

weather report
27°
at noon

Today

• Sunset, 5:56 p.m.

Tomorrow

 • Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.
 • Sunset, 5:54 p.m.

Middy Conditions

 • Soil Temperature 42 degrees
 • Humidity 92 percent
 • Sky Cloudy
 • Winds ESE - 5
 • Barometer 30.18 inches and falling
 • Record High 88° (1959)
 • Record Low 18° (1997)

Last 24 Hours*

 High 28°
 Low 22°
 Precipitation .05
 snowfall .3 inch

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy, low mid 20s, south wind 5-10. Tomorrow: Partly sunny and warmer, highs low 50s, light south wind at 5; mostly clear Friday night, lows in lower 30s.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Cloudy, 30 percent chance of showers, highs lower 50s, lows mid 30s. Sunday: Cloudy, chance of showers during the day, then chance of snow during the night, high low 50s. Monday: Slight chance of rain, high near 50, low mid 30s. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets
Noon

 Wheat — \$4.41 bushel
 Posted county price — \$4.33
 Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
 Corn — \$2.65 bushel
 Posted county price — \$2.33
 Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
 Milo — \$2.32 hundredweight
 Soybeans — \$5.04 bushel
 Posted county price — \$4.92
 Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
 Millet — \$13.00 hundredweight
 Sunflowers
 Oil current crop — \$11.70 cwt.
 Loan deficiency pmt. — \$10.79
 Confection current — \$17/\$7 cwt.
 Pinto beans — \$18
 (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.
Kline no-show at conference

TOPEKA — After Democrats renewed allegations against Republican Phill Kline, the attorney general candidate was a no-show at his own news conference. Supporters for Kline, who faces Democrat Chris Biggs in the Nov. 5 general election, said he wasn't dodging reporters Wednesday. On Tuesday, Kline's office called the news conference and said "after a brief statement, the candidate will be available for questions."

About an hour before Kline's news conference, Senate Democratic Leader Anthony Hensley called into question Kline's fitness to be attorney general. Hensley offered a list of complaints, many aired previously.

"He's not qualified to be attorney general of Kansas because of allegations swirling around his candidacy," said Hensley.

Shooters likely found

By Allen G. Breed

Associated Press Writer

FREDERICK, Md. — A 41-year-old Army veteran and a teenager described as his stepson were arrested at a roadside rest stop today for questioning in the three-week wave of deadly sniper attacks that have terrorized the Washington, D.C., area.

A law enforcement source said a gun found in their car appeared to have the same caliber as the one used in the shootings. The official said police also found a scope and a tripod in the car, and were awaiting ballistics tests on the

gun.

"We're positive it's these guys," the official told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The arrests — linked to a telephoned boast about a deadly Alabama robbery — raised hopes of a conclusion to the intensive and often frustrating investigation of the shootings that have killed 10 people and critically wounded three others since Oct. 2.

The men taken into custody were not

immediately charged in the sniper attacks, but authorities made it clear the arrests were considered pivotal. A newspaper report said the men were motivated by anti-American bias; police in Washington state, where the men recently lived, said they were not part of any organized group.

President Bush was told that federal authorities were reasonably sure the case had been solved, a senior administration official told The Asso-

ciated Press, also on condition of anonymity.

"There's a strong feeling these people are related to the sniper shootings," said Douglas Gansler, state's attorney in Maryland's Montgomery County, where the sniper task force is based. Asked if he believed the sniper was still at large, he said "no."

The arrests came hours after authorities descended on a home in Tacoma, Wash., believed to hold clues to the investigation. They then issued a nationwide alert for the car, spotted by a motorist and an attendant at the rest stop.

Charles Moose, the Montgomery County police chief leading the investigation, had said John Allen Muhammad was being sought for questioning in the slayings and called him "armed and dangerous." Authorities said Muhammad was traveling with John Lee Malvo, 17.

Muhammad served in the Army as a machinist and had no training as a sniper, according to a senior Defense Department official. Another official said Muhammad was discharged from

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Rebels slay one Russian hostage

Gunmen ready to give lives

MOSCOW (AP) — Chechen gunmen holding hundreds of hostages in a Moscow theater shot and killed one captive and said they were ready to die for their cause, warning today that thousands more of their comrades were "keen on dying."

A blanket-shrouded body, identified only as a woman, was wheeled out of the theater this afternoon, apparently killed in the early hours of the hostage drama. Sergei Ignachenko, a spokesman for the Federal Security Service, said the woman appeared to be in her 20s and had been shot in the chest and her fingers broken.

The rebels stormed the theater at 9:05 p.m. Wednesday as an audience of about 700 people watched a popular musical.

In a broadcast monitored in Cairo, Egypt, the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera satellite TV channel broadcast a videotaped statement by one of the estimated 40 hostage-takers from inside the theater.

