

weather report

59° at noon



Today

Sunset, 6:02 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 5:43 a.m.

Sunset, 6:03 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temp. 44 degrees
- Humidity 37 percent
- Sky Mostly cloudy
- Winds E 10
- Barometer 30.15 inches and steady
- Record High 82° (1967)
- Record Low 1° (1965)

Yesterday's Data

High 57°  
Low 27°  
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas

Tonight: Partly cloudy; lows near 30; winds SE 5-15. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny; high 55-60; winds SE 10-20.

Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday: Dry Friday; low 30; high 60. Saturday and Sunday chance of thunderstorms; low in the lower 30s; highs 55-60.

24-hour weather information is broadcast at 162.400 MHz.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.44 bu.  
Posted county price — \$2.34  
Loan deficiency payment — 11¢  
Corn — \$1.86 bu.  
Posted county price — \$1.94  
Loan deficiency payment — 5¢  
Milo — \$2.56 cwt.  
Soybeans — \$4.18 bu.  
Posted county price — \$4.19  
Loan deficiency payment — 70¢  
Millet — \$4.25 cwt.  
Sunflowers  
oil current — \$8.20 cwt.  
loan deficiency payment — \$2.06  
oil 1999 crop — \$8.85 cwt.  
conf. current — \$18/\$11 cwt.  
Pintos - \$12 (new crop)  
Local markets courtesy of Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun and Collingwood Grain  
Local bean market courtesy of Prairie Pea and Bean

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press  
1 p.m.

Senate debates transport issue

TOPEKA—The Senate planned to resume discussions late today on a bill creating a new, comprehensive transportation program, after suspending debate Tuesday evening.

Before spending nearly three hours debating transportation, however, the Senate easily advanced to a final vote a bill to restructure how Kansas' higher education system is managed. It planned to vote on that measure at its afternoon session.

The Senate transportation proposal would increase motor fuels taxes by five cents a gallon and vehicle registration fees 20 to 30 percent, plus it would let the state to issue \$990 million in bonds.

Many conservative Republicans object to the fuels tax increase, but when Sen. Tim Huelkamp, R-Fowler, offered an amendment to remove the increase, it failed, 15-25.

NATO planes bombing Yugoslavia

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — NATO bombings began in Kosovo tonight to punish Yugoslavia and its hard-line leader for refusing to make peace in the southern Serbian province.

Explosions went off in Pristina, Kosovo's capital. Residents reached by telephone said at least four huge detonations were heard — one quite loud — and air raid sirens sounded. Air raid sirens also were heard in the Yugoslav capital, but no explosions.

State radio had no report of the airstrikes within the first few minutes, playing Serbian music instead. Electricity soon went out in Pristina, leaving the city of a quarter-million people in the dark.

U.S. B-52 bombers had taken off from their base in Britain more than seven hours beforehand, after NATO gave the go-ahead for allied airstrikes on Yugoslavia. Waves of jet fighters also headed across the Adriatic Sea from the Aviano air base in northern Italy.

The attack, announced by NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana at alliance headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, and confirmed minutes later by President Clinton in Washington, was the first against a sovereign country in NATO's 50-year history. "Kosovo's crisis is now full-blown and if we do not act clearly it will get even worse," Clinton said.

Detonations were first heard in Pristina shortly after 8 p.m. (noon Mountain Time), signaling the start of the NATO bombing campaign. Soon, the city was lighted by explosions in the distance.

Threatened for months, the punitive strikes come as a result of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's repeated refusal to end the war against ethnic Albanian separatists and accept a Kosovo peace plan.

"We must now act," British Prime Minister Tony Blair said somberly earlier in the day, declaring the world must end a year-old war that has killed more than 2,000 people and driven some 400,000 from their homes.

Two days of last-ditch talks between special U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke, who brokered an end to the Bosnian war in 1995, and the Yugoslav leader failed to change Milosevic's mind.

Before the attack, Milosevic delivered a final message of defiance, urging Yugoslavs in a nationally televised address to defend the country "by all means."

"What is at stake here is the freedom of the entire country," Milosevic said, repeating his refusal to accept the U.S.-backed plan and its call for 28,000 NATO troops — including 4,000 American.

See KOSOVO, Page 4



Sharpening the teeth that chew up asphalt



The project to replace the north lanes of I-70 between Goodland and Edson took a pause Tuesday when the asphalt roto-mill machine had a breakdown. Ron Hammond of Koss Construction, the project contractor, was smoothing edges this morning while other workers were repairing the torque for the main drum. He expected the repairs to be completed today; then the chewing up of the paved shoulder can continue. The section between Edson and Goodland is now a two-lane road with a reduced speed limit to 60 mph and no passing.

