

**weather
report**

54°

at noon



Today

Sunset, 5:31 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 6:10 a.m.

Sunset, 5:30 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temp. 54 degrees
- Humidity 52 percent
- Sky Partly sunny
- Winds NW 17
- Barometer 29.64 inches and steady
- Record High 86° (1940)
- Record Low 10° (1949)

Yesterday's Data

High 80°
Low 41°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas

Tonight: Mostly cloudy; low 40; winds NW 15-25. Tomorrow: Cloudy 30% chance of rain; high 50; winds N 10-20.

Extended Forecast

Friday night through Sunday: A chance of rain or snow. Lows in the 30s. Highs in the 40s. Monday Dry; low in the 30s; high 55-65.

24-hour weather information is broadcast at 162.400 MHz.

**local
markets**



Noon

- Wheat — \$2.49 bu.
 - Posted county price — \$2.45
 - Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
 - Corn — \$1.81 bu.
 - Posted county price — \$1.92
 - Loan deficiency payment — 7¢
 - Milo — \$2.76 cwt.
 - Soybeans — \$4.14 bu.
 - Posted county price — \$4.06
 - Loan deficiency payment — 83¢
 - Millet — \$4.25 cwt.
 - Sunflowers
 - oil current — \$7.80 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency payment — \$1.71
 - oil 1999 crop — \$8.40 cwt.
 - conf. current — \$17/\$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.

**Budget feud
escalates**

TOPEKA (AP) — Political feuding over changes a House committee made in welfare funding escalated, with Gov. Bill Graves and House Democrats exchanging verbal barbs. Graves accused the Democrats of performing a "cheap theatrical stunt" and of scuttling campaign finance reform by teaming with conservative Republicans to whack nearly \$23 million out of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services budget. House Democratic Leader Jim Garner said Graves' administration had shamed itself by retaliating with funding cuts to providers of welfare services, and he demanded an apology. "That you, governor, and your subordinates, have chosen to engage in these ... scare tactics and attempts at intimidation is disappointing and unacceptable," Garner, D-Coffeyville, said in a spare-no-words letter delivered to the governor Wednesday.

3 soldiers face trial Friday

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — NATO jet fighters attacked Serbia's second-largest city today, destroying a bridge over the Danube River, while the state news agency said three captured U.S. soldiers would face a military court as early as Friday. Deputy Prime Minister Vuk Draskovic, a relative moderate in the Yugoslav government, told The Associated Press the soldiers who were caught Wednesday would be treated "with the full respect of all international conventions concerning prisoners of war."

Asked about Serb television footage showing at least one of the three with cuts and abrasions on the face, Draskovic said that was the result of one soldier "trying to fight physically before being arrested."

The soldiers, part of a NATO peace-keeping force, were patrolling a rugged region with no precise or defined border between Macedonia and Yugoslavia, Macedonian Interior Minister Pavle Trajanov said.

In Washington, the United States reacted with outrage on hearing the Tanjug news agency report of military proceedings.

President Clinton said the United States will hold Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic responsible for the safety of the three.

Any trial "would be in violation of international law," State Department spokesman James P. Rubin said. "Such a trial is obviously ridiculous."

The Tanjug report quoted a judicial officer in Pristina, the Kosovo capital, as saying an authorized military court would conduct the proceedings, which were believed to be the equivalent of a grand jury hearing that seeks evidence to determine what charges, if any, should be filed.

NATO's aerial bombardment continued unabated in Yugoslavia today, with missiles knocking out a major bridge in Novi Sad, Serbia's second-biggest city with a half-million people, Serbian media said. Military warehouses are at one end of the bridge.



Sliding into Spring

Elijah Bohl was sliding into Spring on the last day of March as he enjoyed the slide in Steever Park with his babysitter Karissa Smith. Despite the warmth of the week days, the Weather Service is predicting a storm with possibly rain or snow over Easter weekend.

Photos by Nell Frohlich



Questions, but few answers for military families

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — Leanne Keirstead wanted to know why her husband, a pilot, had to pay many of his living expenses out of his own pocket since being deployed in the Kosovo conflict.

And Devra Renner, whose husband is a deployed navigator, asked why the United States had to send troops to fight everyone else's battles.

But the two wives, along with about 300 other McConnell Air Force Base military personnel and family members, got few answers Wednesday from U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback during his visit to the base.

"You are not hearing the answers you want to hear: when is it going

to be over?" Mrs. Renner said.

Monica Rothrock brought her 5-year-old daughter, Dominique, who was hugging a big stuffed teddy bear, to hear what the senator had to say about Kosovo. Her husband, a navigator, was shipped out March 19, leaving her behind with Dominique and her 6-year-old brother, Alexis.

"It's been hard on the kids, they don't like to see him leave," she said. She doesn't want U.S. involvement to expand to ground troops. "Hopefully, he will be able to tell us it's over," she said before the meeting began.

Instead, the families got a speech from Brownback thanking the troops for risking their lives, and promises to pull the troops out of harm's way as soon as possible and

to settle the situation in the region.

Jennifer Daack was one of the luckier ones. Her husband, a copilot, has not been shipped out yet. The couple have no children. No time, she said — her husband has been gone 120 days since July on deployments to Spain, Turkey, Japan and, most recently, Saudi Arabia.

