

weather report

49°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:33 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:34 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 34 degrees

• Humidity 33 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds south 25-31 m.p.h.

• Barometer 29.87 inches

and falling

• Record High 64° (1942)

• Record Low -13° (1927)

Last 24 Hours*

High 47°

Low 21°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, low mid 20s, winds south 10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: cloudy with 20 percent chance of snow, high near 40, low upper teens, winds north 20-30 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

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

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.45 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.42

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$2.40 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.20

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Milo — \$2.17 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.17 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.07

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Millet — \$10.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$10.45 cwt.

NuSun — \$11.45 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.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Deaths linked to al-Qaida

JIBLA, Yemen — Yemeni interrogators suspect the man accused of killing three American missionaries at a Baptist hospital may have ties to al-Qaida, officials said today, as U.S. investigators joined the search for those behind the murders.

An FBI team arrived Monday in Jibla, the southern Yemeni town where the killings took place, and worked overnight, an American diplomat said on condition of anonymity. The diplomat would not say whether U.S. investigators were being allowed to directly question the suspect arrested for the slayings, but said the Americans "are very close" to the interrogation.

The U.S. Embassy said it was too early to tell if terrorism was behind Monday's shootings at a Southern Baptist hospital, but Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul-Kader Bajammal included the slayings in a list of terrorist acts presented to parliament.



County reappoints 10 to visitor board

Sherman County commissioners reappointed all 10 members of the Convention and Visitors Bureau to new one-year terms Monday, without waiting for recommendations from the Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he had talked to every member of the board and asked if they would serve another term. He said all said they were willing to continue.

Under the county resolution setting up the board, members serve one-year terms. There are 10 members with at least six to come from the hotel and motel industry and the other members can be business people. The board is financed by a special tax on hotel and motel lodging.

Rasure moved to reappoint members Dale Neil of the KOA Campground; Danny Whalen, owner of Dairy Queen; Marilyn Collett of Butterfly Aviation; Arlo Hansen, manager of Sinclair Service; Scott Angelos, owner of McDonalds; Ryan Hageman, manager of Wendy's; Norma Notz, owner of Motel 7; Elaine Morrow, manager of the Buffalo Inn; and Judy Siruta, manager of the Comfort Inn.

Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with the vote of Commissioner Mitch Tiede.

Rasure said he had not seen any recommendations from the Chamber — as specified in the charter resolution — but since all of the members were willing to continue, he saw no need to wait. He said he understood there had been a meeting that morning between the chamber and

convention and visitors boards.

The Convention and Visitors board has announced a special meeting for 9 a.m. next Monday at the Chamber conference room, 104 W. 11th Street. The meeting will be open to the public, but Board Chairman Dale Neil was unavailable to confirm what exactly was on the agenda.

Since canceling its management contract with the Chamber earlier in the month, the visitors board has been looking at locations for its office, which is expected to move by the end of January. The bureau has been in the chamber office since it was created in 1991.

Later Monday, it was confirmed that the chamber executive committee and a few members of the convention and visitors board met that morning behind closed doors.

The Chamber board met at 7 a.m. today, and in a closed session, it was reported there was a straw poll on retaining Ron Harding as executive director. With 12 members present, the poll resulted in a tie. Harding has been under pressure this year as first the county's economic development effort, then the visitors bureau, left the fold, taking with them much of the office's budget.

Dane Scherling, co-chairman of the Chamber board, was not available for comment because he was handling a service at Hendricks-Love Mortuary in Burlington.

Bill Mehling from the First National Bank, co-chairman of the board, said he did not want to comment on the meeting because it was his last before his term expires.

S&T opens office; first phase to begin

By Michelle L. Hawkins

The Goodland Daily News

S&T Telephone, which has been working on an all-new fiber-optic communication system for Goodland and Colby since 2000, will usher in the new year by signing up the first customers Monday.

The multi-million-dollar expansion will be opened up to customers in phases said Gary Slough, marketing and sales manager for the Goodland location.

"There are nine different areas in the Goodland community that will be signed up for service as they are completed," he said.

Completion of the first nine phases are anticipated within the next year and a half, but according to Slough, S&T will never be complete.

"We will constantly be bringing in the newest technology to northwest Kansas," he said.

Brewster-based S&T plans to offer local and long distance telephone service, cable television, Internet and high-speed digital subscriber line

(DSL) service. Customers may sign up for any or all of the services and will be charged for all of them on one bill.