"I swear by God we are more keen on dying than you are keen on living," a black-clad male hostage-taker said in the broadcast. "Each one of us is willing to sacrifice himself for the sake of God and the independence of Chechnya."

"Even if we are killed, thousands of brothers and sisters will come after us, ready to sacrifice themselves," declared a female hostage-taker, covered in a black robe except for her eyes.

Al-Jazeera did not explain how it obtained the pictures Al-Jazeera did not explain how it obtained the footage and it was not clear if it had been taken in the theater or before the raid began. Police and soldiers have pushed journalists hundreds of yards back from the theater.

Al-Jazeera is known for having broadcast statements by Osama bin Laden and other members of his al-Qaida terrorist network. Russian and U.S. officials also have said some al-Qaida fighters may be in Chechnya. Chechens also were among fighters ousted from Afghanistan late last year when the ruling Taliban were overthrown.

More than 100 women and children had been released since the gunmen in camouflage stormed into the theater, Moscow police spokesman Valery Gribakin said. The freed hostages were sobbing and shaking as they emerged from the theater which holds 1,163 people.

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Districts asking for day in court

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — The state contends that students, parents and administrators in the Salina and Dodge City school districts haven't raised any new issues in a legal challenge over education funding.

But those critics of the Kansas school finance system want a chance to argue in court about how much money the state spends and how those dollars are distributed.

On Wednesday, attorneys for both sides asked the Kansas Supreme Court to settle the issue. The justices could rule as early as Dec. 6.

The students, parents and two districts sued the state in 1999. They allege that the state doesn't provide enough money for its elementary, junior high and high schools and unfairly distributes the dollars it does provide.

Shawnee County District Judge Terry Bullock dismissed the lawsuit in November 2001. The plaintiffs want the Supreme Court to reinstate it.

Dan Biles, an Overland Park attorney representing the state, said the justices already tackled the same legal issues in a 1994 ruling in which they upheld the constitutionality of the state's 1992 school finance law.

"It's exactly the same case," he said.

Alan Rupe, a Wichita attorney representing the plaintiffs, said a trial should decide the validity of their allegations.

"These plaintiffs want their day in court," Rupe told the justices. "We'd

like the opportunity to try this case."

The state expects to spend about \$2.3 billion under its current budget on aid to public schools, or \$3,867 per student.

Education officials argue the amount isn't adequate, and a legislative study released in May suggested the state need to spend \$4,650 per student to provide a suitable education across the state — another \$450 million a year.

Critics also suggest the formula doesn't distribute the money fairly. Rupe contends that the distribution is so seriously flawed that minority students in larger districts are being penalized.

The Salina and Dodge City districts and their students and parents raised the issue of discrimination against minorities in a separate lawsuit that is pending in U.S. District Court in Wichita.

In presiding over the case, Bullock allowed the parties to gather evidence for nearly two years before dismissing the lawsuit on the eve of trial. Rupe said he still had requests for state documents and 14 depositions pending when Bullock made his decision.

