

weather report

80°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:10 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:11 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 66 degrees
• Humidity 45 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds south 18 m.p.h.
• Barometer 30.01 inches and falling
• Record High 100° (1969)
• Record Low 36° (1998)

Last 24 Hours*

High 73°
Low 57°
Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low lower 60s, south 10-15 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly sunny, high upper 90s, low mid 60s, south 15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: mostly sunny, high 100-105, low mid 60s. Sunday: partly cloudy with chance of showers and thunderstorms during the night, high upper 80s. Monday: mostly clear with chance of showers, high near 80. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.74 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.67
New Crop — \$2.72
Corn — \$1.90 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.87
Loan deficiency payment — 12¢
Milo — \$1.60 bushel
Soybeans — \$4.51 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.57
Loan deficiency payment — 35¢
Millet — \$3.75 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$10.50 cwt.
NuSun — \$10.65 cwt.
Posted county price — \$9.96
Confection current — inquire
Pinto beans — \$27
(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.

Israelis shell Arafat home

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Israeli troops shelled Yasser Arafat's headquarters early today, blew a hole in his bedroom wall and destroyed three buildings in the sprawling compound in response to a Palestinian suicide attack on an Israeli bus that killed 17 passengers.

Six hours later, the troops left the compound and the rest of the city of Ramallah.

Later today, tanks rolled into the Ramallah suburb of Beituniya and surrounded a large apartment complex, where troops arrested six men, including a suspected member of the extremist Islamic group Hamas. During the raid, troops came under fire and responded with machine gun fire from tanks and helicopters.

In a West Bank shooting today, an Israeli motorist was killed, a hospital official said.

Governor to cut budget, keep statue

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Even as Kansas government prepared for the possibility of new cuts in education and social services, Gov. Bill Graves promised today that the Statehouse dome will get a statue.

With revenue collections continuing to fall short of expectations, Graves said it is possible that the state will have to juggle bills or take other steps to avoid a deficit before the current fiscal year ends June 30. Also, he said, it may have to cut spending from the budget to prevent a defi-

cit at the end of the next fiscal year.

Yet Graves told reporters the state will reinforce the Statehouse dome — at an estimated cost of \$750,000 — so that it can hold the 20-foot "Ad Astra" statue, depicting a Kansa Indian with an arrow drawn to the sky. Some legislators have suggested the state shouldn't spend its tax dollars on the project because of its budget problems.

Plans call for the statue to go on the dome in September, and Graves said, "I look forward to the ceremony in September."

Graves called his news conference a day after release of the latest figures on Kansas

government's finances.

The new numbers were final revenue collection figures for the current fiscal year, from July 1, 2001, through May 31. The state took in almost \$181 million less than expected.

The figures came from the Kansas Legislative Research Department. The Department of Revenue released its own, preliminary numbers last week, which showed the shortfall at more than \$194 million.

Either figure, if it holds up when fiscal year 2002 ends, would blow a big hole in the budget legislators approved and Graves signed into law

for the fiscal 2003.

State Budget Director Duane Goossen said Wednesday that the state expects to finish its current fiscal year with almost no money left in its general fund. If the shortfall gets any larger, the state could be scrambling to avoid a deficit.

"The point is, we're down — and it's a big number," he said.

A forecast issued in March predicted that the state would collect about \$3.75 billion in its general fund for the current fiscal year through May. But the state collected \$3.57 billion, or 4.8 percent less than forecast.

Girl wins a teen's dream

Famous musicians hold private concert

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Cortney Ragatz, an eighth grader who grew up in Goodland, has been living every teen-ager's dream.

And Goodland students just missed out on quite a concert.

A group of famous, good-looking, young male musicians flew from England to perform their hit songs in a private concert for Cortney and a couple hundred of her classmates. It's no doubt made her the most popular girl at her new middle school in Frederick, Md. — at least for a day.

"BBMak," a British pop trio adored by many American teens, would most likely have performed in Goodland last month if Cortney's family hadn't moved to Maryland in February.

Goodland was represented, however, as two of Cortney's friends from here flew to Frederick for the concert on Friday and will be returning today.

After working for eight years at the National Weather Service office in Goodland, Cortney's father, Kevin Lynott, was promoted to a hydrologist position at weather service headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., just outside Washington. He said his wife Elaine and their three daughters were excited about the move, but hated to leave their friends here.

