

weather report

39°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 5:01 p.m.
- Tomorrow
- Sunrise, 6:57 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:02 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 30 degrees
- Humidity 82 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds north 15-25 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.01 inches and rising
- Record High 68° (1986)
- Record Low -16° (1948)

Last 24 Hours*

High 72°
Low 30°
Precipitation none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Tonight: cloudy, low lower 20s, winds north 5-10 m.p.h. Wednesday: cloudy, high lower 40s, low lower 20s, winds southwest 5-10 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: mostly cloudy, high lower 50s, low mid 20s. Friday: partly cloudy, high lower 60s. Saturday: cloudy with chance of showers until midnight and then chance of snow showers, high mid 60s, low mid 30s. Sunday: mostly cloudy with chance of snow. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.34 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.29
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.43 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.17
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2.20 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.26 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.12
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$10.00 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$9.60 cwt.
NuSun — \$10.60 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$15
(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.

Showdown on Iraq soon

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is refusing to tip its hand on when it might go to war to disarm Iraq, although top officials are immersed in weeklong efforts to get the U.N. Security Council to endorse the use of force. Secretary of State Colin Powell is suggesting the tug-of-war with Saddam Hussein is nearing an end. “What we can’t do is just keep kicking the can down the road in the absence of a change in policy and attitude” in Baghdad, Powell said Monday. “We will have our discussions and consultations this week, and then we will announce next steps at an appropriate time,” he said.

Bush juggles war, domestic issues

By Scott Lindlaw

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush has prepared a State of the Union speech encompassing a multitude of domestic proposals: tax cuts to spur the economy, drug-treatment dollars for church groups and more prescription drug coverage for the elderly.

Overshadowing it all was this imperative for tonight: Prepare the nation for possible war. The State of the Union speech will be broadcast at 7 p.m. tonight.

The president is trying to persuade Americans that Saddam Hussein poses a threat to the United States when most Americans say

Bush has not explained clearly what is at stake. White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said that “from the president’s point of view, it remains a very grave threat” that Saddam will strike soon at American interests.

Yet Bush plans neither a declaration of war nor an announcement on what Iraq’s last-ditch deadline is for complying with demands to disarm.

Bush intended to reiterate his assertion that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction and is linked to Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaida network.

New evidence of those charges will be revealed next week by Secretary of State Colin Powell, per-

haps at the United Nations, officials said. Bush himself has made charges in the past about relationships between Iraq and al-Qaida, but the administration has provided scant evidence.

Most of Bush’s speech will focus on domestic concerns, officials said.

Pushing a new plank in his “faith-based initiative,” Bush is asking Congress to direct drug treatment dollars to religious organizations. His plan would give addicts treatment vouchers that would allow them to seek help at any center, including those with religious approaches, two senior White House officials said.

The plan is sure to be controver-

sial because many religious drug treatment programs do not employ medical approaches and do not use staff that have been licensed for this work. It would cost \$200 million in the next fiscal year.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Bush also planned to propose a significant increase in spending on research of hydrogen fuel-cell cars, part of an expansion of a program he announced in November.

Bush’s self-proclaimed “compassionate agenda” also will include money to expand mentoring programs for prisoners’ children and for middle-school students from low-income families, officials said.

His domestic also includes new tax cuts, prescription drug assistance for the elderly, health insurance for people employed by small businesses and other new initiatives that help religious groups provide federally funded community services.

Balancing domestic and international issues in the speech will be like forcing “10 pounds of stuff into a five-pound bag,” said Ken Khachigian, who wrote speeches for presidents Nixon and Reagan.

“He’s got a lot on the agenda, but I think there are two things that are pressing, so there are two things you

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Parents express opinions

By Michelle L. Hawkins

The Goodland Daily News

Over 60 students, parents and community members showed up at Monday night’s meeting of the Goodland’s Board of Education to talk about the expulsion of three high school students on Jan. 15 and 16.

After a random search by an independent firm which uses dogs to search for drugs and other weapons, four students were found to have guns, drugs and other weapons in their vehicles. Two handguns were found in the vehicle of Gage Cloyd, marijuana in the car of Blake Saint and a hunting knife and shotgun shells in the vehicle of Blayze Bahe. The first two were arrested while the third sent home while it was determined whether or not the knife and shotgun shells were a violation.

The following day, a second search was conducted by the firm, and a fourth student, Jordan Anderson, was found to have a shotgun and pellet pistol in his vehicle.

Marvin Selby, school superintendent, said last week the knife was not a violation of the law since it was in his vehicle. It would have been a different situation if the knife had been inside the school.

For the other students, although no student information is being released from officials, federal laws mandate a 12 month suspension for weapons, and school policy for drug violation is a 30 day suspension unless the student agrees to treatment at which time the suspension is reduced to 10 days.

Prior to the public forum, Jeff Mason, the school board’s attorney addressed the crowd and board with what the law says about weapons on school grounds. Mason said that in 1994, the law was put in place for each school to comply to a weapons policy to be eligible to receive money from the government. The law was then amended in 1999 after the Columbine shootings to require students to be expelled for a year if they were found with guns or other weapons.