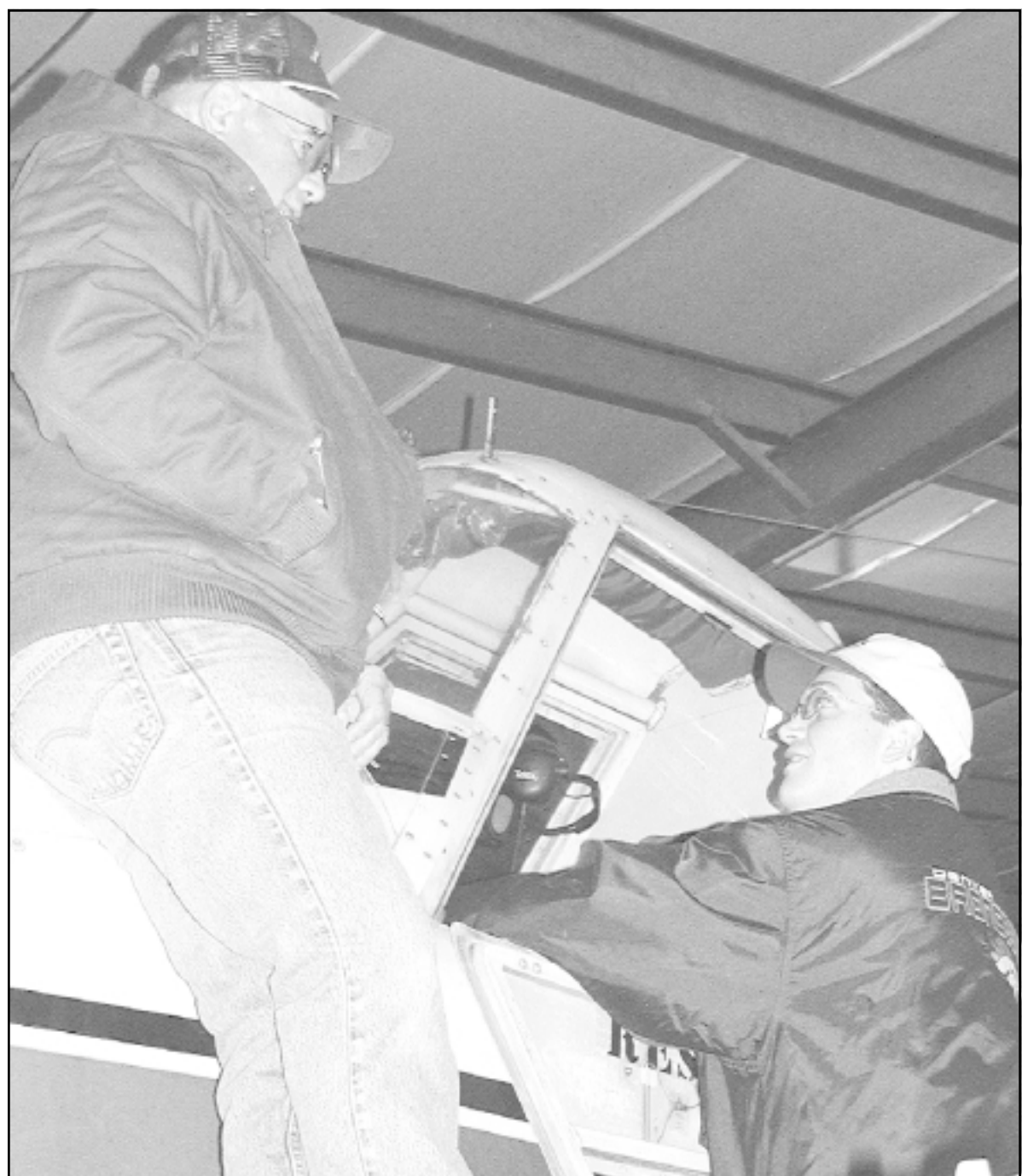
"Judge Bullock dismissed the case on his own initiative," Rupe said.

Biles said Bullock dismissed the case after reviewing pretrial questionnaires submitted by both sides and that the state raised the issue of whether the case should be permitted to go to trial.

Several justices questioned Biles about the timing of Bullock's dismissal, expressing concern that the judge's ruling came after he allowed the parties to gather evidence, rather than before.



Muhammad



Chad Tuttle, a member of this year's Leadership Sherman County class, talked with Bill Ashton, owner of Hawkeye Spraying, on Wednesday while looking over one of the airplanes used to spray chemicals. The class learned about all aspects of agriculture on Wednesday. Photos by Rachel Hixson/The Goodland Daily News

Class tours world of farming

By Rachel Hixson

The Goodland Daily News

The Leadership Sherman County class toured the world of agriculture on Wednesday, learning a little bit about a lot of farm businesses, organizations and struggles.

The 10 students visited a feedlot, grain elevator, aerial spraying business and implement dealership and talked with a water expert, agronomist, commodity broker, elevator operator and farm service employees.

The second session of the seventh-month class was dedicated to learning about all aspects of agriculture in Sherman County, from federal programs that help farmers stay in business to crops that are genetically modified to be better-tasting and insect-resistant.

A lot of information was packed into one 10-hour day, but that was the idea. The goal of Leadership Sherman County is to teach the students what it takes to run the county, city and state, thereby developing a core of leaders who will hopefully use their skills to keep Sherman County successful.

Each session has a theme — including health care, state government and law enforcement — and is designed to give the class a peek at areas important to the county's economy and residents. The students can then decide if they want to learn more on their own.

The class will graduate in April and then will have one year to complete a community-service project. It will be the sixth group to graduate from the program, which was formed about five years ago.

Wednesday's session started at the



While the class took a bus-tour of Century Feeders feedlot on Wednesday, they caught the attention of some animals trying to eat.

Farm Service Agency, 210 W. 10th, where employees explained how federal money is distributed to Sherman County farmers to help in times of depressed prices or bad weather, or to help new farmers get started.

April Hall, district specialist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said more than \$21 million was distributed in Sherman County last year through federal farm programs. She said the money not only helps farmers stay afloat, but makes its way to businesses, which could go under if

farmers stopped shopping. Hall said the average age of farmers in this county is 60, because not many children are taking over family farm operations, which are growing larger.

Gordon Colip, farm loan manager, gave the class handouts showing 290 families in Sherman County have either direct or guaranteed loans, for a total of \$37.5 million in outstanding loans. Another handout showed farmers here produced about 5 million

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