She wanted Brownback to tell the families what the politicians in Washington were going to do to get the troops home from the Kosovo conflict.

"If he was to ask me, I would tell him this is a mistake to put American lives at risk," Mrs. Daack said.

After the troops and their families politely listened to Brownback offer his thanks, and the thanks of the nation, the senator took questions

from the troops and their families. But for most of them, he could do little but agree with their concerns.

"Frankly, I have to question what is taking place in Serbia," Brownback said.

And he did little to quell the fears of another wife who was alarmed by the Russian response to the conflict.

"I am very concerned about what the Russians will do in response," Brownback said, adding that he had few fears about President Yeltsin but he was very worried about the hard-liners in the Russian government.

Brownback said the next step for the United States was to articulate an exit strategy, and that there is no support for the placement of U.S. ground combat troops.

Rock Island arrived in 1888; shut down in 1980

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

It was a great day for Goodland when the Rock Island workers traveled through the city at the end of March 1888 signaling the railroad was actually coming, according to a report in the Goodland News.

A group of Sherman County Historical Society people and many interested in the history of the Rock Island gathered at the Goodland Public Library Tuesday as part of a presentation of a new book about the Western Division of the Rock Island, and some historical perspective on the railroad's impact on Sherman County.



Ward

In early 1888 two railroads were competing to prepare a rail bed across Thomas County, according to Evelyn Ward, who gave the historical perspective, and when the Rock Island won the race to the Sherman County line it looked like the new line would come through Goodland. However, until the crews actually came through the city at the end of March it was uncertain whether the line would be on the south or north end of the city.

Ward said the workers came through in wagons and went onto the state line where they started working back to the east. When the wagons went through Goodland the business people and citizens held an impromptu celebration.

The first train came through Goodland July 3, 1888, carrying a load of track and ties for further expansion to the west. The first passenger train arrived July 4, and the first freight train with goods for the shops arrived July 6.



The Rock Island Rocket is refueled at Goodland during the railroad's hey day. A new book by Thomas R. Lee of Clay Center Rock Island Westward - Rails to the Rockies was presented to the Goodland library, and will be in the Kansas room by the Sherman County Historical Society Tuesday.

Outbound freight of 10,000 pounds of wool from John Bray headed east July 5.

As the western division developed the railroads impact on the community increased, and at one point there was a roundhouse in Goodland. Ward said some of the railroad workers would let the local children ride the turntable while the foreman was at lunch. Unfortunately there were also stories about people and youngsters being hit and killed in railroad related accidents.

The Rocket began traveling through Goodland Nov. 12, 1939, and carried people west and east until the last run, March 28, 1980 when the train headed east for the last time. The last train marked the end of the 92 year history of the Rock Island in Goodland.

Marion Parker was an engineer on the last run of The Rocket leaving Den-

ver in 1980, and said the Denver television stations came down to record the event. "They gave me a handful of flowers," he said. "I wondered what they thought an engineer was going to do with flowers."

"We did not have a car when I was young, and remember riding the train to Goodland. Many times we rode the caboose from Ruleton," said Pearl Parrish. She also talked about having to unload supplies for her father's store onto wagons and hauling them up the street.



Parker

Ward talked about the railroad strike of 1921 which caused some rifts when the scabs came to town. She also said there were several widows who had boarding houses where the railroad workers would stay between runs.

"There were also saloons and brothels in Goodland in those early days," Ward said.

In October 1951 the New York Times Magazine did a story on the Rock Island called "Whistle Stop Kansas" which included about four pages about Goodland.

Presidents who traveled the Rock Island through Goodland included Howard Taft and both Teddy and Franklin D. Roosevelt, according to Bryce Cole, historical society president.

gested that changes in the railroad away from depots and the introduction of the Pullman cars was the main reason the large depot was not rebuilt.

A copy of the new book Rock Island Westward, Rails to the Rockies, was presented to the Goodland library for inclusion in the Kansas room. The book, which is the second volume by Thomas R. Lee of Clay Center, is currently on sale, and are available at the Family Bookstore and the High Plains Museum.

Parker recalled other tales from his years with the railroad including how they would put lumps of coal on the floor of the engine, and kick them out to keep certain rural folks warm when times were hard.

During the dust storms he said the engine had a special attachment to clear the track of dust. He said the worst part of the line for dust was near Seibert, Colo.

He said the tickle grass was even worse as it would actually spin the drive wheels as well as causing fires along the tracks.

"I just knew we would get burned out, when the trains were running on coal and the sparks would fly," Parrish said. At one time the Rock Island even had a special train standing by in Goodland as a grass fire rushed toward the city. The fire was controlled before the city was destroyed, but there were many fires that burned several rural homes and farms Ward said.

"I remember playing a joke on one of the college men we had working one summer," Parker said. "We picked up cattle at one stop, and as we pulled away I ask him if he got just the cattle and not the bull. He did not know the difference and I then said if he got a bull it was considered stealing and that was a hanging offense. When we pulled into Goodland I looked back and he was running up the street. We shouldn't have pulled those jokes, but they were fun at the time."