

weather report

32°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 5:36 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:21 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:37 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 31 degrees

• Humidity 51 percent

• Sky partly sunny

• Winds west 11 m.p.h.

• Barometer 30.07 inches

and steady

• Record High 72° (1932)

• Record Low -9° (1962)

Last 24 Hours*

High 22°

Low 0°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: clear and cold, low near 10, winds west 5-10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: partly sunny, high mid 40s, low upper teens, 60 percent chance of snow.

Extended Forecast

Friday: mostly cloudy, high mid 20s, 60 percent chance of snow. Saturday: partly cloudy, high upper 20s, low 0-5. Sunday: partly cloudy, high mid 40s, low near 10.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.60 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.50

Corn — \$1.86 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.78

Loan deficiency payment — 21¢

Milo — \$1.59 bushel

Soybeans — \$3.83 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.74

Loan deficiency payment — \$1.18

Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$9.30 cwt.

NuSun — \$9.60 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 33¢

Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$26

(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.

U.S. to train foreign troops

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of U.S. troops could be sent to the former Soviet republic of Georgia to help train its military to fight guerrillas linked to the al-Qaida terrorist network.

"So long as there's al-Qaida anywhere we will help the host countries root them out and bring them to justice," President Bush said today.

Bush said U.S. aid to Georgia in the fight against terrorists would be "mostly equipment and technical advice." He told reporters it would be in keeping with his promise to fight terrorism everywhere.

Though Georgia has asked for military assistance, the two governments have not approved any specific plan, which is "still very much in the formative stages," said Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

State bans new admissions at center

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

The state has banned Wheat Ridge Acres Retirement Community in Goodland from admitting new residents because inspectors claim the facility didn't have sufficient written plans for handling special health or diet needs.

A news release said the Kansas Department of Health and Environment issued an order on Friday prohibiting new admissions at Wheat Ridge, 707 Wheat Ridge Circle, until two mistakes found during an inspection are corrected.

It said the deficiencies "significantly and adversely impact health, safety, nutrition or sanitation for residents" at the facility, which opened in May 2000.

The release said state inspectors visited Wheat Ridge on Feb. 6, 7, 11 and 12 to conduct an annual survey. Judith Cloyd, Wheat Ridge operator, said it was the first time the state has inspected the assisted living center.

A copy of the inspection said the two deficiencies found were first that "the facility failed to develop a written negotiated service agreement based on the service needs of the resident," and second that "the facility failed to provide or coordinate the provision of health care services."

Mike Heideman, a department spokesman, said assisted living centers are required to have a service agreement for every resident that states what the needs of the resident are and what the facility will do to meet those.

The inspection said that a Wheat Ridge resident's negotiated service agreement didn't include plans for how to monitor health and provide a sufficient diet. It said doctors required a resident to have a diabetic diet. It also said that the resident was at risk of falling, and did fall twice and had to be hospitalized.

Wheat Ridge did not check the blood pressure of a resident daily, the state said, although it was required, and didn't have a plan for how to handle a resident who was at risk of falling.

A correction order from the department stating how the deficiencies should be fixed said the facility will collaborate with each resident, and their family, lawyer or case manager, to develop a written service agreement based on needs or preferences.

The order said Wheat Ridge will also provide

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Hospital to spend \$32,500

County will buy half of ambulance

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

The board of the Goodland Regional Medical Center approved applying \$32,500 from the hospital budget to buy an ambulance at its regular meeting Monday.

The secondhand ambulance will cost \$65,000, and the Sherman County commissioners plan to contribute half of the money from the county's budget.

The used ambulance will replace one that drivers have said will only go 65 miles per hour and had had two tires blow out recently. Since it is illegal to pass an emergency vehicle with its lights on, they said, the ambulance could cause traffic problems on the Interstate.

The "new" ambulance comes complete with all the equipment it needs, leaving the hospital with extra equipment to sell.

The board decided that what to do with the old ambulance and equipment is a management decision.

The hospital had \$5,553 income from operations in January, Andy Laue, chief financial officer, said, the first operating profit the hospital has seen in a long time. Last January, he said, the hospital had a \$30,000 loss from operations.

The hospital's net income for January was \$28,471, Laue said, \$5,000 more than last January.

