

weather report

66°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:30 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:59 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:31 p.m.

Midday Conditions

Extreme Fire Danger

- Soil Temperature 52 degrees
- Humidity 36 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds southwest 20-27 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.00 inches and falling
- Record High 96° (1989)
- Record Low 22° (1982)

Last 24 Hours*

High 62°
Low 30°
Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: clear, low lower 40s, winds west 5-15 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly sunny, high lower 80s, low lower 40s, winds south 10-20 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: mostly sunny, high mid 60s, low upper 30s. Thursday: mostly clear, high mid 70s. Friday: partly cloudy with chance of thunderstorms, high mid 80s, low near 50. (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 — \$2.53
 - New Crop — \$2.59
 - Corn — \$1.82 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.76
 - Loan deficiency payment — 23¢
 - Milo — \$1.51 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$4.07 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.09
 - Loan deficiency payment — 83¢
 - Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$9.10 cwt.
 - NuSun — \$9.25 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency prmt. — 85¢
 - 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.

U.S. envoy meets Arafat

RAMALLAH, West Bank — A U.S. envoy met today with Yasser Arafat to try to resolve the key dispute holding up the start of cease-fire talks — standoffs between Israeli troops and wanted men in the Palestinian leader's West Bank headquarters and Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity. The Palestinians say they will not begin truce talks until Israeli forces have left all Palestinian-run areas in the West Bank. Israel says it will only lift the blockades in Ramallah and Bethlehem once gunmen holed up in the two compounds surrender. Yesterday, Israel further scaled down its three-week military offensive. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told his Cabinet he will not discuss the dismantling of isolated Jewish settlements before October 2003 elections.

Southeast storms steal our rain

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Storms in southeast Kansas stole Sherman County's rain this weekend.

Bruce Entwistle, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Goodland, said about .04 of an inch of rain fell Saturday on dusty streets and thirsty fields in Sherman County, bringing little relief.

"There was enough to make you want more from the sky," he said.

The conditions here were right for a good amount of rain, Entwistle said, but two storms

south and southeast of Goodland sucked up moisture moving in from the Gulf of Mexico. Those storms dumped around 3 inches of rain in some areas, he said, while Sherman County was pretty much left dry.

"When that happens," he said, "any rain we get tends to be very light and spotty."

It was the same story across all of northwest Kansas. Entwistle said the highest rainfall report was in Grainfield, where .11 of an inch of moisture fell.

A warm, dry winter and spring has withered crops here, but the meteorologist said Sherman

County is in better shape than some parts of the state.

Sherman County is considered in "moderate drought," he said, while part of Wallace County and much of southwest Kansas is in "severe drought." Entwistle said he found the drought monitor on the University of Kansas' website. He said we're not doing much better than other areas, though.

"We're hurting," he said. "There's no doubt about that."

But, he noted, relief could be its way. Entwistle said experts at the Climate Prediction Center in

Washington expect Sherman County's drought condition to improve later this year. Probably not anytime soon, however.

Entwistle said this weekend's storm was caused by a weakening upper level disturbance moving over the area and a cold front. He said it looks as if the same thing could happen this weekend, but added that other storms could steal the moisture again.

Entwistle said people shouldn't give up hope. He said the county usually gets at least one good rain between mid-May and early June.

"It's still early to get an all-day soaker," he said.



Student Mike Horton painted a hallway Thursday in the house the carpentry department at Northwest Kansas Technical College is building. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

House building is old college tradition

Carpentry students say it's good practice

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

Northwest Kansas Technical College carpentry students are doing just what they've done every year for nearly four decades — building a house.

The carpentry department has built a house every year since the school opened in 1964, and it's always auctioned off the last Saturday in July.

Carpentry students design it and build it from the floor up.

"It gives the students something tangible to build," said Robert Woodrow, the carpentry instructor. "When they graduate, they will be working in some phase of carpentry, and this will give them a basic knowledge of building and some good experience."

Students agree that actually building a house on the school grounds helps them learn basic techniques.

"It's good practical experience," said Melissa Alderson, a carpentry student from Colby, and the only

woman in the class.

"They don't just come to work everyday and build a house," Woodrow said. "It is a school environment. They generally have two hours of classroom every day, then six hours of hands-on training."

He said the students have to plan before they can start banging away. Every year there are a few changes made to the design, and the budding contractors have to decide what they those will be. They draw their suggestions on a drafting board with a slide ruler.

This year, Woodrow said "coffered"

ceilings were added in the master bedroom, and a small enclosure was built by the living room, which the buyer can use as an entry to a basement or as a pantry.

Not everyone who wants to become a carpenter was thrilled with the idea of designing. Students said a classmate who quit said he didn't take the class to learn how to draw.

Others say it's nice to be able to read building plans, though.

"It separates the men from the boys," one student said. "I'm not kid-

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Band has garage sale to raise \$25,000 for trip

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland High School band made a small start this weekend on its quest to raise \$25,000 for a trip to the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio.

About 40 people donated items to be sold at a garage sale in the high school gym, said band instructor Deandra Wirth, including Christmas ornaments, books, cakes and cookies, board games, a piano, and even a washer and dryer set donated by McClure's Appliance which sold for \$300.

"A lot of people helped out and donated," Wirth said, "even some people not connected with the band."

She guessed that the band raised \$1,500-1,600, still a long way from the \$25,000 needed to get to the bowl.

