

weather
report

86°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:22 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 82 degrees
• Humidity 38 percent
• Sky partly sunny
• Winds northeast 15-18 m.p.h.
• Barometer 30.14 inches
and steady
• Record High 107° (1971)
• Record Low 42° (1968)

Last 24 Hours*

High 98°
Low 61°
Precipitation .05

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, low near 60, winds south 5-10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: sunny with a 40 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening, high 90-95, low near 60, winds east 5-10 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Friday: mostly sunny, high 90-95, low lower 60s. Saturday: mostly clear, high lower 90s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.93 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.79
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Corn — \$2.08 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.97
Loan deficiency payment — 2¢
Milo — \$1.74 bushel
Soybeans — \$4.41 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.48
Loan deficiency payment — 18¢
Millet — \$4.25 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$10.45 cwt.
NuSun — \$10.60 cwt.
Loan deficiency prmt. — 0¢
Confection current — inquire.
Pinto beans — \$27

(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.

Fire contained
close to towns

SHOW LOW, Ariz. — Fire crews reported their first progress today against the worst wildfire in Arizona history, announcing they had containment lines around 5 percent of the blaze that has burned 373,000 acres and destroyed at least 390 homes.

“We’re on the scoreboard,” said fire spokesman Jim Paxton. “We haven’t been there for eight days. We’re making some progress.”

The containment was near the towns of Clay Springs, Linden and Pinedale, west of Show Low.

In Colorado, hot weather and shifting wind challenged firefighters near Durango, where new flames damaged buildings, closed a highway and forced evacuations. A fire there has burned nearly 70,000 acres, at least 45 homes and damaged hundreds of utility poles, cutting off electricity to more than 500 evacuated homes.

Poor state sends schools’ money late

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily news

The state is out of cash and sent only half of the last payment of the year to schools, Superintendent Marvin Selby said Monday, which will force the Goodland district to hold off paying bills and break a budget law.

The fiscal year for schools ends Sunday. Selby told Goodland School Board members at a meeting Monday that the district is supposed to have about \$265,000 left to spend, but actually only has about \$8,431 in cash because the last state payment — due on June 15 — was short.

The district was supposed to get about

\$500,000 this month, he said. Half of that came in on time, Selby said, but the state hasn’t sent out the other half.

He said a letter from Dale Dennis, deputy commissioner for the Kansas Department of Education, said the state is hoping to send out the payment by Friday — the last work day before the end of the fiscal year. But, Selby added, Dennis said because of the state’s money problems, the payment most likely won’t arrive until Wednesday.

That presents several problems for the district, Selby said.

First, he said, Dennis said even if the last payment does come Wednesday, districts should

record that it arrived on Friday, June 28. Selby said that’s a violation of state law, which the district’s auditors will note when they check the books. Every district will be forced to do the same thing, he said.

Second, he said, this is probably the worst month to get a late payment because the district has to pay many teachers three months worth of salary. Teachers are allowed to collect pay for the summer months in a lump sum, Selby said, and about 75 percent choose to do that.

The district gave out paychecks on June 15, he said, and is now having to scrimp. He said they will wait until the very last minute to pay big bills

this month and are trying to avoid having to cash in a certificate of deposit.

“We’re having to watch our Ps and Qs,” he said, “to make sure we don’t have an overdraft.”

Selby said today that Dennis would hold a telephone conference at 1 p.m. with school administrators across the state to talk more about the budget crisis.

Lawmakers promised schools a \$20-per-student increase in base state aid next year, Selby said after the meeting, but there’s fear the state won’t be able to pay that. Board member Ron Schilling

See BUDGET, Page 4

Firm
admits
cheating

WorldCom covered
billions in expenses

By John Porretto

AP Business Writer

JACKSON, Miss. — WorldCom Inc. spiraled toward the brink of bankruptcy after the communications giant reported it had disguised \$3.8 billion in expenses. The news dragged down stock markets today, and President Bush said the Justice Department would investigate.

It is one of the largest in a series of accounting scandals that have shaken faith in corporate America.

