

weather report

32°

at noon



Today

•Sunset, 4:35 p.m.

Tomorrow

•Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.

•Sunset, 4:35 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 34 degrees
- Humidity 61 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds west 7 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.18 inches and falling

- Record High 71° (1997)
- Record Low -12° (1948)

Last 24 Hours*

High 33°

Low 21°

Precipitation .09

3 inches snow

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low near 20, winds west 10-15 m.p.h. Friday: mostly sunny, high upper 40s, low mid 20s, winds west 10-20 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: mostly sunny, high mid 50s, low upper 20s. Sunday: partly cloudy, high mid 50s. Monday: partly cloudy and very windy, high lower 50s, low mid 20s. Tuesday: mostly clear and breezy, high mid 50s, low mid 20s. Wednesday: mostly clear and windy, high upper 50s, low lower 20s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Drug hearing Tuesday

By Michelle L. Hawkins

The Goodland Daily News

After spending over two weeks the Sherman County Bastille on drug charges, a Kanorado man will appear in District Court for arraignment Tuesday.

Scott Baumfalk, 36, was arrested in the Cheyenne County courtroom in St. Francis Thursday, Dec. 19, for allegedly running a methamphetamine lab at his Kanarado business, Scotty's Motors.

Baumfalk was on trial with Rell Zimbelman in St. Francis for two misdemeanor charges. While he was in court, officers raided his business. Agents who were waiting outside the courtroom got word that the lab had been confirmed and arrested Baumfalk. He was booked into the Bastille on charges of manufacturing methamphetamines and possession of ampehtamine, anhydrous ammonia and drug paraphernalia.

Over the weekend, Baumfalk's wife, Crystal was arrested and charged with manufacturing methamphetamines. She was released last Monday on a \$50,000 bond. Her husband is still in the Bastille awaiting his arraignment.

Sheriff Doug Whitson said he thinks arrests in the cases are done.

A white New Year

The High Plains woke to a white New Year on Wednesday as a storm dropped about three inches of snow in Goodland, and some surrounding areas reported as much as six inches. The National Weather Service reported the moisture at .09 of an inch. A dog (below) seemed to enjoy the snow as it lay on the ground in front of the High Plains Mental Health clinic, 723 Main. Meantime, Buddy Williams and four of his children took advantage of the snow to go sledding on the east side of the K-27 overpass. Williams helped Britton, 12; Skyler, 8; Hunter, 5; and Sophia, 4, slide down on disks as the snow continued to fall.

Photos by Sheila Smith
The Goodland Daily News



Rumors about Stuckey fire called unfounded

By Michelle L. Hawkins

The Goodland Daily News

State investigators haven't pinned down the cause of a fire which reduced the Stuckey's Restaurant in Brewster to rubble a month ago, but officials say a rumor that it was caused by a drug lab probably isn't true.

Thomas County Sheriff Tom Jones said rumors that an illegal methamphetamine lab caused the fire are unfounded.

Jones said the final reports from the state fire marshal's office have not been received. He said the reports should indicate the cause and origin of the fire.

"There isn't any indication one way or another if that (rumor) would be true or not," he said.

The blaze was reported at 9:35 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, by the alarm company serving the restaurant south of Brewster and north of I-70. Brewster and Sherman County fire

fighters spent more than six hours battling the fire, which also leveled the manager's apartment attached to the restaurant.

Investigators from the fire marshal's office brought in an arson dog, trained to detect petroleum products such as gasoline.

Mike Cameron, spokesman for the fire marshal's office, said the K-9 unit is usually called in when there are multiple origins of a fire, but can be brought in for other reasons as

well. He said he didn't know why the dog was used this time.

Cameron said the investigation could span months, but reports would be sent to the Thomas County Sheriff's Office when complete.

"This is a very complex investigation," he said.

Jacob Koch, 19, a cashier, was the only employee in the restaurant when the fire started.

He was not injured. He and Sarah Divine, the manager, were a couple

and lived in the apartment behind the restaurant.

The night of the fire, Divine reportedly was visiting another Stuckey's employee.

Originally, Thomas County sheriff's officers thought the fire might be suspicious since there had been at least three blazes at Stuckey's shortly before the one which destroyed the property, and the building had been for sale for at least three months.



local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.46 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.39
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.43 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.21
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2.20 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.24 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.11
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$10 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$10.45 cwt.
NuSun — \$11.45 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$16
(Markets 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.

Senator wants to be president

WASHINGTON — Sen. John Edwards, a multimillionaire trial lawyer from the South and relative newcomer to Washington, announced today he will seek the Democratic presidential nomination, saying he wants to be "a champion for regular people."

