

weather report

38°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:49 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:13 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:48 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 44 degrees
• Humidity 92 percent
• Sky Cloudy and light rain
• Winds E at 10
• Barometer 29.87 inches and falling
• Record High 88° (1950)
• Record Low 11° (1993)

Last 24 Hours*

High 48°
Low 31°
Precipitation —

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Occasional snow, decreasing after midnight, 1-3 inches total, breezy, low 25-30, north wind 15-25 gusts to 35, decreasing late to 10. Tomorrow: Cloudy, 20 percent chance of snow, colder, high 30-35, north wind 5-10, low upper 20s.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Cloudy, cold, high mid 30s, lows lower 20s. Friday: Partly cloudy, continued cold, high lowers 30s. Saturday, partly cloudy, warmer, low lower teens, highs upper 40s. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.36 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.29
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Corn — \$2.64 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.33
Loan deficiency payment — 00¢
Milo — \$2.31 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$5.04 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.85
Loan deficiency payment — 0.00¢
Millet — \$13 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$12 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$0.00
Confection current — \$17/\$7 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$18 (new crop)
(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.

Sniper suspect charged today

GREENBELT, Md. — The federal government today charged John Allen Muhammad in the deaths of seven people as it weighed in with a criminal complaint that could bring the death penalty in the sniper case. The 20-count complaint charges Muhammad, 41, with discharging a firearm as part of an extortion scheme in the deaths of seven people in Maryland and the wounding of three others, in Maryland and Virginia. U.S. Attorney Paul McNulty of Virginia said if a firearm is used to carry out violence in an extortion scheme, the crime is punishable by the federal death penalty. The charging complaint did not name the other suspect, 17-year-old John Lee Malvo, because he is not an adult. A juvenile can be charged with a federal capital offense but cannot be executed.

Principal to fill activity director job

By Rachel Hixson

The Goodland Daily News

Steve Raymer, North Elementary School principal, has been named to temporarily replace Dick Liess as high school activities director when Liess leaves in January.

Raymer will be pulling double duty for a few months, as he will remain principal at North while covering the activities director's duties through the end of the school year. Administrators say they're not sure who will fill the open position next year — it could be Raymer or it could be someone else.

The next question is who will replace Raymer if he leaves North? Superintendent Marvin Selby said if the district's

enrollment takes a big dive this year, the school board might close one of the three elementary schools, eliminating the need for one principal. But he noted that the board hasn't decided anything yet.

"It's still too early to tell now," Selby said, adding that board members want to have it figured out by April.

After talking in private for about 15 minutes at Monday night's meeting, board members came into open session to hire Raymer as the activities director for the second semester. State law allows the board to discuss



Steve Raymer

personnel matters behind closed doors.

Board members didn't discuss how much Raymer will be paid, but Selby said after the meeting that subject will come up soon.

"We'll be fair with him," Selby said, "and he knows that."

The board accepted a resignation from Liess earlier this month. He said he plans to leave in January to pursue other opportunities, but he hasn't said what.

Liess, who has worked for the district for about seven years, said today that his plans will be announced soon.

School round-up

At its meeting on Monday, the Goodland School Board:

- Voted to hire Steve Raymer, North Elementary School principal, as an interim replacement for Dick Liess as high school activities director. Story to left.
- Decided to allow a third assistant

coach for the girls and boys basketball teams and the wrestling team. Story to come.

- Decided that the district will pay no more than \$50 per day to rent the Edson gym back for sports practices or it will not sell the facility. Story to come.

"Right now, it's kind of personal," he said.

Before taking the job with the district, Liess worked at First National Bank.

After Liess resigned, Selby said current administrators would probably handle his duties so the district can save

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Hospital losing money

Board talks about ways to cut budget

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland Regional Medical Center board went over the hospital's September financial report Monday, trying to figure out a growing loss and decide what to cut back on to save money.

The board also talked about reasons for not releasing patients' names to be published in the newspaper and a chance to add a "cafeteria" insurance plan for employees.

The board talked about ways to save money after reviewing September's financial report, which showed a loss of nearly \$184,000 for the month and \$385,000 for the year.

Board member Larry McCants noted that the hospital is way over budget on wages, is losing money and needs to look at ways to cut costs wherever possible.

"People may like green plants," he said, "but we should replace them with a 25-cent card if we can."

The hospital is working on ways to increase some charges, Administrator Jay Jolly said, and that will help.

"But we've got a lot of work to do," he added.

Though no decisions were made, members suggested cutting services that are not profitable.

"We need to look at the services we provide," McCants said, "and if we can't make money at it, cut it."

The hospital had expected a loss closer to \$13,000 for September and the budget shows a projected profit for the year of \$31,000 at this point. All the figures include money from the county hospital tax.

