

weather
report

64°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 4:59 p.m.
- Sunrise, 6:59 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:00 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 31 degrees
- Humidity 14 percent
- Sky mostly sunny and clear
- Winds west southwest 15 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.01 inches and falling
- Record High 70° (1935)
- Record Low -11° (1935)

Last 24 Hours*

High 44°
Low 11°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low mid 20s, winds southwest 10-20. Tomorrow: mostly sunny, high low 70s, low lower 30s, winds west 10-20 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly sunny, high 60s. Monday: mostly cloudy, high lower 50s, low mid 20s. Tuesday: partly cloudy, chance of snow showers from noon on, low near 15, high lower 30s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.71 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.57
Corn — \$1.95 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.87
Loan deficiency payment — 12¢
Milo — \$1.67 bushel
Soybeans — \$3.72 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.76
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.16
Millet — \$3.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$8.65 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 87¢
Confection current — inquire
Pinto beans — \$23 (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.

Soldiers stay
may be longer

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Afghan Prime Minister Hamid Karzai said today the international force policing the capital should be expanded and deployed in the chaotic provinces, while U.S. leaders said the American military presence in the country might be prolonged.

U.S. forces were holding 27 prisoners — including some described by the Pentagon as senior Taliban — captured during a firefight that wounded one Army Special Forces soldier and killed several al-Qaida or Taliban fighters.

Karzai made his comments on the peacekeeping force after meeting U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, visiting Afghanistan to bolster the post-Taliban government. The interim leader also announced the 21 names on a commission to appoint a loya jirga.

Kids kidnapped by father still gone

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

Two weeks after apparently being kidnapped by their father, Jaeger, Jacob, Jonah and Job Thompson are still missing.

But their mother Tohanna, also known as T.J., is as determined as ever to find them. “I want people to know I haven’t given up on them,” she said. “I won’t give up on them ‘til I find them.”

Though she and her family have done

everything they can think of, Tohanna’s mother Marge Quast said, there is still no word. She said she has been e-mailing information about the kids everywhere, and contacting school districts. “Everything we can think of,” she said, “we’ve tried.”

There needs to be more media coverage, Quast said, so people realize the kids are still missing and will help find them.

Thonna said her sons, Jaeger, 8; Jacob, 7; Jonah, 3; and Job, 2, stayed

with their father, Mark Anthony Thompson, two weekends ago and should have been back to her by 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13. Thonna said Mark never showed up and she called the police at 7 p.m.

The National Center For Missing and Exploited Children are working on posters, Tohanna said, and the kids are on the Kansas Bureau of Investigation web site.

Pastor Steve Rains of the Calvary Gospel Church has e-mailed pictures to

the ministerial alliance, she said, in case Mark Thompson seeks help from a church somewhere.

Tohanna said her sister, Monica Albers of Goodland, has worked with her mom, sending fliers and letters to school districts around the country, hoping the children will be registered in school somewhere.

Quast said she called Mark’s family, and they said they hadn’t seen him. Mark didn’t show up to a court hearing last Wednesday.

Quast said she has even tried to get Mark on *America’s Most Wanted*, a television show that uses tips from the audience to capture criminals.

And, of course, the family has been putting up posters around Goodland.

The posters describe Mark’s vehicle as a dark brown 1984 suburban with a tan stripe, Tohanna said, but the police said the suburban is a 1982. The posters describe Mark as being 5-feet 9-

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Panel approves cut backs

Bill will cut budget by \$58 million

TOPEKA (AP) — A Senate committee decided today to spare public schools but approved spending cuts for higher education, social services and many other government programs.

The Ways and Means Committee endorsed a bill that would cut the current \$4.5 billion state budget about \$58 million, or 1.3 percent. Its authors then would be to freeze spending during the next fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Originally, the bill called for deeper spending cuts, but the committee amended it to restore money for public schools, the prison system and some health programs.

