

weather report

66°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:20 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:13 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:21 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 57 degrees
- Humidity 46 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds variable 5 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.15 inches and falling
- Record High 80° (1936)
- Record Low 5° (1997)

Last 24 Hours*

High 72°
Low 44°
Precipitation .09

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Thunderstorms likely, low mid 40s, 70 percent chance of rain, winds southeast 10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly sunny, high upper 70s, low mid 40s, winds light from southwest.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly sunny, high lower 80s, low near 50. Monday: mostly cloudy, high lower 80s. Tuesday: chance of rain, high lower 60s. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.53 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.45
 - New crop — \$2.51
 - Corn — \$1.77 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.78
 - Loan deficiency payment — 21¢
 - Milo — \$1.46 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$3.93 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.95
 - Loan deficiency payment — 97¢
 - Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$8.80 cwt.
 - NuSun — \$8.85 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 91¢
 - Confection current — \$16/\$8 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$28
- (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.

Israel won't set end of war

JERUSALEM — Secretary of State Colin Powell and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon couldn't agree today on a timetable for withdrawing Israeli troops from Palestinian cities and towns. "I hope we can find a way to come to agreement on this point of the duration of the operations and get back to a track that will lead to a political settlement because that is uppermost in everyone's mind," Powell said after several hours of talks with the Israeli leader. Sharon, for his part, gave no commitment on when the military operation would end. "Israel is conducting a war against the Palestinian infrastructure of terror and hopes to end it as soon as possible," Sharon said at a news conference with Powell. As the United States stepped up pressure, an explosion went off near Jerusalem's outdoor market.

Airplane to deliver better health care

Air ambulance to land Monday

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

A twin turbine airplane will be landing at 8 a.m. at Renner Field on a special mission — to bring better medical care to Goodland and the surrounding area.

The Beech King Air C-90 air ambulance will

on display at the airport for the public to view.

It has been at Hays Medical Center since 1994, said Don McElroy, program director for EagleMed in Wichita, and moving it to Goodland has been on the drawing board for five years.

The Goodland Regional Medical Center board voted last summer to bring the service here, and the hospital has been working with EagleMed since then.

A crew of 12 has been hired and trained, McElroy said, including people from St. Francis, Burlington and Manhattan.

Bringing the plane to Goodland and stationing a helicopter in Hays will make it possible to more

quickly transport critically ill and trauma patients to larger hospitals. And with the air ambulance, patients will have the care of a paramedic and a flight nurse during the trip.

Though the plane is capable of flying all over the U.S., McElroy said, it will fly mostly in Kansas and Colorado.

It would not routinely take patients to other areas, he said. But it will transport a lot of patients in Kansas and Colorado.

Jeff Krall, director of emergency medical services at the hospital, said EagleMed hopes to average 1 1/2 calls per day.

He said the staff with EagleMed will help up-

date the ground ambulance service in Goodland. The firm is working with the hospital here to establish an Advanced Life Support ambulance service, Krall said.

In an advanced life support ambulance, he said, patients will get almost as much care they would get in the emergency room.

When the hospital is able to purchase the equipment and train the right staff, Krall said, ambulance service will include hooking patients to a heart monitor, administering heart and pain medication, advanced airway procedures (making an incision when not able to intubate) and the ability to correct a collapsed lung.

Have say on color of M&M

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

If you were going to eat an M&M, what color would you want it to be?

Sabrina Twombly, a 21-year-old singer and chiropractic assistant in Goodland, will be asking Wal-Mart shoppers that question from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

It will be one of the most colorful elections Goodland has ever seen.

As part of the M&M/Mars Candy Co.'s "global color election," Twombly said she will set up a booth at the store on K-27 where people can cast their vote for a new M&M color. The three candidates are "Purple Power," "Think Pink" and "Awesome Aqua," but voters who don't like those choices can write-in their own color.

Twombly said she will count the votes and send the results to the company.

Scott Hudler, a spokesman for M&M (the initials of founders Mars and Murrie), said votes will be taken across the world and sent to D.L. Blair, a Nebraska sweepstakes management company, to be counted.

He said the results will be announced at an evening ceremony June 19 in New York. Hudler said people will be able to watch the event on the Internet.

For those who aren't interested in voting on Saturday, there will be other reasons to visit the booth.

Twombly, who also works at Golden Chiropractic Clinic, said voters will receive a free sample of M&Ms, the popular hard-shell chocolate candy, and can guess how many M&Ms there are in a jar. The person with the closest guess will win the jar of candy, she said.

The booth will be a kid magnet, she said, because there will be free candy and a coloring station. Twombly said hers is just one of thousands of booths that will go up Saturday at Wal-Marts across the country.

M&M has spent the past few weeks recruiting election workers and advertising the campaign.

"It's a big thing," she said. "It's huge."

So how'd she get the job?

