

# Bush juggles issues

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focus on — Iraq-homeland security and the economy,” Khachigian said. “What I think he has to do is keep it simple and keep it focused.”

Leading Republicans across the country received White House memos designed to guide their interviews with reporters. The GOP officials were told to promote Bush’s plans for the economy, jobs, health care, “compassionate” faith-based community services and, lastly, Iraq.

Preparing for the address, Bush met conservative newspaper columnists and rehearsed the speech,

timed at about 45 minutes, in front of a TelePrompTer. He was maintaining a tradition dating back to President Washington, who warned in his first such address to Congress, on Jan. 8, 1790, that the new United States would “punish aggressors.”

Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle challenged the White House to show “proof to the world” that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction.

As the party’s leaders joined for a pre-emptive assault on Bush’s address, Daschle and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi accused Bush of creating a “credibility gap” on a raft of issues.

The Bush administration has readied a proposal to offer prescription drug benefits and catastrophic illness coverage to seniors for the first time as an inducement to leave the traditional fee-for-service Medicare program and join private but government-subsidized health care plans, according to officials working on the plan.

Bush also wants Congress to help small businesses band together to buy health insurance for their employees. That initiative faces opposition from consumer groups and governors because it would be largely exempt from state regulation.

# Parents express opinions

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to Topeka and the student’s driving privileges are revoked for a full year.

During the public forum time 10 people addressed the board with their comments about the situation.

Several said they were concerned how the searches were conducted and that if searches were done, they should search the entire school, not just random portions.

Gina Roe said she knew guns were brought to school for an En-

glish presentation and a play gun for a government program and wondered why the kids using them did not fall under the same rules as the kids who had them in their vehicles.

High school principal, Harvey Swagger said he had given those kids permission to use the guns for the presentation.

Several students addressed the board saying there was a double standard in the punishment for the students with the guns and the other found with marijuana. They said the punishment should be the same for each situation and that either one punishment should be shorter or that the other should be longer.

“We have failed our children,” April Hall said. “How many people knew the consequences?”

Hall said she felt many parents and students were unaware the consequences for having weapons in their vehicles were so severe and that more education needs to be done.

“Educate the kids before you start ruining kids’ lives,” she said.

Swagger said letters to parents were sent out that the dogs were going to come in to randomly search the school.

“The purpose is to create a safe atmosphere for your kids,” Swagger said.

He also said the dog would be back again this year, although he didn’t know when or how many times.

The board thanked everyone for attending and giving their input.

## Snowball candidates



The SnoBall King and Queen candidates have been selected, and the finalists were chosen Monday by a vote of the students. The King candidates are Timothy Brydich, Ben Kluyskens, Bill Linin, Taylor Brack, Dan Bagnell and Matt Hall. The Queen candidates are Randi Gray, Kendra Billinger, Amanda Hoffman, Britany Pettibone and Alyssa Mason, (Jayci Stone was not present). The finalists for the SnoBall honors are King — Bagnell, Brack and Hall; Queen — Billinger, Hoffman and Pettibone. The coronation will be Friday at Max Jones Fieldhouse between the girls and boys varsity games against Oberlin.

Photo by Eric Yonkey / The Goodland Daily News

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ance is up for renewal by Feb. 15, but hospital officials are still in the process of getting quotes.

- approved seeking a lease of \$151,000 maximum for a three-year term to purchase a CT tube, lab analyzer, laproscopic camera and software and equipment to interface data, making all parts of the pharmacy’s programs communicate among themselves.

- tabled the discussion about seeing if the hospital has been reimbursed all it was entitled to from Medicaid in past years. The hospital may qualify for additional reimbursement based on patients who were qualified for Medicaid but were not enrolled, but hospital officials need to determine whether they have access to the information needed to determine whether the hospital qualifies or not.

## Critics say deregulation will hurt

**By Emily Fredrix**

*Associated Press Writer*

TOPEKA — A bill exempting broadband from state regulation threatens competition among providers of both high-speed Internet and local telephone service, critics said Monday.

SBC Communications Inc., principal backer of the bill now before the House Utilities Committee, contends that deregulation would encourage investment in Kansas. But SBC’s competitors and some state officials say it could eventually could give SBC a monopoly over digital subscriber lines, or DSL.