A month before they moved, Elaine said, they found out Cortney had won a contest sponsored by the ABC television network. The prize was a BBMak concert and the chance for Cortney and nine of her friends to meet the group's members, Ste, Christian and Mark.

Elaine said Cortney had entered the contest last summer by calling a phone number she saw after an ABC show. She and her mother both figured it was impossible for her to win.

"I couldn't believe it," Cortney said. "I thought it was so unreal. I thought my mom was pulling my leg."

Elaine said she thought it was a joke, too, until a package arrived outlining the details. Despite the move, they were planning to hold the concert in Goodland on May 12, she said, but it turned out it was easier for the group to fly into Washington.

Cortney said she was a little disappointed with that.

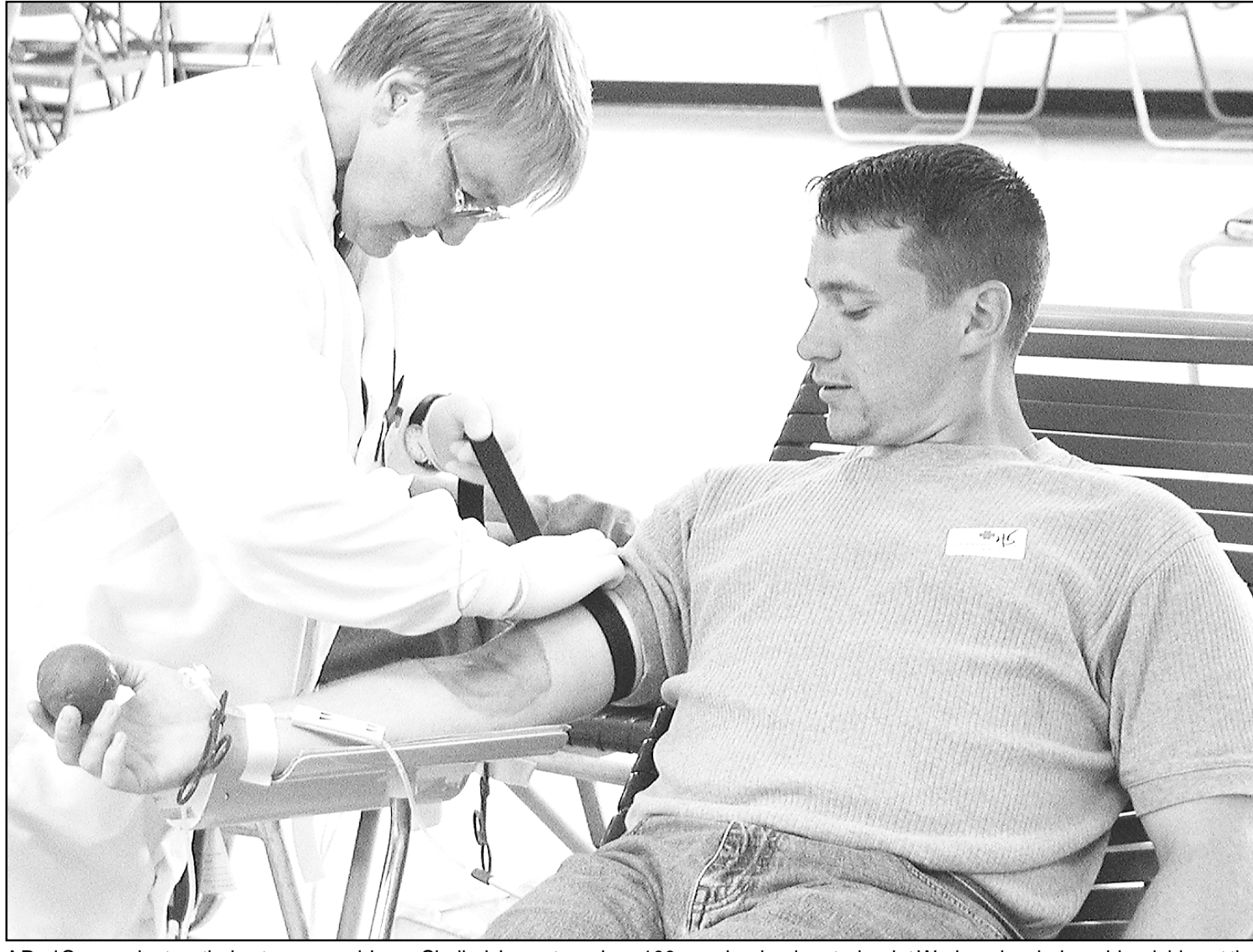
"I wanted to see my friends again," she said, adding that the concert has helped her meet new people in Maryland.