"We are investing a lot of money into these two communities," said Slough, adding that the co-operative thinks it is worthwhile to be able to make these services available to rural areas.

The firm had built new offices in both towns, staffed by local people.

"S&T is here to help northwest Kansas with economic development," Slough said.

Since only the first phase of the project is completed, he said, only certain customers will be able to sign up for the service starting Monday. The section will start south at the railroad tracks and continue north to areas near the Sherman County Courthouse. It will include areas as far east as Goodland High School and west past Montana Street.

Those interested in seeing if they will be able to sign up can see a map of the service area in this Friday's edition of *The Goodland Daily News* or can stop by the S&T office at 1318 Main Ave.

State crackdown punishes 130 restaurants for food handling violations

WICHITA (AP) — Fines for food-code violations have jumped sharply in Kansas since a legislative audit earlier this year showed deficiencies in restaurant inspections.

Kansas has fined more than 130 restaurants this year and closed eight of them either temporarily or permanently, *The Wichita Eagle* reported Sunday. Before the audit was released April 25, the state had levied fines against only 11 restaurants all year.

Ray's Cafe in Goodland closed in May after failing a state inspection, and fines were levied against Howard Johnsons and the Buffalo Inn for minor violations which were corrected.

State inspectors say they give warnings on the first visit and issue fines — and a public announcement — if the problems haven't been corrected by the second.

The audit found that 30 percent of the state's restaurants were not inspected as required last year and that fines often weren't levied against persistent violators. Statewide, about 84 percent of all food service establishments will be inspected this year.

"We looked at some of the things the audit indicated we needed to do differently," health department spokeswoman Sharon Watson said. "One of the things we're doing differently is just training our inspectors, making sure they are aware of what the expectations are and making sure that occurs on a

Carving a new yard decoration



Jeff Russell of Millikan, Colo., (above) turned a dead tree in Clarence Scheopner's back yard into a work of art Monday (right). Russell, who owns a tree service, has done wood carvings at Sugar Hills Golf Course and carved one in Scheopner's front yard (below) last year.

Photos by Sheila Smith / The Goodland Daily News



Moran to stop here on annual tour

Congressman Jerry Moran will stop at the Western State Bank in Goodland from 8 to 9 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22, on his seventh annual "Big First Listening Tour."

Each year since 1996, when he was first elected to Congress, Rep. Moran has traveled to all counties in the 1st District of Kansas, holding a town-hall meeting in each. Moran says the tour gives people a chance to ask questions and give ideas on national issues.

"With so many challenges in Washington, and such difficult times in

Kansas, common-sense advice from the people of Kansas is more important than ever," the congressman said. "It is essential to my job in Congress that I hear the thoughts and concerns of the people I represent."

During the next few months, Moran will travel over 5,000 miles and meet with thousands of Kansans in court-houses, cafes and city halls while visiting all 69 counties in the district, including the newly added counties of Geary, Greenwood and Nemaha.

"It's an honor for me to continue the

tradition of the tour, and I look forward to meeting with you when I am in your county," Moran said.

For information call Congressman Moran at (202) 225-2715 or visit his web page at www.house.gov/moran-ks01/.

Notice

There will be no edition of *The Goodland Daily News* on Wednesday. Have a safe New Year's.

a \$1,000 fine the state levied against it.

"They were just ridiculous," Brown said of inspectors. "Our kitchen is extremely clean. They were just bound and determined to make us look bad."

The fines range from \$500 to \$5,000. They are levied when inspectors find violations repeated on successive visits to the same establishment.

The most common violation is food held at temperatures that are too high or too low, which can allow dangerous bacteria to grow. Improper food storage practices and failure to control vermin also are frequently cited.

Brown said he believes local health inspectors are under pressure from state and federal officials to find violations.

But Ted Cooper, supervisor of inspectors in Wichita, said, "It's just that our procedure has tightened up, but we're not under any kind of pressure."

Bill Roe, owner of Willie C's Cafe and Bar and past president of the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association, said food safety is crucial. He believes the state should put its resources into educating restaurants and their employees, rather than fining them.

Watson said the inspection process is a form of education because restaurants have a chance to correct problems.

Food service operators shouldn't expect relief because of the budget crunch. Inspections are mostly paid for through permits and licenses.