling project is nearly finished.  
Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

# Rooms feature new tools

REMODELING, from Page 1

opportunity for teachers to teach with state-of-the-art equipment," he said, noting students will be able to perform more experiments.

There are about 12 computers in each of the new science classrooms, Selby said, and each laboratory has a new "fume hood," where students can safely work with chemicals. The school had only one old fume hood before.

The science rooms are separated by storage areas, where teachers can keep chemicals or other equipment. In one of the storage rooms, Selby pointed out new "grow lights" the board ordered from Hicks-Ashby, the Missouri company that supplied the new classroom furniture. He said the lights came with

potting soil and plastic cups in which to grow plants.

New laboratory stations with water, air and gas access line the walls of the science rooms, and the computers are mounted above the centers, so students can record experiment results.

Each room has its own thermostat so teachers can control the climate, Selby said, and there are two handicap-accessible desks, where disabled students can do experiments.

In one of the science rooms, the superintendent said carpentry students at the Northwest Kansas Technical College helped the district rectify a furniture mistake.

Wood panels used to cover pipes under the lab stations came in too short, he said, but the carpentry students made new ones and will help install

them.

"They did an excellent job," he said. "They made a good deal out of a bad deal."

Mike Miller, owner of Miller Construction and the project manager, did much of the construction work. Installing partitions and a paper towel dispenser in the girls' bathroom, he said he feels good about the project.

"It's been a nice job," he said. "I've enjoyed it."

He said it has been one of his bigger projects.

Miller also helped build the college's fitness center and installed the roof on a new tourist center on I-70.

Selby said he and the board are happy with the results.

"We're just real pleased with all of it," he said.

# Special forces confiscate weapons

By Associated Press INTERNATIONAL

KABUL, Afghanistan — As they press their search for al-Qaida and Taliban renegades, U.S. special forces and their Afghan allies have confiscated thousands of weapons from a warlord in southern Afghanistan.

But tensions were reported rising around the eastern town of Khost because of rivalries between faction leaders seeking recognition from the interim government, the latest evidence of a volatile power vacuum two months after the radical Taliban were deposed.

Meanwhile, John Walker Lindh, the young American accused of fighting alongside the Taliban, was jailed upon arrival in the United States after an Air Force transport plane brought him from Afghanistan, two months after he was captured.

Lindh's parents, Frank Lindh and Marilyn Walker, were not allowed to meet him after he was booked into a jail in Alexandria, Va. Lindh faces trial on charges of conspiring to kill fellow countrymen and could be imprisoned for life if convicted.

On a visit Wednesday to the U.S. military base in the southern city of

## ap news capsules

Kandahar, FBI director Robert Mueller said members of Osama bin Laden's terror network had provided valuable information that has prevented new attacks against U.S. targets worldwide.

BEIRUT, Lebanon — A former Lebanese Christian warlord held responsible along with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for a massacre 20 years ago that for many symbolizes the outrages of Lebanon's civil war was killed today in a car bombing at his house.

Elie Hobeika, 45, led the right-wing Lebanese Forces militia, which scythed through the Sabra and Chatilla Palestinian refugee camps in Muslim west Beirut in 1982, slaughtering hundreds of men, women and children under the eyes of Israeli soldiers.

Lebanese security officials said Hobeika had just entered his Humvee, a military style armored truck, with three body guards when the explosion occurred at 9:40 a.m. today.

There was no immediate claim of

responsibility.

NATIONAL

COOKEVILLE, Tenn. — Torrential rains that swamped roads, damaged bridges and forced schools to close were also blamed in the deaths of two people who were swept into a drainage pipe.

The deaths occurred as an estimated 3 to 6 inches of rain fell in parts of Tennessee on Wednesday, with more heavy rains forecast for today.

Tommy Stewart, 20, became trapped as he and another city worker tried to unclog a flooded drainage ditch, fire department officials said. Shane Cooper, 26, stopped to help but was swept under.

Authorities had to bring in heavy equipment to dig up the pipe and didn't find the victims until about three hours later, Cookeville Fire Department spokesman Bruce Womack said.

Near McMinnville, rescuers plucked two high school students from a river after their canoe capsized and floated away. They held on tree limbs for nearly two hours before help came.

# Choir to represent state

GAME, from Page 1

in the best shape."

The X-pressos received an invitation to compete in the Branson Show Choir International, Berls said, and plan to attend the competition from March 14-17.

The choir will be representing the state of Kansas.

The group will perform four songs in a 15-20 minute routine for the competition, the director said, and will be competing against 18 other show choirs from around the U.S.