"It was an advantage when I moved," she said.

Elaine said BBMak performed Fri-

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Donating life



A Red Cross volunteer tied a strap around Jason Shelledy's arm to make it easier to see his veins and draw blood. Shelledy was one of nearly 100 people who donated a pint Wednesday during a blood drive at the Catholic Church. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Nearly 1,000 bikers to roll in for annual event

More than 900 people will be rolling into town today and Friday, many of them filling up Goodland hotels and restaurants for the annual Biking Across Kansas event on Saturday.

At last count, 914 people are expected to ride in the 520-mile cross-country trip, said Donna Price, assistant director of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Price said there are three routes bicyclists can take, but for the first time this year, all three will start at Kanorado and come through Goodland. Participants are already arriving, she said. Some of

them will sleep at Max Jones Fieldhouse, while others will check into a motel.

A welcoming reception will be held for riders at the fieldhouse about 2 p.m. Friday by the Goodland Ambassadors.

Biking Across Kansas estimates that a town one route stops at can bring in \$8,000. Price said some people treat the event as a vacation, and might spend \$2,000 on the trip, while others might only spend about \$100.

Many riders are Kansans, she said, but others come from all over the country.

The trip from the Colorado to Missouri borders takes a week to finish. Riders will start about 7 a.m. Saturday and should get to the Missouri line on Saturday, June 15.

The three routes go through northern, central and southern Kansas, and riders will travel an average of 66 miles per day.

Bikers will be able to stop at high school gyms along the way, and some of the towns provide meals. There are rest stops every 10 or 15 miles where riders are encouraged to stop and grab a snack or cool drink.

Medics and mechanics are available for any problems which might pop up, either for the riders or their machines.

On Thursday, the three routes will unite in Sedan and on Friday all the riders will ride together down historic Route 66 to Oswego. On Saturday, the final day of the trip, they will travel to the Missouri line and then back to Galena, in far southeast Kansas, for a celebration picnic at noon.

The main goal of the 27-year-old biking event is to have fun, get some exercise and enjoy the beauty of Kansas, organizers say.

Book tells mother's struggle with disabled son

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

As a young mother, she expected a perfect life.

She had married her fairy-tale prince. She lived on a general's estate overlooking the Hudson River. And had just given birth to her first son.

"I was the happiest woman on earth," said Connie Morgan, author of 'Stand, Walk, Run Free.' It was a glorious beginning of how I thought my life was

going to be."

Then she discovered her son had cerebral palsy. That was not part of the perfect life she had envisioned.

Morgan, now 55, grew up in Goodland, the daughter of Larry and Isabel Morgan. At 24, she was married to an Air Force captain and gave birth to a son, Christian Allen, at the West Point Military Hospital.

The difficulties she and her family faced because of her son's disability are

chronicled in her book, which she will sign at the Goodland Public Library at 10 a.m. Saturday.

"It is a story of how I realized that no doctor, technology, money or power, or help of over 6,000 volunteer visits in three states could change the fact that he was brain-damaged," Morgan said.

Morgan created her own publishing company, Shallow Creek Press in Denver, to print the book, plus a couple more she has on the drawing board. She

said the book-signing will be the first time the books are offered to the public.

"This is not a book about tragedy," Morgan said. "It is a story of love, and how I realized the gift of having a disabled child."

Morgan said when Chris was 8, she and her husband decided to leave him in a care facility in Los Angeles when

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Drivers sometimes call police to report a flock of geese on Joe and Joyce Stringer's yard. The birds aren't real, but they sure look like they are. Photo by Eric Yonkey/The Goodland Daily News

Police get calls about flock of geese in yard

A small flock of geese can be seen several times a year — rain, snow or shine — in the Joe and Joyce Stringer yard, 1601 Broadway.

The couple says the decorations look so real to motorists whenever they appear in the yard that city police are occasionally notified about the "wildlife."

The Stringers found the geese at a

store in Springfield, Mo.

"We put them out now and then for the attention they get," the couple said. "Some slow and gawk. Even law enforcement check it out."

Kelsey Thomas, bookkeeper for Goodland Sheet Metal, said the flock looks especially real in a newly fallen snow.