In other business:

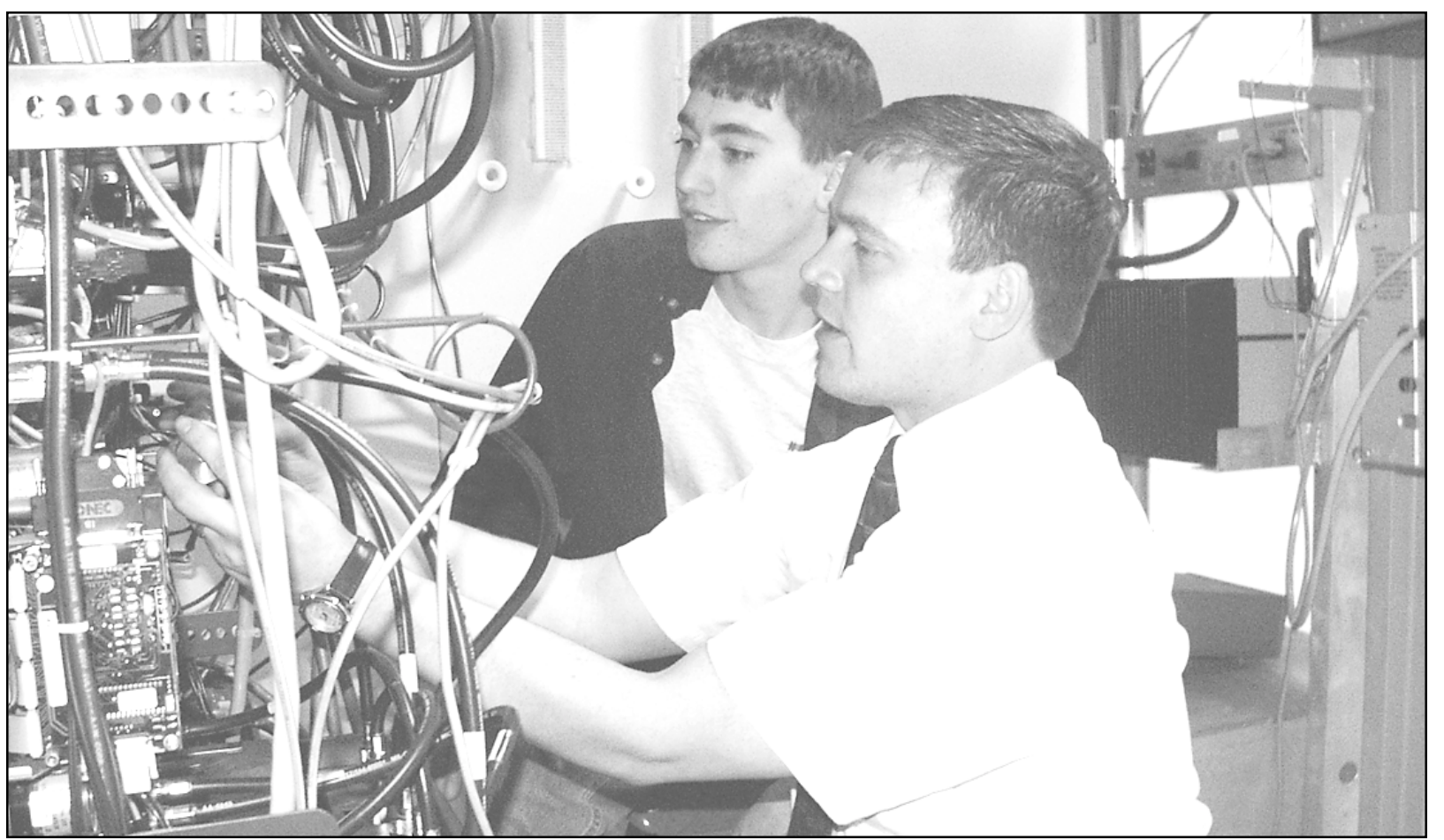
• Laue said the hospital had accepted a liability insurance package from Kammco at \$46,550 a year.

• The board approved appointment of Dr. Dan Golden, a chiropractor, to the affiliate support staff.

• Administrator Jay Jolly said Dr. Sue Jennings had declined the board's offer to continue her privileges, saying that she could not afford maintain malpractice insurance in two states. She is practicing in Nebraska.

• Jolly said the hospital would need to buy another x-ray machine within the next year.

The hospital is buying a good used one from Hays, but has had to repair another machine and will soon need to replace it.



Communications technology teacher Derek Reilley (right) showed second-year student Justin Foster some of the cellular testing equipment given to Northwest Kansas Technical College by Verizon Wireless. Photos by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Grant beefs up college program

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

Northwest Kansas Technical College has gotten a \$57,305 grant from the state to beef up its communications technology program.

The Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing awarded three training equipment grants after reviewing six applications.

The school bought a cellular system analyzer, a radio service monitor test set for second-generation digital cellular technology, a site master and a communications test suite through Verizon Wireless for \$70,000.

"Verizon gave us a good break," said Derek Reilley, a wireless communications teacher. "It should have cost us \$140,000."

To qualify for the grant, the school had to match it with a private donation. Verizon donated a used digital cell site and accessories.

If it had been new, said Richard Hoffman, vice-president of the college, they would have been worth \$400,000.