Twombly said a talent agency in Kansas City called the Sherman County Extension office about three weeks ago looking for someone in Goodland who is outgoing, well known and friendly.

Twombly, who worked at the office for three years, said they gave the agency her name.

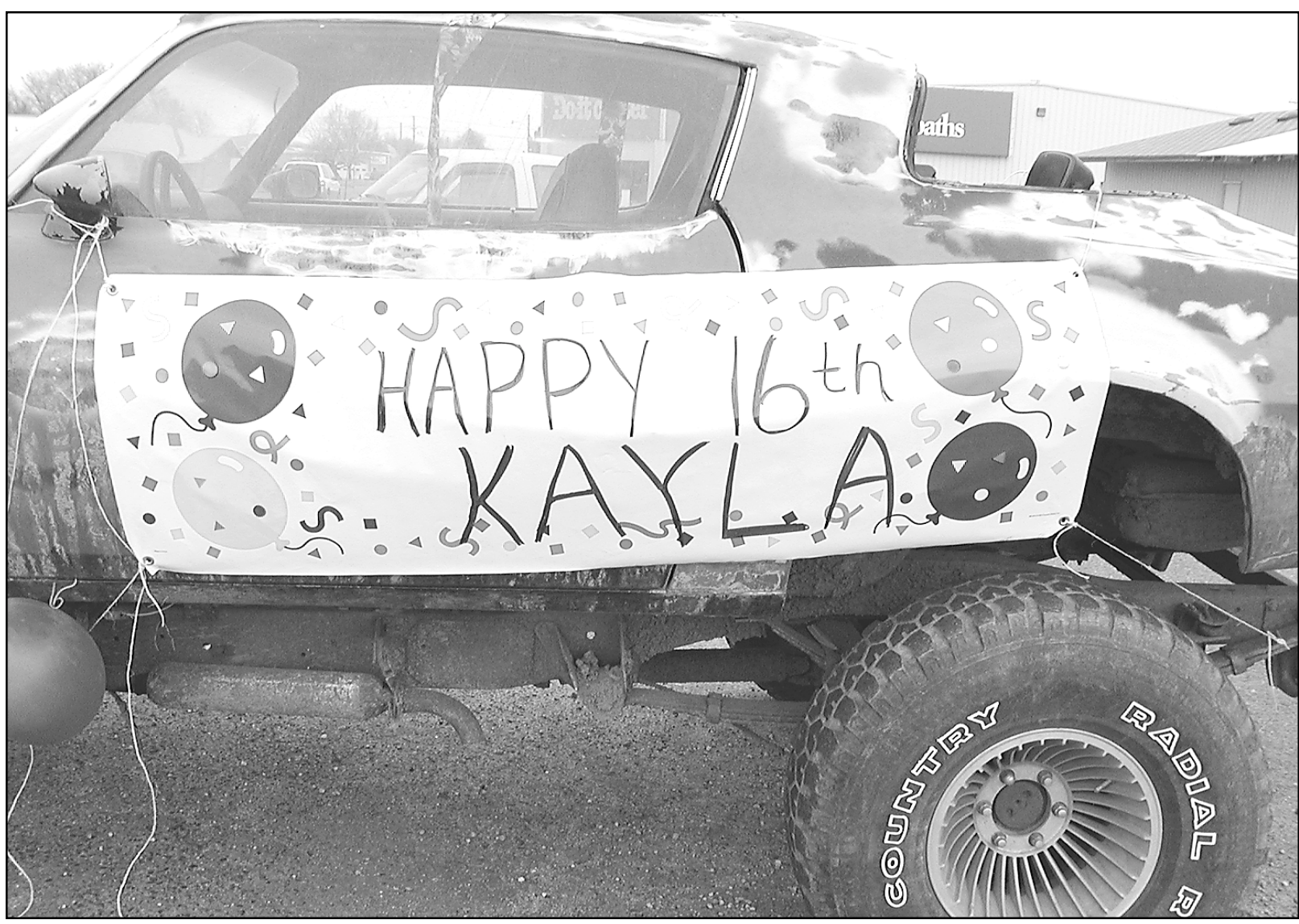
"It was quite an honor that the extension service thought of me," she said.

Twombly said the talent agency put her in contact with Mars, which mailed her supplies for the booth and sent the free samples to Wal-Mart. She said she and thousands of other M&M election workers were trained during a telephone conference.

Twombly, a singer in her spare time, said it may not be the best gig she'll ever be offered, but it'll be good pay, good exposure and a good time. She said she'll get \$12 an hour.

It's not the first time Mars has relied on consumers to pick a new M&M color. In 1995, the company asked people to choose between blue, pink and purple. Of the 10 million who voted, 54 percent choose blue, which replaced the tan M&M.

Twombly said she'll be voting for pink because it's her favorite color, but she's heard most people prefer purple. "We'll see how it goes," she said.



