

weather report

33°  
at noon



Today

Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 5:13 a.m.

Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temp. 41 degrees
- Humidity 92 percent
- Sky Light Snow
- Winds NW 22
- Barometer 29.65 inches and rising
- Record High 86° (1932)
- Record Low 18° (1945)

Yesterday's Data

High 56°  
Low 22°  
Precipitation .02

Northwest Kansas

Tonight: Partly cloudy; low 30-35; winds W 15-25. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy; high 60; winds S 10-20.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday through Friday: Dry Wednesday; high 70; low 30. Rain Thursday; high 60; low 30. Dry Friday; high 60; low 3-35.

24-hour weather information is broadcast at 162.400 MHz.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.52 bu.
- Posted county price — \$2.41
- Loan deficiency payment — 4¢
- Corn — \$1.77 bu.
- Posted county price — \$1.88
- Loan deficiency payment — 11¢
- Milo — \$2.70 cwt.
- Soybeans — \$4.12 bu.
- Posted county price — \$4.06
- Loan deficiency payment — 83¢
- Millet — \$4.25 cwt.
- Sunflowers oil current — \$7.75 cwt.
- Loan deficiency payment — \$1.48
- oil 1999 crop — \$8.35 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.

Lybia gives up two bombers

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Clearing the way for justice after more than a decade of defiance, Libya today handed over two suspects in the 1988 Pan Am bombing for trial in the Netherlands.

The surrender of alleged former intelligence agents Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamien Khalifa Fhimah means the two men can be tried under Scottish law on charges of planting the suitcase bomb that blew up Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The Dec. 21, 1988, bombing killed 270 people — including 189 Americans — and led to U.N. sanctions that have isolated Libya from the West for the past seven years. With the suspects' arrival, those sanctions were automatically suspended.

Their surrender came after intense lobbying by South African President Nelson Mandela and Saudi Arabian and U.N. officials.

# Exit closing put off a week by state

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

Work on the westbound lanes of I-70 from Goodland east to Edson is well underway, but the next phase of the project — closing of the north ramps at the west Goodland exit at K-27 — has been delayed until April 16.

The ramp work was set to begin Wednesday, but Donna Binning, construction engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation, said the contractor wasn't quite ready to start and the schedule had been delayed to allow complete preparation for the project.

She said the ramp work has been planned to minimize the amount of time any one exit is closed, and since the ramps are to be done within 30 days, the department is working with the contractor.

Binning said the new schedule will probably effect the dates for the ramps at Edson and the east Goodland exit. Details will be available later this week on the schedule changes, she said.

The contractor, Koss Construction of Topeka, was scheduled to do the north ramps at Edson between May 6 and May 25 and the east Goodland access, Exit 19, between May 26 and June 16.

Work on the main pavement is expected to last into the fall, but the exits will be reopened as soon as possible, with traffic crossing over new pavement to them.

Chriss McDiffett, district engineer for the department, said Monday that the agency is hoping to have the eastbound phase of I-70 and the K-27 project from under from the freeway to the intersection with Business U.S. 24 in the bid letting for June.

If they can accomplish this, he feels some of the work on the K-27 project could be completed this summer, and the job would be completed next spring.

The eastbound phase of the I-70 project is expected to begin next spring, and will include replacement of the south ramps at Edson and the two Goodland exits.

The bridge replacement on old U.S. 24 near Caruso this summer is another project which is getting closer, and will cause more detours, with traffic being routed west on Eighth Street to Country Road 14 and then south to old U.S. 24 and I-70, he said.

Bids are expected to be let on the bridge replacement in May, with construction to begin about the first of July. County Road and Bridge Supervisor

Curt Way said the bridge project is expected to take 45 days once construction begins.

On the east end of the county, Way said the project to rebuild County Road 64 (old U.S. 24) will begin in mid-July from Road 37 (County Line) west to Road 27, about two miles west of Edson.

The first part will be the hot in-place recycling, and this will be followed by chip sealing after a four-week break.

"We will not close the whole road down, but will be restricting one lane at a time as this project is completed," Way said.

## Morning winds rip homes, stores school in Wichita

WICHITA (AP) — A violent spring storm snapped trees, ripped shingles off roofs and damaged a school this morning in eastern Wichita, and there were unconfirmed reports of a tornado.

There were no reports of serious injury, but motorists observed heavy damage to a shopping center and several houses on fire about four miles east of downtown.

"Something went through there with gusto," said Conrad Rohr, a Wichita resident who saw some of the damage

after the storm struck about 7:45 a.m.

Police reported gas leaks, downed power lines and snapped trees. A vehicle was trapped by high water, but the situation was not life-threatening, Deputy Chief Terri Moses said.

At Jefferson Elementary School, 18 children eating breakfast in the cafeteria were moved to a heavily bricked section of the school as tornado sirens blared. The children were unhurt, but three portable classrooms outside the main building were destroyed and another was damaged.

