MONDAY December 30 2002

Volume 70, Number 254

weather report

Today

Sunset, 4:33 p.m.

- **Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:33 p.m.

- **Midday Conditions** Soil Temperature 33 degrees
- Humidity 35 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds north 18 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.99 inches
- and falling Record High 71° (1921)
- Record Low -13° (1990)

Last 24 Hours*

High 57° 22° Low Precipitation

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low lower 20s, winds southwest 5-10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: partly sunny, high mid 50s, low mid 20s, winds south 10-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

New Years: mostly sunny, high upper 40s, low upper teens. Thursday: mostly clear, high upper 40s. Friday: partly cloudy, high mid 50s, low near 20. Saturday: partly cloudy, high mid 40s, low lower 20s.

(National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.



Noon

Wheat — \$3.47 bushel Posted county price — \$3.50 Loan deficiency payment — 0¢ Corn — \$2.42 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.25 Loan deficiency payment — 0¢ Milo — \$2.19 bushel Soybeans — \$5.16 bushel

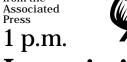
Posted county price — \$5.11 Loan deficiency payment — 0¢ Millet — \$10.00 hundredweight Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$10.50 cwt. Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢ Confection current — \$17/\$7 cwt. Pinto beans — \$16

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)



from the Associated Press



Iraq priority over N. Korea

WASHINGTON — Time remains to find a diplomatic resolution to North Korea's development of nuclear weapons, and the situation hasn't reached the crisis stage, Secretary of State Colin Powell

At the same time, preparations for war continued in the confrontation with Iraq, which some key senators said ranks far behind North Korea as a threat to the United States.

Powell, making the rounds of the Sunday television talk shows, said the United States was working with other countries to pressure North Korea into reversing its decision to restart its weapons program and expel U.N. inspectors monitoring its main nuclear com-

Indeed, Powell objected to calling the North Korean problem a

Islamic militant kills three missionaries

cradled like a baby, slipped into a Southern Baptist hospital in Yemen today and opened fire, killing three American missionaries and seriously rorism. wounding a fourth, officials said.

The suspected attacker, a Yemeni, was arrested, and a Yemeni official said security forces were searching for a militant cell that may be targeting foreigners and secular figures in the coun-

Americans have been repeatedly warned by the U.S. State Department be cautious in Yemen, a country where central government authority is weak

Doctor

responds

to story

Two Colby doctors who have been at

odds with the town's hospital say that

having no surgical coverage over the

holidays in Goodland and Colby is a lot

more serious than hospital officials

For one thing, said Dr. Victor

Hildyard, it's the second time in less

than three months that Colby's hospi-

tal has been without surgical coverage.

Both the surgeon and the only doctor

who does cesarean section deliveries

Last week, Kevan Trenkle, chief fi-

nancial officer at Citizens Medical

Center, said the lack of surgical cover-

age would mostly affect patients need-

ing cesareans. Hildyard and his associ-

ate says they believe the impact goes

much further. They say there could be

problems with emergency room situa-

tions involving car accidents and

Dr. LaDonna Regier, Hildyard's as-

sociate, said that the lack of surgical

coverage this week has not only been a

"bad situation," but also is unfair to

both obstetric patients and emergency

The hospital board has tried twice to

ban Dr. Hildyard after allegations of

abuse surfaced. He in turn has sued the

hospital, and his patients amassed in

protest outside a board meeting. A

judge allowed him to continue working

Dr. Hildyard, who does family prac-

tice and obstetrics at Colby Medical and Surgical Center, also disagreed

with comments from the clinic man-

ager at the rival Family Center for

typical hospital facility up and down the Interstate," he said. "The hospital has

a responsibility to the patients of Tho-

mas County and northwest Kansas to

provide the services that the active

medical staff has repeatedly re-

He said the hospital's board and ad-

ministration have repeatedly denied

requests for on-site surgical and anes-

thesia services, saying that not having

He said that the medical staff has

been told at every staff meeting through

November that the hospital facility

would not provide "locum tenens" re-

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them can compromise quality care.