A sign wishing Kayla Rasure happy birthday was attached to a car in the parking lot of Rasure Lumber Do It Center on Wednesday morning. Photo by Josef Felver/The Goodland Daily News

'Special girl' gets unique birthday gift

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

When Kayla Rasure walked out of her house Wednesday morning, she found her front yard covered in crepe-paper streamers and a posterboard sign wishing her a happy birthday.

She might have thought that was it, but her friends and co-workers owed her more. Lots more.

As she was driven to school by her father, she saw another sign. Then another. And another.

"She was pretty surprised," said her dad, Kevin Rasure. "She was expecting something, but I'm not sure she expected this."

Signs were up all over town which read "Happy Birthday" and "Sweet 16: Never Been Kissed."

It took planning and work to get them there. Kayla's co-workers, li-

brarians Karen Gillihan and Julie Crotinger, got to work about 5 a.m. Wednesday morning.

With the help of John Palmquist and Barb Winston, they placed 10 to 12 signs around town where Rasure would see them, Gillihan said, and put a larger sign on a car in the parking lot at her dad's business, Rasure Lumber Do It Center.

Alex West loaned them a car for the birthday prank, she said, and Tina Baker received permission to get it parked.

It only makes sense that Rasure was waiting for something to happen, since the library has a tradition of birthday pranks.

"Everyone who was involved, she had done something to them at one time or another," Baker said.

Rasure works part-time at the li-

brary, Gillihan said, and she has pulled a few pranks of her own. A few years ago, she said, Kayla posted missing person fliers around town with Gillihan's picture on them, and she has been involved with other birthday jokes.

"I'm pretty sure Kayla was the one who put my picture in the paper on my birthday," Gillihan said. (It was actually Winston who brought in the picture and bought the ad, but don't tell Gillihan.)

The folks down at the library have almost made an art of birthday jokes.

"We do this sort of thing all the time," Gillihan said, "but we never do anything which could harm anybody."

Rasure's parents knew about the joke, and had given permission to the pranksters to decorate the house.

"They did it tastefully," Kevin Ra-

sature said. "They did a good job."

Gillihan said the jokesters wanted Kevin Rasure to know where the signs would be so he would make sure to take the right route when he took Kayla to school.

"I'm sure she was kind of embarrassed," her dad said. "Most 16-year-old girls are pretty easily embarrassed."

Rasure is now an employee of the library, but she had been a volunteer there since the sixth grade, Gillihan said.

"She's a sweet girl, but she can be kind of ornery," she said. "I don't think most people see that side of her."

Gillihan said Rasure has been counting down the days to Kayla's 16th birthday since mid-February.

"We wanted to make it special," she said, "because she is a special girl."

Deadline for mailing tax forms is 4 p.m. here

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

If you don't get your income tax forms in the mail before 4 p.m. Monday, you could face penalties from the Internal Revenue Service or a trip to Colby.

The Goodland post office will not stay open late on Monday, and anything received after 4 p.m. will be post-marked for the next day, said clerk Penny Sheldon.

The Colby post office will stay open later, Postmaster Jim McDonald said, at least until traffic dies out. At midnight, he said, a clerk will stamp any mail which has come in.

If you've put off completing your tax

as bad as it used to be. "Years ago, it was really bad," she said. "People would wait until the very last minute, showing up on the 15th and wanting their tax returns done."

Thursday was probably her last big day preparing tax returns this year, she said. A few people may wander in her door today or Monday, but she said the rush has passed.

Most of the work she has left to do, she said, is filing extensions for clients.

If a person doesn't have the necessary paperwork, Van Vleet said, he can get an extension until Aug. 15.

An extension only gives you extra time to turn in the forms, she added. It doesn't mean you can wait to make a

payment to the state or federal revenue services. If you will owe money, you should make a payment, either the amount you paid last year, or an estimate of what you owe this year. Otherwise, Van Vleet said, you can be hit with stiff penalties.

Accountants and tax preparers are ready for the 15th to get here so they can relax a little. Moore said the middle of February through April are the busiest months for filing returns.

She said 90 percent of her clients file electronically, which can help them get their refunds back faster, but there are some holdouts who still use pen and paper. Many just don't like using computers, she said.

Moderates scrambling to find replacement for Stovall

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Moderate Republicans worried about finding another candidate for governor as Attorney General Carla Stovall scheduled an announce-

ment about her plans.

Moderates were uneasy today because many of them believed Stovall plans to drop out of the race for personal reasons. The attorney general was vacationing this week in the Ukraine and

the Republic of Moldova.

Stovall plans to make an announcement at 1:30 p.m. Monday, in the lobby outside her office in the Memorial Building, said spokeswoman Mary Tritsch.

Moderate leaders united behind Stovall last year, and many Republicans see State Treasurer Tim Shallenburger as the conservatives'