The college originally applied for a \$70,000 grant, but Reilley said he is happy with what they got.

"We never would have been able to



Student Justin Foster tried out a cell site monitor donated to the school by Verizon Wireless.

get this test equipment without the grant funding," he said. "It was a real plus for us."

The college is the only public school in Kansas, and possibly the country, which provides a wireless

communication program, said Hoffman. There is a Motorola training school outside of Chicago and a Nortel training complex in Dallas, he said, but these are private. The college's program will allow Kansas

companies to train their employees in Kansas. Hoffman said cellular and radio frequency technology is one field which will hopefully stay strong during the economic downturn.

The Department of Commerce and Housing says supports schools which train for key industries and help create jobs, said Holley Sellers, workforce training specialist for the department.

The training grant is the only one which is given directly to schools, said Sellers, but there are three corporate training programs which give preference to companies which choose Kansas schools.

The grant program has been administered by the department since 1996 and has awarded 41 grants in that time. The program was originally run by the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corp., but Sellers said it was moved to be aligned with the rest of the state's workforce training programs.

The college is applying for the grant again for next year, but Hoffman said he isn't sure the money will still be available with the state budget cuts.

Verizon has donated more equipment which the school hopes to apply towards next year's grant.

Ranchers look to shake up cattle industry with yak meat

By Nick Wadhams

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — The yak has grazed in the highlands of Nepal and Tibet for centuries. If rancher Bob Hasse gets his way, thousands of the humpbacked, shaggy beasts will roam the American West, too.

With its low-fat meat and hardy disposition, the yak figures prominently in Hasse's plans to stir up the beef industry.

Hasse believes Americans could be introduced to a new, healthier kind of meat if ranchers could be persuaded to join the yak revolution.

The yak industry is still tiny, with fewer than 2,000 head in the country valued at about \$6 million. The beef industry, with 96 million head, generates \$30 billion each year.

Yak meat is featured on menus in some restaurants and is available from ranchers in several western states.

So far, yak ranchers say, those who have tried the meat cannot get enough of it. Juicier than other low-fat meats, its taste lies somewhere between that of beef and veal.

"The worst comment I've ever had is it tastes just like beef, and that's not a bad negative comment," said Hasse, owner of Desert End Yaks in Montrose, 175 miles southwest of Denver.

Yaks also require less care than cattle, ranchers say.

Some ranchers have experimented with yak-cattle crossbreeds that retain many of the yak's traits.

Yak meat has found a small niche in specialty stores and some restaurants where patrons can afford the higher price.

Yak cuts can be two to four times as expensive as the same cuts of beef.

"Everyone gave me a hard time when I said I was doing yak because the name just sounds silly, but the response was amazing," said chef Chad Schothorn, owner of the upscale Cosmopolitan restaurant in Telluride.

Schothorn serves yak thinly sliced, for about \$28 a plate, though it can also be made into a burger or served in strips. He plans to serve yak at a showcase for the nation's best young chefs at the James Beard House in New York in April.

Yaks, smaller and lighter than cattle, are indispensable in the Himalayas, where they have been used as pack animals for 5,000 years. Their soft hair is made into wool and their tails are sold in India as fly swatters. Yak dung fuels cooking fires at high altitudes where wood isn't available.

Accustomed to living at 14,000 feet, yaks tolerate cold better than cattle and eat less. Unlike cattle, they don't stray as much, don't need help giving birth and don't need expensive feed supplements like corn.

All those traits come through when yak and cattle are bred together, ranchers say.

"I started crossbreeding yak and cow because I wanted to make them have pretty colors," said Jerry McRoberts, who has been breeding yak since 1987 at his ranch in Gurley, Neb. "Then we found out the meat was the best there was."

Yet even yak ranchers acknowledge that gaining wider acceptance will be a formidable challenge. The exotic meat market is already crowded with animals from ostrich to elk, many of which have lost popularity after promises they would revolutionize the cattle industry.

"This sort of thing has happened with llamas, emus and ostriches," said George Seidel, a biomedical sciences professor at Colorado State University. "Some people promote it, some people make some money, but there really isn't that much of a market."

Bison, also touted for its healthy meat, has had the most success, though that industry is in turmoil because of oversupply.

A mix of buffalo and cow called the beefalo never really caught on, so many wonder why a yak cross would.

In addition, while female yak-cow crosses are fertile, bulls are sterile.

But ranchers say yaks aren't nearly as hard to take care of as bison. And unlike bison, yak meat is juicy.

For Phil Wykle, owner of the Wykle Yak Ranch in Kooskia, Idaho, that has meant a tidy profit from his 85 head of yak.

"I was the fodder for gossip in northern Idaho," Wykle said, "but the local ranchers have gotten over laughing at me since now I'm the one buying new pickups instead of old ones."