The overall loss is close to the \$344,000 posted at this time last year, but the board had hoped to be making money this year. Besides wages, the operation is over budget for professional fees and, especially, supplies, but under on travel.

The hospital stopped releasing names to *The Goodland Daily News* earlier this month, citing the regulations under the federal Hospital Insurance Portability and Accountability Act as the reason.

Jolly said the date for full compliance with the law is April 16, and the hospital has a lot of ground to cover before then. Some regulations will have to wait on the hospital's new information system to be applied, he said.

"I don't want to wait until the last minute to apply it all," he said.

Jolly cited patient confidentiality and protection of privacy as reasons not to publish their names, even though patients already have had to sign consent forms to have their names published.

McCants said criminals have used the list and burglarized patients' homes. He said the hospital would need to give patients full disclosure of the risks, and he doubts anyone would want to sign the forms if they are told people can use the information against them.

Brenda McCants, director of patient relations and marketing, said the hos-

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Haunted yards

A disoriented-looking rock (above) sat in a front yard on Caldwell Street Monday evening among other Halloween decorations. The fake rock's eyes and mouth glowed orange. Maybe it was scared of other decorations around town. An evil rat protected a yard on Grand Avenue, while a ghost hovered around a tree on Wyoming.

Photos by Rachel Hixson
The Goodland Daily News



Not-so-routine check shuts down power

The power went out for about five minutes this morning in about a third of homes and businesses in Goodland when a routine equipment check went awry.

Ed Wolak, city public works director, said workers were opening a ca-

pacitor bank on Cattletrail this morning to check it when something went wrong and the main breaker on a feeder at the city sub station opened up.

Wolak said a safety feature on the breaker shuts down the feeder if it senses a problem.

That left homes and businesses between 17th and Eighth streets on the west side of Goodland without power between about 8:05 a.m. and 8:10 a.m. this morning. Wolak said the crew is still not sure what exactly went wrong.

"It was no fault of the employees,"

he said. "We don't know what happened yet."

City workers were just as surprised as other people when the lights went out, he said.

"It should be routine," he said, "but it wasn't too routine this morning."

Sebelius shatters campaign spending record

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA — Democrat Kathleen Sebelius has shattered the spending record for a Kansas gubernatorial campaign, and both national parties pumped \$910,000 into the race between her and Republican Tim Shallenburger.

Sebelius spent \$3.2 million from July 26 through Oct. 24, according to a campaign finance report filed with the secretary of state's office Monday. That brought her total spending to almost \$3.8 million since she opened her campaign account last year.

Shallenburger reported spending \$1.32 million over the past three months. That brought his total spending to \$1.83 million, including what he spent in a hotly contested primary. Sebelius had no primary opposition. The reports were filed as the two can-

didates enter the final days before the Nov. 5 general election.

The previous spending record, \$2.6 million, was set by Gov. Bill Graves when he ran for re-election in 1998.

During the reporting period, Sebelius received \$510,000 from the Democratic National Committee. Shallenburger received \$400,000 from the Republican National Committee.

Shallenburger also received \$200,000 from the Kansas Republican Party, while Sebelius received only \$25,000 from the state Democratic Party. But it also donated about \$152,000 in services, mostly mailing and printing, to the Sebelius campaign.

Sebelius spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran-Basso said the Democrat's campaign anticipated having to ward off attacks from Shallenburger. Activists in both parties have said she began the

general election campaign with a lead that Shallenburger had to erase.

"We knew we would have to have the resources to respond," Corcoran-Basso said. "Otherwise, we wouldn't be able to tell people about her record."

Shallenburger spokesman Bob Murray said the candidate expected to be outspent heavily, especially since Sebelius had no primary opposition.

"We set realistic goals and a budget, and we're right on target," Murray said. In the donation department, Sebelius raised about \$2.2 million during the reporting period. She began the period with more than \$1.2 million in her campaign fund.

Through late October, she's had more than \$4 million available for her campaign — another record — and spent all but about \$250,000 of it. She also has received nearly

\$288,000 in donations of goods and services, including almost \$214,000 in the last three months.

Shallenburger raised nearly \$1.47 million over the past three months, bringing total receipts to about \$2.06 million. He had almost \$225,000 left going in the campaign's final days.

He has received more than \$43,000 in contributions of goods and services, the bulk of it in the past three months.

Both candidates spent the bulk of their money on television and radio ads. Sebelius spent \$2.49 million on broadcast advertising over the past three months through a Lakewood, Colo., firm, Media Strategies and Research. Corcoran-Basso said most of the money went for tv commercials.

Shallenburger spent more than \$729,000 on television and radio advertising during the same period.