He said the policy adopted by Goodland schools is word for word in line with the requirements of the federal government. After a student has been told he is being expelled, he is told he will get a hearing. Mason said only two questions are answered during the hearing — is it the student? and were they in possession of the weapon? The student can appeal to the school board within 10 days of the hearing, but the same two questions are the only things considered.

“The statute has one escape clause,” said Mason, “the chief administrative officer may modify the expulsion requirement.” In addition to the expulsion, Mason explained the law requires schools to turn over information about school violence and weapon violations to local law enforcement. They in turn send in the information

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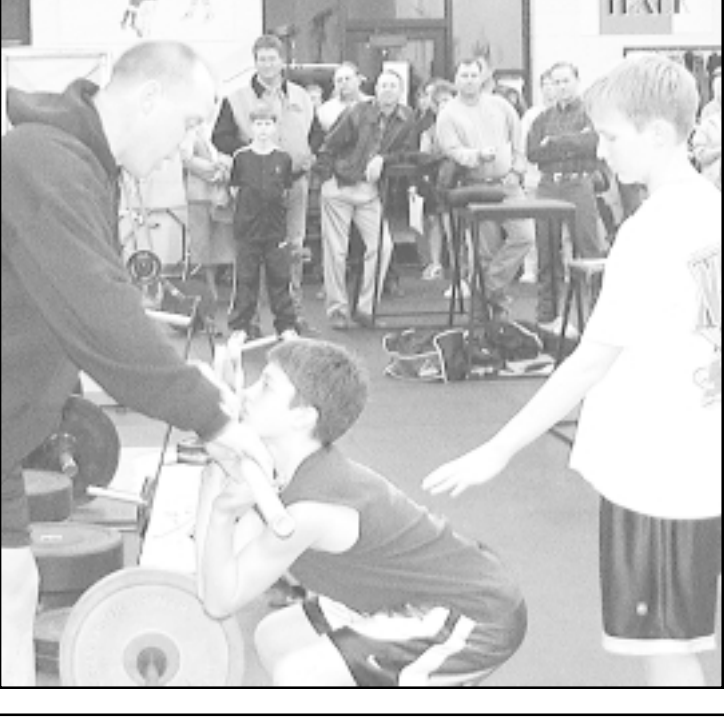
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Lifting weights as a way to succeed in school



Goodland teacher Tony Diehl demonstrated to board members the proper way for students to lift weights and some of the versatility of the equipment. Parents came to watch the demonstration and told the board how the weight training program has helped their students.

Photos by Michelle L. Hawkins/The Goodland Daily News.



Hospital nursing staff being reorganized

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

The nursing staff at Goodland Regional Medical Center is being reorganized to help the department “more accurately staff shifts, track spending and provide opportunities for staff members,” Nursing Administrator Sarah Detmer and Director of Patient Care Services Debbie Hickman, both registered nurses, told the hospital’s board Monday.

Detmer, who began as the hospital’s interim nursing administrator April 15, has worked with the nursing staff and Hickman to develop the reorganization and provide incentives to nurses through promotions.

Monday was Detmer’s last day, Hospital Administrator Jay Jolly said, but the results of her work will become more apparent as the hospital moves forward. In the past few months, he said, she has worked to reorganize the nursing staff. Instead of lumping everything together and deciding how many nurses are

needed overall, Jolly said, managers will break out each service and see how many nurses each needs.

There will be separate cost centers for each service, Hickman said, with managers being responsible for budgeting, staffing and marketing. The managers will need to work as a team, she said, and have exquisite communication. Though the staff will be scheduled according to each service’s needs, she said, they will go where needed once on the floor.

The separate services are clustered together in the organizational chart, she said, according to which ones nurses can move back and forth between the easiest. A fair amount of floating will be necessary, Detmer said.

But the nurses will be organized. When there’s a maverick moving around everywhere, Detmer said, a manager cannot be held accountable for the staff.

Nursing will use a daily staffing performance acuity system, Hickman said, to help the manager

or charge nurse to figure out what kind of work load each shift has.

Managers are looking at the census at midnight, Detmer said, which only shows about a third of the activity and doesn’t show the level of care individual patients need.

It will be a huge help for Hickman, Detmer said, to see what happens in a 24-hour day. She won’t be able to depend solely on the performance system to staff the shifts more accurately, Detmer said, but it can help. To a degree, she said, it can be used to trend things over time to see when the most nurses and the highest level of care are most needed.

The managers will handle patient care, Hickman said, as well as management responsibilities.

Having separate cost centers for each service, Hickman said, will help nursing to stay within its budget if that is possible. The system could also be used in other departments, she said, with some changes in the criteria.

Nurses will have the opportunity

to request promotions, Detmer said, through the clinical ladder, a rewards system with different designations for nurses based on performance and skill.

The nurses will have to earn their position on the ladder, Hickman said. They can move back down the ladder, Detmer said, if they no longer perform up to that level. There are steps to make sure a request for promotion is valid, she said, and the system provides an incentive for nurses to get along with doctors since doctors can recommend the promotion or not.

In other business, the board:

- heard a review of financial reports from November and December, showing a net loss of \$199,339 for November and a net income of \$11,981 for December.

- decided a special meeting will be needed to decide which company to purchase professional liability and property insurance from. The insur-