WorldCom, which owns the nation’s No. 2 long-distance carrier MCI, said Tuesday that more than \$3 billion of expenses in 2001 and \$797 million in the first quarter of 2002 were wrongly listed on its books as capital expenses, thus not reflected in its earnings results.

That means the company may have actually lost millions of dollars when it reported profits.

WorldCom said Tuesday it would restate earnings for all of 2001 and the first quarter of 2002.

Its auditor during that period was Arthur Andersen. The Chicago-based accounting firm, once one of the world’s largest, was convicted of obstruction of justice earlier this month for its handling of documents related to now-bankrupt Enron Corp. It has lost many of its clients since the Enron accounting scandal broke late last year.

WorldCom also announced that chief financial officer Scott Sullivan has been fired, and said it would lay off 17,000 workers beginning Friday.

President Bush, speaking in Alberta, Canada, said the Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission “will fully investigate and hold

See WORLDCOM, Page 4

‘Shoplifter’
had teeth
in his pocket

What’s that in your pocket, big fella? A convenience store clerk called Goodland police about 3 p.m. Tuesday, saying that a man had left the building with drooping shorts and a bulging pocket.

“When he came in, his pockets were empty,” the clerk said. “We could tell because of the shorts he was wearing.”

They were keeping an eye on the man, the clerk said, because another convenience store had called saying he might be shoplifting. Business picked up, though, and the clerks lost track of him.

“When we looked up, he wasn’t in the store anymore,” the clerk said. “We looked outside, and his shorts were drooping and he had a bulge in his pocket.”

A police officer pulled up and found the man close to the building. He asked to look in his pockets.

The man pulled out a pair of dentures, the officer said.

“I don’t know how dentures can make his shorts droop that much,” the clerk said. “I don’t know about that.”



Reading leads to cool fun

Christy Studer (top, left), Kirsten Topliff, Courtney Quast and Katlyn Topliff used squirt bottles to shoot a bowl off the top of other children’s heads Tuesday afternoon at the Goodland Public Library. It was one activity during “Game Day,” which signals the end to part of the library’s summer reading program. Karen Gillihan (left), a librarian, let children who had met reading goals throw whipped cream pies at her face. After the kids missed, Barb Winston, a library board member, took a shot.

Photos by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

Officers to brush up on bioterrorism plans

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

Smallpox breaks out in Kansas, spread by terrorists. Hundreds become sick, and many may die. Are state and county officials ready to fight it?

They’ll find out today and Thursday. About 700 people, including seven from Sherman County, will be participating in a bioterrorism exercise in Topeka called Prairie Plague.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby; Sheriff Doug Whitson; Goodland Police Chief Ray Smee; Dorendo Harrel, administrator and nurse at the Sherman County Health Department; Jeff Krall, emergency medical services director; LeAnn Taylor, county public informa-

tion officer; and Mary Messamore, county emergency services director, planned to attend the exercise.

Teams from nearly every Kansas county will meet at the Maner Conference Center, and participants from state agencies will be in the Emergency Operations Center at the state Defense Building.

Also participating will be the Federal Emergency Management Agency Regional Operations Center in Kansas City and the Office of Homeland Security in Washington.

Participants will see presentations today, and a simulated biological attack will be staged on Thursday, a fictional smallpox outbreak with the first case

identified in Kansas.

Each county team will be seated at tables arranged in a layout representing the state. The teams will simulate the activation of a local emergency operations center.

The exercise will test response capabilities for an attack in Kansas and clarify the roles and responsibilities of authorities in a major medical emergency.

County teams can coordinate with those nearby and will test plans to respond to bioterrorist attacks they have been working on since January.

Officials hope the exercise will help the teams identify what works and what doesn’t in their plans and correct any

problems.

County teams may include county emergency managers, public health officials, hospital/medical officials, law enforcement, public information officials, county commissioners, coroners and county attorneys.

State agencies participating in the exercise will include Emergency Management, the departments of Health and Environment, Agriculture and Transportation, the Highway Patrol and the office of Gov. Bill Graves.

Federal agencies participating will include the Emergency Management Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.