'Citizens Medical Center is not a

while the issue is being settled.

Colby Free Press

By Patty Decker

make it out to be.

were gone for the week.

trauma cases as well.

room patients alike.

Health Care.

quested."

JIBLA, Yemen (AP) — A suspected in tribal areas, guns are plentiful and a statement from the Southern Baptist was shot in the abdomen and hospital ham said that aside from providing hu-Muslim extremist, hiding his gun Muslim militants have found refuge. Yemen, the ancestral homeland of al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden, has been a key front in the U.S.-led war on ter-

The gunman entered the complex of Jibla Baptist Hospital in the town of Jibla hiding a semiautomatic rifle under his jacket to make it resemble a child, officials and the missionary organization said. He slipped past a security check where visitors are supposed to leave their weapons.

The attacker entered a room where hospital director William E. Koehn was holding a meeting and opened fire, said

Convention's International Mission Board, based in Richmond, Va.

Three people were killed instantly with shots to the head, Yemeni officials said. The gunman then headed to the hospital's pharmacy and shot and wounded the pharmacist, Donald W.

The Mission Board identified the dead as Koehn, 60, of Arlington, Texas, who had planned to retire in October after 28 years of service; purchasing agent Kathleen A. Gariety, 53, of Wauwatosa, Wis.; and Dr. Martha C. Myers, 57, of Montgomery, Ala.

Caswell, 49, of Levelland, Texas,

officials said he was in critical condition. His father, D.C. Caswell, said his son was recovering after surgery.

The killings are "a crime unacceptable in any religion. This contradicts Islam," said a Jibla woman who gave only her first name, Fatima, and said she used the hospital. "They cared for us and looked after us. I can't even count the number of children they treated and saved."

Jack Graham, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, called the three victims "martyrs" who were "killed in the line of duty.'

Speaking from Plano, Texas, Gra-

manitarian aid, the missionaries were "there because they're Christians and they have no doubt been sharing their In San'a, the capital, U.S. Ambassa-

dor Edmund J. Hull told The Associated Press that U.S. officials did not envision a general evacuation, but "we will assist American citizens in Jibla if they wish to leave." Hull said U.S. security personnel and

investigators was sent to Jibla, 125 miles south of San'a, to help the Yemeni authorities.

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New Year brings up safety tips

By Michelle L. Hawkins

The Goodland Daily News You'd better watch out. On New Year's Eve, it won't be Santa who's making a list and checking it twice. It'll be state troopers, sheriff's depu-

ties and Goodland Police, all of who plan to be out trying to be sure that yearend parties don't end badly. Lt. Kevin Winston with the Kansas Highway Patrol said people should use

designated drivers if they have been drinking and plan parties which are not going to require driving somewhere. "Rather than getting in the car, sometimes it is best to make a phone call to a

relative or friend," he said. He had some basic tips for a safe New

Year's celebration:

- Don't drink and drive.
- Don't let friends drink and drive. • Don't get in a car if the driver has
- been drinking. • Designate a driver who will not
- Drive defensively and watch for drunk drivers.
- Drink alcohol slowly to give your body time to absorb the effects.
- Eat before and while you are drinking to slow down the absorption of al-

cohol into your system. Winston says drinking isn't the only issue with holiday safety. People are traveling cross country, and many will

Winston said people who have had a busy week of celebration are often tired and can present a problem on the road.

push themselves beyond the limit.

"Fatigue is a real safety factor," he He encourages people to plan ahead

for road trips. Plan breaks to reduce the risk of fatigue, he said, and plan the time of day they travel, the distance traveled, and places to stop. People should not plan to make extensive trips in one day said the trooper said.

"It is unrealistic to travel from Kansas City to Salt Lake City in one day.'