At the end of the first day, he said, the top 10 choirs will move on to the semifinals, where they will perform the same show.

The top three choirs will go on to the finals, Berls said, where they will perform the same show again to determine the top choir.

There are show choir competitions in New York, Florida and California, Berls said, but the X-pressos are going to the one in Branson because it's the closest.

The trip won't be all work and no play.

The X-pressos and others traveling with them will have time to see some professional shows, Berls said.

The X-pressos are: Amanda Jolly, Amanda Hoffman, Laurie Redlin, Jessica Vignery and Tammy Wheeler, sopranos; Megan McCall, Alyssa Mason, Rachael Hagerman, Colleen Koehler and Abby Schoepner, altos; Ian Scherling, Timothy Kafka, Bill Linin, Preston Lambrecht and Josh Topliff, tenors; and Darin Richardson, Cody Lofland, Allan Briney, Josef Felver and Mike Zimmerman, bass.

The accompanying band, which includes Tom Harrison, Jay Jolly, Billy

Gabel and Andrew Melia, will travel with them, Berls said, so the group can perform to live music.

The X-preso supporters who will be playing in the game are: Sid Unruh, Brian Linin, Brady Stindt, Adam Freeman, Harvey Swager, Don Smith, Richard Schwasinger, Connie Liven-good, Ben Holman, Randy Berls and Jon McLean.

The Harlem Knights will play the parents of Colby High School band members Monday at the Colby Community Building to help the band pay for new uniforms.

Tickets for the game are available at the high school and at the door. Advance adult tickets will be \$6 and advance child/student tickets will be \$4. Prices will be \$1 more at the door. Children under 6 can attend for free.

The soup supper will cost \$5 per person.

# Democrats want guarantee

BUDGET, from Page 1

Morris said.

Democrats, who hold 10 of the 40 Senate seats, said they want a guarantee that the money raised by the tax increases would be spent on education.

"All of these tax increases, I could support," said Sen. Greta Goodwin, D-Winfield, a tax committee member.

The Kerr-Morris budget plan would cut the current \$4.5 billion budget by about \$85 million, then freeze spending for fiscal 2003. The result would be a state budget slightly smaller than the current one.

In part, it would save the state \$23.7 million in the current fiscal year through a \$39 per-pupil cut in state aid to school districts. Per-pupil aid would fall to \$3,831 and would be frozen that level for the next fiscal year.

Also:

— The Wichita chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People expressed concern about a House redistricting plan.

— The Senate confirmed the appointments of four members of the state Board of Regents.

— The House New Economy Committee heard a presentation about activities at the Kansas Speedway in Kansas City.

## Comparison of plans by senate and governor

By The Associated Press Total New Revenues

Senate: \$86.9 million in fiscal year 2003, which begins July 1.

Gov. Bill Graves: \$228 million.

Tobacco Taxes

— Senate: Raises cigarette tax by 35 cents a pack, to 59 cents, for \$64.7 million; increases tax on other tobacco products to 20 percent of wholesale price from 10 percent, for \$4 million.

— Graves: Raises cigarette tax by 65 cents a pack, for \$111.2 million; no increase in tobacco products tax.

Alcohol Taxes

— Senate: Raises wholesale tax on beer by 5 cents a gallon, to 23 cents; on fortified wine 25 cents a gallon, to \$1; on regular wine, 10 cents a gallon to 40 cents, and on hard liquor by 75 cents a gallon, to \$3.25, to raise \$5.3 million.

Raises retail tax on liquor store

sales from 8 percent to 10 percent, for \$8.2 million.

Raises tax on liquor sold by the drink from 10 percent to 12 percent, for \$4.6 million.

— Graves: No increases.

Retail Sales Tax

— Senate: No increases.

— Graves: Increases retail sales tax from 4.9 percent to 5.15 percent, for \$94.8 million.

Motor Fuels Taxes

— Senate GOP: No increases.

— Graves: Increases gasoline tax by 1 cent a gallon, to 22 cents, and diesel tax by 1 cent a gallon, to 24 cents, for \$17.8 million.

Vehicle Registration

— Senate GOP: No increases.

— Graves: Increases vehicle registration fees 3 percent, for \$4 million.

Car owners would see their fees increase to \$25.75 from \$25.

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## MISSING CHILDREN

Grandmother Marge Quast, Mother T.J. and family needs help in finding children: Jacob, Jaeger, Job and Jonah Thompson.

Any information would be appreciated. Contact the Goodland Police Dept. 785-899-4570.

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