The 6-4 vote, with only Republicans voting yes, sent the measure to the Senate, where debate could begin Tuesday.

The bill is part of a plan from committee Chairman Steve Morris, R-Hugoton, and Senate President Dave Kerr, R-Hutchinson, that would also use the state’s rainy day funds to help balance the budget without raising taxes.

“It won’t be painless,” Kerr said. “We’re all going to have to make some unfortunate choices.”

Just before the committee began its meeting, the state Supreme Court issued a unanimous ruling in favor of Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Co. in a long-running corporate income tax dispute with the Department of Revenue. That ruling could cost the state \$26 million.

Most legislators hadn’t seen the decision, and State Budget Director Duane Goossen said he would have to consult with department officials to assess the ruling. Department officials didn’t have immediate word on how a refund would be paid.

Kerr and Morris now support a plan to increase tobacco and alcohol taxes to raise almost \$87 million in fiscal 2003. That bill would permit the state to avoid some of the cuts the Kerr-Morris budget plan would require.

The tax legislation, which emerged

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Board to talk about buying X-ray tools

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

The board of directors of Goodland Regional Medical Center will talk about purchasing X-ray equipment at their regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday.

The board will hear a year-end financial review, a report on the physician recruitment fund and discussion of the liability insurance package from the finance committee.

Hospital administrator Jay Jolly will talk about reappointments and change of status recommendations for the medical staff and a peer review discussion.

The hospital’s substance abuse policy manual will be approved, and the board will talk about physician recruitment in a closed session.



Fifth and sixth graders learned about terraces from Fred Wedel, district conservationist in Sherman County, on a farm about 4 miles outside of Goodland on Thursday. The students took mini-tours to learn about conservation practices. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

North students take ‘field’ trip literally

Youths see conservation on mini-tour

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

“What is a pheasant?” a fifth grade student asked.

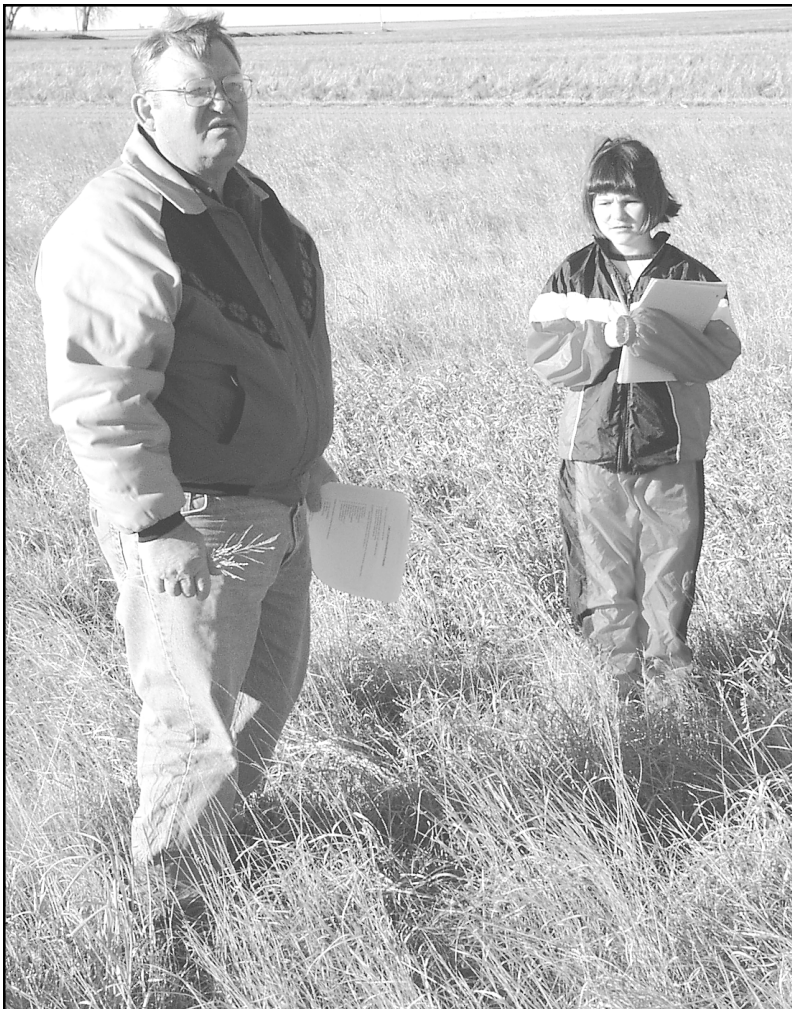
Fifth and sixth graders from North Elementary School got the answer to that and more farm-related questions Wednesday when they went on mini-field trips organized by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The students got to see firsthand, conservation practices used by farmers and ranchers in our area. They learned why terraces are important to prevent soil erosion, what is being done to support wildlife habitat, how farmers are trying to save water and why all those trees grow around farms.