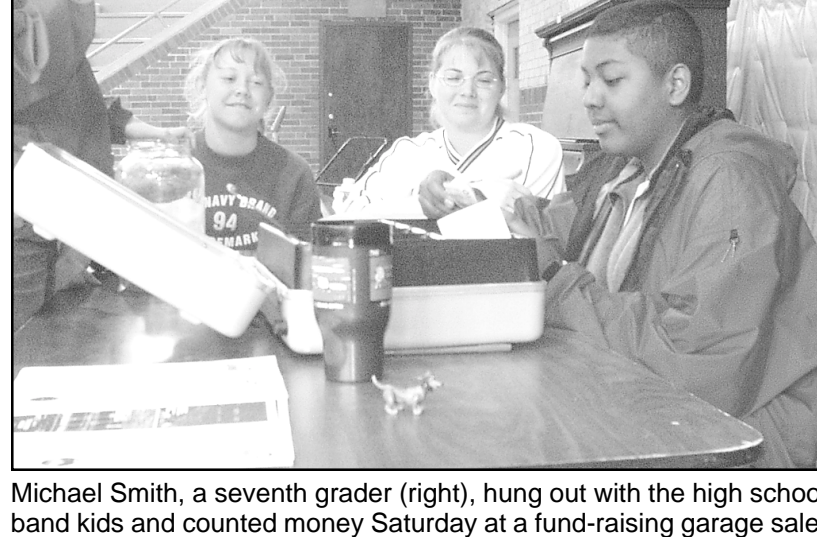
From Dec. 26 to 30, the band plans

to compete in a festival at Alamo Heights High School in San Antonio. Part of the package deal is a gala dinner, dance and award ceremony, and tickets to watch the Alamo Bowl on Dec. 29.

Wirth says she has a long list of possible fund-raisers to send her 65 kids to Texas, including car washes, concession stands, a raffle and selling dinners to Biking Across Kansas riders when they stop here in June. The band wants to have a booth at the Home and Garden Show on Saturday, and will have its annual Concert in the Park on May 14 in Gulick Park.

It is a lot of work, but Wirth said it should be worthwhile.

"This should be a lot of fun for these kids," she said, "and a good experience."



Michael Smith, a seventh grader (right), hung out with the high school band kids and counted money Saturday at a fund-raising garage sale, while Megan Sheldon (left) and Deandra Wirth watched. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Vote for anti-immigration candidate shocks France

PARIS (AP) — Defeated French presidential hopefuls on both left and right today rushed to endorse incumbent Jacques Chirac for the second-round vote — a concerted effort to keep power out of the hands of extreme right

leader Jean-Marie Le Pen.

Chirac, a conservative, and the anti-immigrant Le Pen will face each other in the runoff vote May 5. Le Pen's second-place finish in Sunday's first round dealt a crushing blow to Socialist Prime

Minister Lionel Jospin, who came in third.

The voting shook the political establishment and sent protesters into the streets. Jospin announced his retirement from politics, calling Le Pen's

success a "thunderbolt" and a "very disturbing sign for France and for our democracy."

Le Pen, 73, leader of the anti-immi-

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Cardinals say they will act

Child abuse scandal sparks Rome meeting

BOSTON (AP) — Cardinal Bernard Law flew to Rome for meetings on the sex abuse crisis in the Roman Catholic Church after telling parishioners that "immediate and decisive changes" were required to address the problem.

Law was one of several cardinals to deliver messages to parishioners on Sunday in advance of their unprecedented meeting with Pope John Paul II to discuss a scandal that has shaken American trust in the church.

Law, who has been at the center of much of the growing criticism over the church's handling of abusive priests, appeared in public Sunday for the first time since Easter.

In a "special message" to the 600 worshippers at the Cathedral of Holy Cross, Law said that he would convey to the pope the gravity of the problem and the need for increased protection of children, services for victims and support for active priests.

"Some have likened the situation ...," Law said, "to last year's Sept. 11 tragedy, a crisis which shocks the heart and soul and which must spark immediate and decisive changes in order to prevent possible recurrence in the future."

The cardinals of New York, Philadelphia, Miami, Detroit and Baltimore also had messages of encouragement for their congregations Sunday as they prepared to leave for Rome.

Twelve of the 13 American cardinals are expected to attend the meeting.

"Despite the anger and broken trust that many feel toward me," Law said, "and despite perceptions that (the meeting) is simply a gathering of aged conservative cardinals and Vatican officials, please know that as long as I am in position to do so, I will work tirelessly to address this crisis and to underscore its severity."

Law's remarks were met with applause, but outside the cathedral about three dozen protesters called for his resignation and questioned the significance of the Rome meeting.

"Nothing's going to come out of it," said Mike McGuire, 38, of Dracut, who said he was brought up Catholic. "It's just a meeting of the boys' club: Too little, too late."

In New York, Cardinal Edward Egan issued a letter to parishioners, apologizing "if in hindsight" he has made any mistakes in handling sex abuse cases involving priests.

"I will do everything in my power to ensure, as much as is humanly possible, that such abuse by clergy will never happen again," Egan wrote in the letter, which was read at Masses throughout the weekend. "You should expect nothing less of me and the leaders of our church."

Miami Archbishop John C. Favalora assured Catholics that there is no active priest in the archdiocese who is the subject of a credible allegation of sexual misconduct.

Cardinal Adam Maida of Detroit apologized for "mistakes made by Church leaders — here and elsewhere" in a letter that read at the archdiocese's 310 parishes during the weekend.

Maida, like Law, called for improved communication about the crisis.

"The first and best thing you can do is state the problem and then talk about it," said Maida, who spoke Sunday at Detroit Metropolitan Airport before leaving for Rome.