SBC is the state’s only provider of DSL service, through a network it has built.

High-speed Internet service — known generally as broadband — can also be delivered through cable, satellite and wireless systems.

The House committee heard from proponents of the measure last week and began taking testimony Monday from opponents, including the Kansas Corporation Commission.

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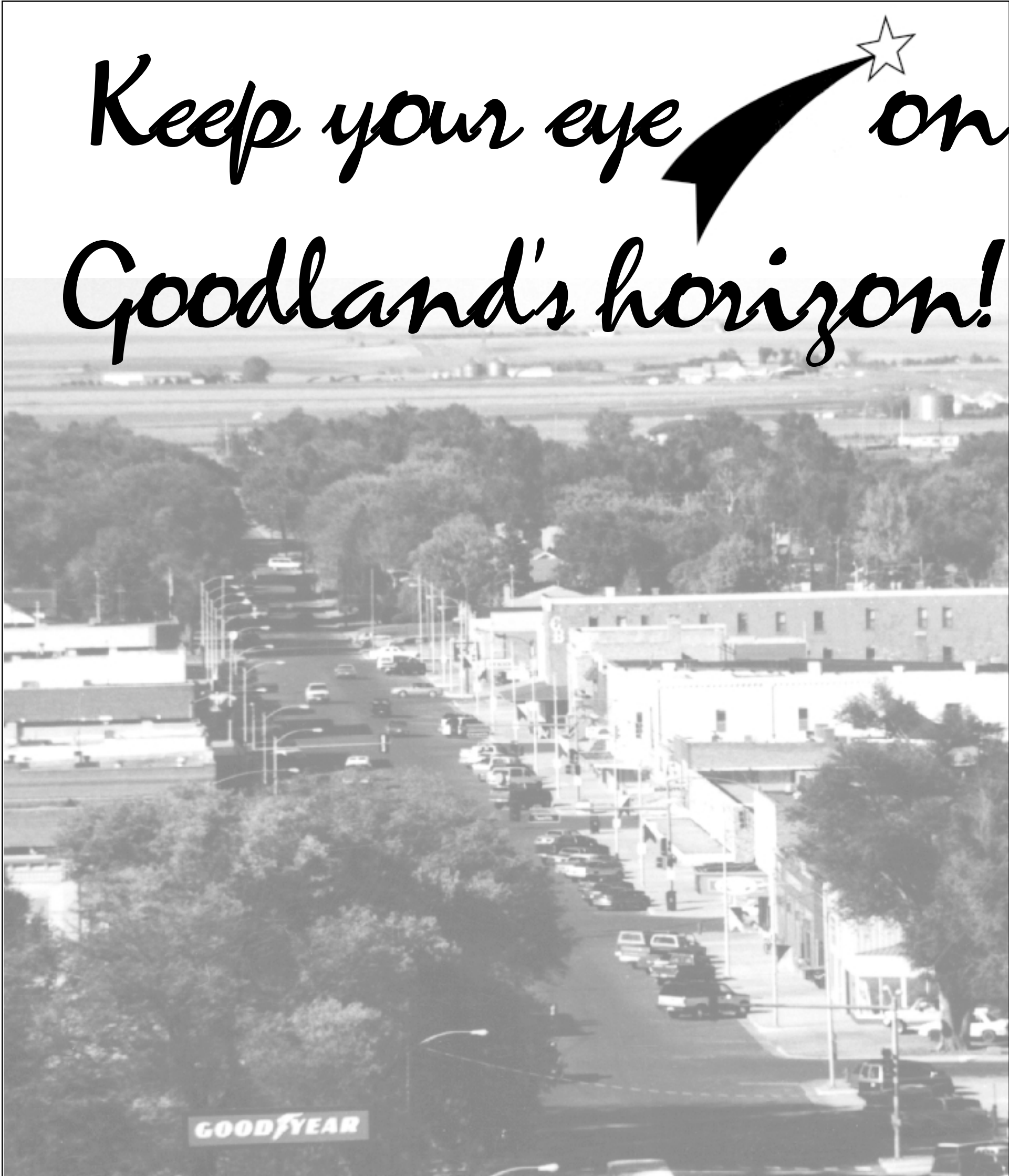
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