The Highway Patrol also encourages drivers to prepare their vehicle before long trips. Winston says travelers should get their car ready to go before they start their trip. He suggests winterizing the car, checking fluid levels, checking air pressure in the tires and the spare and a quick maintenance stop before traveling. And of course, he said, always wear

your seat belts and make sure children are properly restrained in approved car

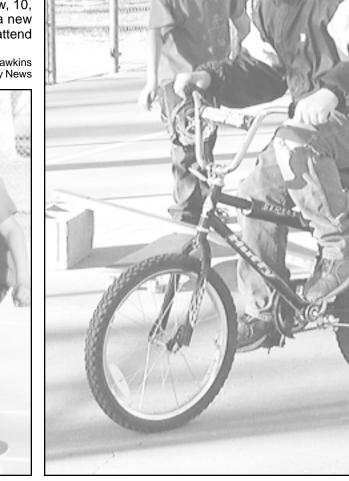
Testing out the new toys



Kids were busy Friday afternoon, taking advantage of Christmas break, their gifts and the good weather. Zach Foster, (left) 12, rode his bike in Chambers Park as Jonathan Gomez, 10, (below) tried out tricks on a skateboard he got for Christmas. Zach's younger brother, Matthew, 10, (above) was also riding a new skateboard. All the boys attend North Elementary School. Photo by Michelle L. Hawkins







Hospital facing tough year, but should end with cash in bank

The Goodland Daily News unemployment, its leaders say Goodland Regional Medical Center is facing a difficult but not crushing year.

enced by the obligation to provide care ing equipment to keep up with technology and keeping the emergency room available at all hours.

The hospital's board approved a budleave the hospital with a \$339,995 net chases that affect the hospital's budget. loss next year if all goes as planned. That seems huge, but administrators Laue, the chief financial officer, is the

hospital expects to have \$845,000 in With state budget cuts and rising depreciation expense, Jolly said, it will have a positive cash flow approaching half a million.

The depreciation represents part of The hospital's finances also are influthe expense for equipment bought in previous years, which is spread out over whether or not patients can pay for it, the life of the equipment. Cash flow says Administrator Jay Jolly, purchas- represents when the actual money goes

Some of the hospital's recent equipment purchases have been investments for the future, the administrator said, get for next year on Dec. 20, that will but it's not just recent equipment pur-

The large depreciation, said Andy

say it's mostly a paper loss. Because the result of spending large amounts in the past on equipment. A lot of hospitals have not kept up with the latest technology that way, he said.

"If we had not done that," Jolly said, "we could be looking at breaking even."

Facing a projected loss of more than half a million dollars by the end of this year, administrators said they have sought ways to increase revenue and cut costs. The hospital raised ambulance fees and began charging professional fees for nurse practitioners in the emergency room in October and increased emergency room procedure charges in November. Those hikes should bring in an extra \$150,000 next year, Laue said.

The hospital expects to bring in an full-time positions when they become additional \$73,000 for increased radiology and laboratory charges and Medicare inpatient diagnosis-related groups charges. Medicare determines what the length a patient's stay in the hospital should be, according to the patient's diagnosis, and pays accordingly.

Planned changes in room rates and intensive care charges should bring in another \$63,000. The center charges lower room rates compared to other area hospitals, said Laue, less than half of what some charge.

The hospital expects to reduce expenses by \$315,000, including even when the care actually costs more \$191,700 for reduction of work hours. That means possibly not filling seven

available over the year and spreading the responsibilities out among others. The state's budget cuts mean cuts in

Medicaid, the federal-state program which helps pay for health care for the poor and disadvantaged, Jolly said, so that means less money paid to hospitals. The hospital is anticipating a 10 percent cut from the program, he said.

Medicare, the federal program which covers the elderly, is already leaving the hospital short, he said, as they have a policy of paying only 83 percent of what they consider to be the cost of care,

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