Photos by Tom Betz / Goodland Daily



Hospital board OKs big lease, hears of profit

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

As the construction on the new medical clinic and the new birthing wing head into the final phase, Goodland Regional Medical Center's board approved a master lease with the First National Bank to purchase equipment for the additions.

Andy Laue, financial officer of the hospital, told the board the lease will be for around \$750,000, allowing the hospital to complete the building and equip the new clinic.

Included in the list are exam tables, exam lights, telephones, equipment and other furnishings. The lease also includes equipment for the birthing

rooms and will cover equipment for the Intensive Care Unit, which will be remodeled later this spring.

The lease will be for 10 years, and interest will be a fluctuating rate based on the interest rates for public funds.

The master lease has been under discussion for several months, and the hospital has been paying construction bills for the clinic with cash up to this point, Laue said. The master lease allows the hospital to add equipment so they can stay as current as possible with the ever changing technology.

In approving the master lease, board member Larry McCants, president of the bank, abstained.

He had previously discussed the lease program with the Sherman County commissioners, and had explained the advantages in using this to finance the equipment needs. At that meeting, the commissioners approved a motion to allow the hospital board to enter into the master lease.

The board had planned to tour the new birthing wing during the meeting, but because the workers had prepared the floor for laying of linoleum, the tour was postponed until the April meeting.

In presenting the February financial report, Laue had some good news for the board, as the operating income for the month was a profit of \$9,133. This is quite a turnaround from January, which was a loss. Laue said he thinks the expenses

are above budget mostly because of the construction. He noted that there has been a good increase in the outpatient use, which showed 300 more visits than last year.

The board moved to change the April date from Monday to Tuesday, April 27. The meeting time will remain at 6:30 p.m., with the finance committee meeting at 6 p.m.

Administrator Jim Chaddic said the construction project should be close to the final walk-through by the end of April and they should be able to begin moving into the clinic in May.

The board went into closed session to discuss the administrator's evaluation, but action on this was tabled until the next meeting.

Farm question confuses supporters

WASHINGTON (AP)—They don't agree on what should be done, but scores of farmers are flying into the nation's capital this month to appeal for government help to survive another year of low commodity prices.

"A my local elevator, (wheat) is \$3 a bushel and that's not enough to make it," said Mark Sitz of Drake, N.D.

He is among 150 members of the National Farmers Union who fanned out across Capitol Hill on Monday to lobby lawmakers for billions of dollars worth of proposals, including increased price supports, payments for on-farm grain storage, purchases of low-price corn for ethanol production, and a

short-term land-idling program to reduce production.

"Fundamental changes must be made in farm policy," Farmers Union President Leland Swenson said.

The larger American Farm Bureau Federation is sending 3,000 of its members to Washington over the course of this month.

While they oppose production controls supported by the Farmers Union, the Farm Bureau members say in a letter to members of Congress that the 1996 farm law needs a "thorough re-examination" to "assure adequate economic and disaster assistance for all commodities."

The 1996 law gave farmers more flexibility on what they could plant but it sharply cut crop subsidies that were intended to provide a safety net with prices dropped.

The Farm Bureau wants the Agriculture Department to expand its use of export subsidies and the Conservation Reserve Program and is asking Congress for tax cuts and a moratorium on new regulations that affect agriculture.

Congress provided \$5.9 billion in assistance last fall, a month before the election. This isn't an election year, but Swenson said farmers are ahead of where they were at this time last year in showing that they need help.

Bottom-feeding channel catfish already Missouri's state symbol

TOPEKA (AP)—Talk about bottom feeding.

The channel catfish, honored in a bill that would designate it the official fish of Kansas, is already another state's official fish.

Worse than that, the other state is Missouri. In fact, the channel catfish has been Missouri's official state fish since 1997.

That fact may complicate efforts by a group of Olpe junior high school students to give the channel catfish Kansas' official designation.

"Are we going to be like Mis-

souri?" asked Sen. Lana Oleen, R-Manhattan, chairwoman of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee.

The fact that the channel catfish is Missouri's state fish apparently was unknown to House members when they passed the fish bill March 8.

Oleen's committee plans to have a hearing Wednesday on the House-passed bill. She noted opposition to the channel catfish already has surfaced from people who would rather see the Topeka shiner or the big-mouth bass honored by the state.