In a series of interviews, Edwards said he was setting up an exploratory committee with an eye to getting into the 2004 race. He joins Sen. John Kerry of Mass. and Vt. Gov. Howard Dean in a contest which has become more spirited in the wake of Al Gore's decision not to run.

Edwards' announcement came as no surprise since the senator began moving into position in the last several weeks. He gave a major address in mid-December, speaking out against Bush's tax-cut policy and saying the nation needed a new intelligence agency.

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Hoping to increase the size of fish people catch at the county lake, the Smoky Gardens board has approved an increase in bass length limits to 18 inches and the state is stocking saugeye, a hybrid considered an efficient predator.

The water level has been dropping, Kenny Sanderson, board secretary, told county commissioners Monday, but the fish population is doing better. He said the board approved a change in the size limit for taking largemouth bass to help control other species.

Sanderson said the board had met on Dec. 17, and with all board members present, had boosted the size limit from 15 inches to 18 inches. The catch limit remains at two per day. The changes took effect Wednesday.

He said the most recent fish counts showed an increase in bluegill and crappie. Sanderson said the area wildlife biologist recommended the increase in the bass size because it

appeared that anglers were catching the bass as soon as they hit 15 inches. The largemouth size seemed to stop about 14 1/2 inches, he said, and the larger bass are needed to control the other species.

Sanderson said they're not having any problem keeping channel catfish stocked. The average daily catch remains at five and the size about 15 inches.

He said the water level is down about 4 1/2 feet, but that in recent days the ground water is starting to come up. He said that should raise the lake by about 18 inches.

"We need 35 acre feet of water a year to maintain the lake," he said.

He said they had reached an agreement with a nearby landowner to use water from a well on his land, and this year pumped water into the lake for 23 days to maintain a sufficient level for fish.

He said the state had stocked some saugeye, but that there will be a cutback in the amount of trout stocked this year of 75 pounds, from 750 to 675 pounds. Sanderson said



Snow Wednesday covered the ground and the ice at Smoky Garden Lake south of Goodland, showing how low the water level is at the dam on the east end. Photo by Sheila Smith / The Goodland Daily News

there did not seem to be as much of a carp problem as the lake has had in recent years.

Sanderson told commissioners the board was doing well, and that they had several people who were

helping with the lake. He said the December meeting was remarkable because every member was there.

State budget slump voted top Kansas story for 2002

By Carl Manning

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Hard times and violent crimes dominated Kansas news in 2002.

The state's budget crisis was the top Kansas story of the year, as voted by Associated Press newspapers and broadcasters. Without some drastic changes, next year's top story could well be another verse of "No Money Blues" from the Statehouse.

Politics also dominated the news in 2002. The election of Democrat Kathleen Sebelius over conservative Republican Tim Shallenburger ranked as the year's No. 2 story.

Sebelius picked up moderate Republican and independent votes to

make her the only woman, other than Democrat Joan Finney in 1990, to win the governor's chair.

But with her election, Sebelius will inherit the budgetary woes that plagued Gov. Bill Graves for the past two years. At year's end, she still was working on her plan to finance state government after July 1.

Economists say the state budget crisis isn't likely to improve any time soon, mainly because state revenues haven't lived up to expectations.

Despite \$252 million in new taxes this year, Graves clipped \$41 million from the budget in August and another \$78 million in November. He also canceled \$48 million for

cities and counties. The state budget is \$4.4 billion for the year.

During the campaign, Sebelius vowed not to cut state funds to public schools and hinted she wouldn't raise taxes. But many legislators question whether she can keep those promises after she becomes governor Jan. 13.

The state also had a large dose of crime and violence during 2002. The No. 3 story was Martin and Gracia Burnham, missionaries kidnapped and held captive for 377 days in the Philippines by Muslim rebels.

His parents, Paul and Oreta Burnham, lived in Rose Hill, near Wichita. The victims' three children

were staying there at the time. There, they learned in June that Martin Burnham was killed and his wife wounded by government soldiers trying to rescue them.

The No. 4 story also was filled with violence — the murder trial of brothers Reginald and Jonathan Carr in Wichita.

In November, they were sentenced to death for killing three men and a woman as they knelt in a snow-covered soccer field in December 2000.

The survivor, shot in the head, ran naked through the snow to get help and was a key witness during their trial.

Ranking fifth was the Kansas

economy struggling to show signs of growth in 2002. State economists expect Kansas unemployment will average about 4.5 percent for 2002, compared to 4.3 percent for 2001.

But the good news is the number of people working in 2002 was expected to average around 1,360,700 — and increase of about 4,200 workers from 2001. While not a big increase, it was better than a decrease.

Wichita was one of the hardest-hit areas as thousands of aviation workers were laid off because of the industry slump. The jobless rate for the Wichita area in October was 5.9

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