

The
Goodland Daily News

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26 Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather report

42°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 5:44 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:09 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:45 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 34 degrees

• Humidity 67 percent

• Sky mostly cloudy with haze

• Winds southwest 18 m.p.h.

• Barometer 29.61 inches

• Record High 70° (1987)

• Record Low -4° (1948)

Last 24 Hours*

High 50°

Low 22°

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, low mid 30s, winds southwest 5-10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly sunny, 20 percent chance of snow, high upper 40s, winds northwest 20-30 m.p.h., low upper teens.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: partly sunny, high mid 40s. Sunday: mostly clear, high mid 60s, low mid 20s. Monday: partly cloudy, high lower 60, low upper 20.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.62 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.51

Corn — \$1.87 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.89

Loan deficiency payment — 10¢

Milo — \$1.60 bushel

Soybeans — \$3.96 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.86

Loan deficiency payment — \$1.06

Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$9.30 cwt.

NuSun — \$9.60 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 16¢

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.

Fighting takes lives of 100

GARDEZ, Afghanistan (AP)—Airstrikes from American B-52 bombers shook the ground today in some of the heaviest bombing of a six-day battle against tenacious al-Qaida fighters.

The United States rushed in reinforcements and said 100 militants had been killed the previous day.

U.S. and allied Afghan soldiers were moving forward under al-Qaida fire, taking some ridges and caves in the mountainous region of eastern Afghanistan, said Maj. Bryan Hilfery, spokesman for the 10th Mountain Division.

U.S.-led infantry units have cleared out several cave hide-outs and al-Qaida compounds, including some where troops found AK-47 ammunition, medicine, night-vision devices and documents, including a Saudi identification card.

County tours tax sale land

Officials back paramedic plan

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

The Sherman County commissioners took to the road Tuesday and Wednesday to view the property being listed in the delinquent tax sale to be held April 1.

Before starting the tour Tuesday, though, the commissioners agreed to support a paramedic training program for Bruce Gleason, who is already an emergency medical technician working on the ambulance crew.

Paramedics might work both for the new air ambulance service, scheduled to start up April 15, and on advanced life support crews on county ambulances, which are run by the Goodland Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Gleason said he plans to attend a program in Garden City. The program cost for tuition and books is \$3,200, he said, but he expected the total cost of living there for a year to be over \$20,000.

At the Thursday, Feb. 28, meeting, Jay Jolly, hospital administrator, had

said the hospital board had agreed to pay \$3,500 toward Gleason's program, and expected the hospital foundation to contribute a similar amount.

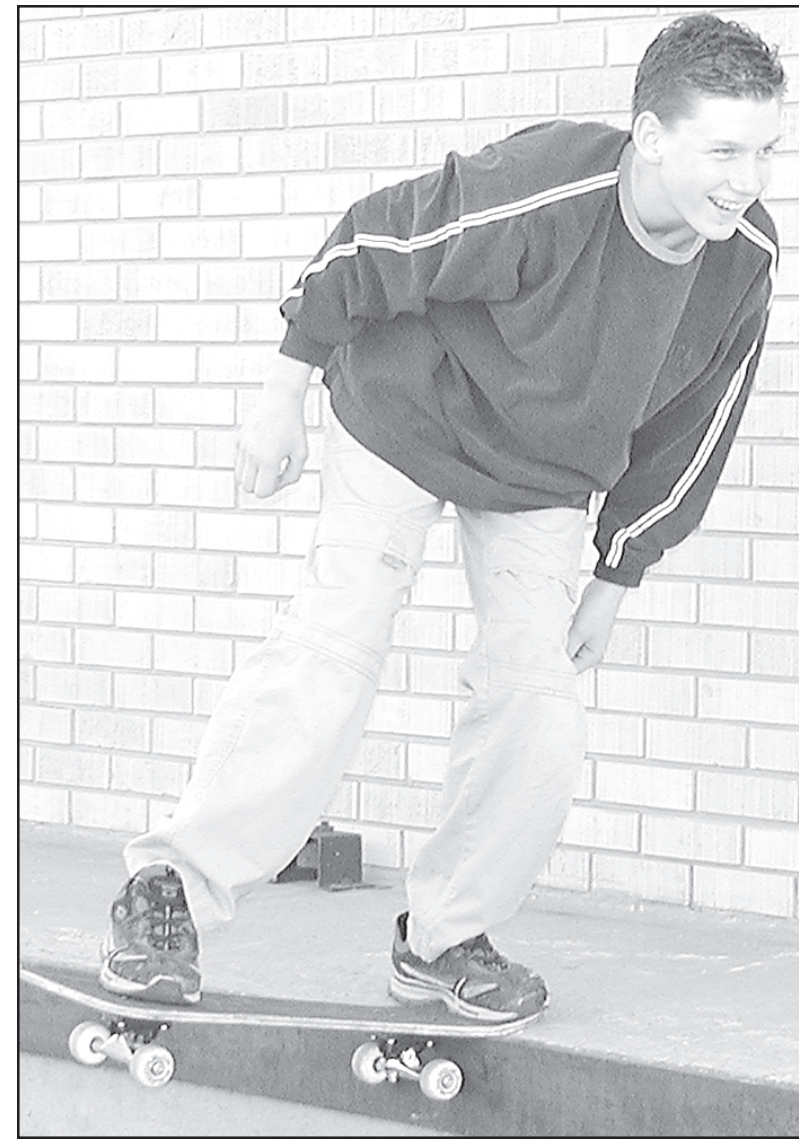
Gleason said the cost is high because the average rent in Garden City is about \$700 per month. He said Eagle Med, the air ambulance operator which plans to set up a base here, has agreed to pay half of the books and tuition in return for a first right to hire him.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked about the additional expenses and Gleason said he had estimated the cost of rent, travel and food in addition to the program costs to reach the \$20,000.

Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld suggested the county would approve the \$3,500, which is the same level as the hospital, but would also consider additional costs if Gleason presents a detailed listing.

Gleason said he is working on the prerequisites for the program and hopes

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Boys polish skateboard, bike stunts

Lukis Medrano (above) practiced a complicated trick on his skateboard Wednesday afternoon in front of a storage facility at Broadway and 12th. Kids gather there on nice days after school to ride their bikes and . Lance Siruta (left) prepared to do a jump off the ledge in front of the storage garages. Brandon Tatman (below) did a bike stunt.

Photos by Skilar Boland
The Goodland Daily News



Angels reach out to help Colby boy

Volunteer pilots fly family to hospital

By Patty Decker

Colby Free Press

A young mother watched as her three small children played and laughed with their grandparents at the city's municipal airport on Monday.

As she smiled at their antics, Jennifer Rosenberg of Colby talked on the pay phone, making last-minute arrangements for a place to spend the night once she and two of the kids arrived in Kansas City.

It was very much like any other airport setting, with luggage, bags, and coats piled high on the seats awaiting a departure. But for Jennifer and her 2-year-old son, Skyler, this was not one of those typical flights where people go to visit relatives, take a vacation or enjoy a recreational outing.

Born with multiple birth defects, Skyler was going to the city for the same reasons he has been going there off and on since he was 2 weeks old.

Jennifer is a stay-at-home mom. Her bright-eyed and good-natured son was born with scoliosis, a club foot and other deformities. His medical problems have meant surgeries and countless visits to specialists.

Skyler, wearing a big smile and paying little, if any, attention to the cast

running from his right foot to his hip, chased after his grandparents, Arnold and Edna Warren of Kanorado. His medical problems didn't seem to hinder him in teasing his siblings, either. Road trips and airplanes are something he knows very well.

As Skyler and his sister, Serena, 5, and brother, Seth, 1, scurried around the lobby, Jennifer hung up the phone and turned to her in-laws, saying that she was unable to find a place for the night, but wasn't worried. It was a minor problem compared to the heartache she has experienced watching as physicians diligently work to make her son's life better.

"Once we arrive at Children's Mercy Hospital, I know everything will work out OK," she said in a calm tone. "It always does."

Yet through all the good and bad, Jennifer and her family have never lost hope that Skyler's condition will improve and there are a lot of people who want to do their small part in making sure those prayers are answered.

Flights to Kansas City are never a problem. Volunteer pilots from Angel Flight Central, which covers 11 west-

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Dust pile fire hard to snuff

Sherman County firefighters spent a good part of last night soaking a pile of smoldering grain dust, which caught fire about 5:30 p.m. in a field east of Goodland.

Ken Griffith, rural fire chief, said firemen worked until 6:30 p.m. to douse the blaze, then it reignited around 10:30 p.m. and wasn't completely snuffed until about 2 a.m.

He said the fire started in a load of grain dust Mueller Grain had dumped on land owned by Ihrig Farms about two miles east and three miles south of



Firemen sprayed a pile of grain dust that caught fire about 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday east of Goodland. The firefighters went back to the station about 6:30 p.m., but were called out again at 10:30 p.m.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Goodland. Firemen spent 3 1/2 hours wetting the pile after the second call, Griffith said, so there was no chance embers would ignite conservation re-

serve grass to the south. The fire chief said he has an idea about what caused the fire, but needs to do more investigating.

Board offers teachers retirement incentive

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

If you're a teacher in Goodland and you're eligible for retirement, this could be a good year to make the switch.

After talking behind closed doors for 10 minutes Monday, the Goodland School Board decided to offer eligible staff members 10 percent of their total yearly salary if they retire this year. Members said they were legally allowed to talk in private because it was a matter of employer-employee negotiations.

If teachers approve the retirement incentive this week, it will be added to the 2001-2002 negotiated agree-

ment. Superintendent Marvin Selby said he heard this morning that a majority of teachers had voted for the bonus.

Kathy Russell, acting as president because Dick Short couldn't attend the meeting, said the board wants to avoid having to lay off tenured teachers to save money.

The district is facing budget problems as it will probably receive less money from the state next year. Members have already discussed cutting non-tenured staff and assistant coaches, but haven't made any decisions.

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