Fred Wedel, district conservationist for the service, coordinates the program with Myron Tedford, a fifth grade teacher at North.

Students were allowed to pick one aspect of farming conservation and take a 45-minute trip to farms and fields outside of Goodland to see how it works.

They could choose from seven different topics including terraces, the conservation reserve program, wild-



Whitney Wright, 11, took notes as Fred Wedel explained the conservation reserve program on acreage three miles west of Goodland.

life habitat, windbreaks, sprinkler irrigation, chemical fillage and native

range. When they got back they were ready

to get started on their school projects. Students annually compete in the conservation service’s poster, limerick and essay contest, and Tedford started a program where students complete a computer-slide show presentation.

This is the second year Tedford has had his students create the presentations, which will be entered into a contest judged by the conservation office along with the posters, limericks, and essays.

Winners from the posters, limericks and essays contest will go on to the state level in Wichita in the fall, where they will be judged by the Kansas Association Conservation District.

Steve Raymer, principal of North, said it is a good program.

“A very small percentage of these kids live on farms,” he said, “and obviously agriculture and farm practices are important to our town.”

Tedford, a teacher in Goodland for six years, said he supports the program because students get to learn to appreciate conservation practices of farmers and ranchers in our area. Farming is important to the area, he said, and “kids are getting away from the farm.”

He said he started the slide show presentation because not only do students get more excited when they work with computers, they learn important technology.

The students said they enjoyed the field trips.

“At first, I thought, ‘Cool! We get

See FIELD TRIP, Page 4

Third, fourth graders to teach board science

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

A group of third and fourth graders will teach the Goodland School Board how to solve problems using science and about the rain forest at a regular meeting on Monday.

The board devotes the second meeting of each month during the school year to visiting one of the districts’ five schools.

Members will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Central Elementary School gym, where they will watch student presentations.

The session will start a half-hour later than normal so members can attend a dinner at the high school.

Sharon Gregory, Central principal, said third and fourth graders in Susan Jensen’s, Virginia Palmgren’s and Marilyn Sower’s classes will demonstrate science inquiry method by leading the board through an activity.

She said the teachers have been trained in the method, which fits with the Kansas science curriculum, and are instructing other staff members.

Third grade students in Donna

Whitmore’s and Deborah Bantam’s classes will present an integrated science writing activity, Gregory said. She said the rain forest is the project’s theme, and students used skills taught in four or five different subjects to complete the assignment.

After the presentations, the board will hear from Schyler Goodwin, president of the Goodland Development Corporation, about the group’s idea for a community foundation.

The corporation is looking to form a board to help build and manage the

foundation.

Members will also go behind closed doors to talk about annual teacher contract negotiations. Superintendent Marvin Selby said the board and teachers are legally required to exchange letters listing items they want to negotiate by Feb. 1.

The board will hear reports from Superintendent Selby and member Mike Campbell, district representative on the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center board, and may discuss personnel matters in closed session.