Classes at the school were canceled because of the damage, and shaken teachers huddled outside after the storm.

"Can you imagine if it were school-time?" said Jan Ostenberg, a fifth-grade teacher.

A few blocks away, a small strip mall that included a clothing store and nail salon was heavily damaged. The mall's roof was pushed inside the structure, its insulation ripped away and glass shattered.

Winds topping 65 mph and pea-size hail were reported at McConnell Air Force Base. Damage also was reported in sections of northern Sumner County south of Wichita, and some streets were flooded in northeast Butler County east of the city.

A trained spotter saw a tornado touch down east of the downtown Wichita area about 7:45 a.m. The National Weather Service could not immediately confirm whether the damage had been caused by a twister or high straight-line winds.

"We're not positive that one was a tornado," said Marian Baker, a meteorologist at the weather service's Wichita office.

A line of severe weather stretching from northern Oklahoma to central Kansas was moving east this morning. The storm system's main threat came from heavy rain and wind downbursts, Baker said.

## Attacks hit targets on ground

### Yugoslav troops pay price for ethnic war

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — NATO missiles and aircraft blasted Serbian targets inside Yugoslavia for a 13th straight day today while the allies readied a massive airlift for ethnic Albanian refugees.

Serb targets struck as the weather cleared over Yugoslavia included roads, bridges, fuel depots, an air force building, army barracks and a television relay tower. Serbian news showed buildings in flames.

NATO said relief flights — a "humanitarian air bridge" carrying 200 tons of food and other emergency supplies — were scheduled into Albania and Macedonia to help nearly 400,000 ethnic Albanians driven from Kosovo by Serb forces over the past two weeks.

About 44,000 ethnic Albanians streamed out of Kosovo on Sunday, and at least 831,000 of the 2 million prewar Kosovo population have been displaced since the conflict began in February 1998, NATO spokesman Jamie Shea said.

At the NATO briefing in Brussels, Belgium, Air Commodore David Wilby said the alliance would take advantage of better weather over Kosovo to accelerate its attacks. Alliance jets struck the province today, receiving heavy fire, but all returned safely.

As proof of President Slobodan Milosevic's continued program of depopulation and deportation, Wilby showed an aerial photo of Godane, with armored vehicles stationed throughout the town and villagers gathered. Subsequent photos, he said, showed the people gone, the village ablaze.

Milosevic was shown by state television meeting aides. The announcer said Milosevic awarded several Yugoslav army officers medals for bravery in the fight against "aggressor" NATO.

Amid a new wave of NATO air strikes early today in Belgrade, Pristina and other Yugoslav cities, the United States signaled an escalation of fire-power to halt Serb attacks on Kosovo's Albanian majority.

Washington agreed to send 24 attack helicopters, 2,600 troops and a missile launching system to Albania to give NATO the ability to directly attack Serb troops and tanks in Kosovo, where more than 2,000 people have died over the past 13 months.

## Kansas farmers worried about proposed changes in pesticide rules

WICHITA (AP) — A proposal to tighten restrictions on common pesticides faces resistance from Kansas farmers who depend on the insect- and rodent-killing chemicals.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has scheduled meetings this spring in Kansas City and Sacramento, Calif., over proposed restrictions on the use of aluminum and magnesium phosphide. The two substances, which create highly toxic phosphine gas when exposed to moisture in the air, are used to kill insects and rodents in grain storage facilities.

"I've been in the (grain) elevator business for more than 30 years, and I've used this product for 20 or more years, and I've never had a problem with it or known anyone who did," said Brett Myers, executive vice president of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers. "It's one of the safest pesticides you can use."

The EPA will hold the hearings to collect more comments and information before making a final decision. Dates have not been announced.

On the farm, a hollow probe is inserted deep into stored grain and phosphide tablets are dropped into the probe, where they dissolve when exposed to moisture in the air.

At elevators, the phosphide tablets are dropped into the stream of grain as it is transferred from one bin to another. Treated bins are sealed and labeled for the period of time the phosphine is active.

The Kansas Grain and Feed Association is urging its members to register their concerns about how new restrictions of the product would damage their businesses.

EPA spokeswoman Ellen Kramer said every pesticide registered before 1984 is being examined for re-registration. The look at phosphides is part of that program, she said, and not a response to any particular accident or problem.

"We're-examine every substance and study carefully what changes in procedures might make it safer for workers and for the public," Kramer said.

Two proposed changes worry Kan-

sas grain producers.

One is a plan to ban the use of the pesticides in any facility located within 500 feet of a residence.

Grain growers say that would greatly restrict the legal use of phosphine on farms, since many farm homes are within 500 feet of grain-storage buildings. Residences are located within 500 feet of co-op elevators in dozens of small Kansas towns.

"This regulation would affect more than half of all the grain-handling facilities in the state of Kansas," said Carl Reed, a Kansas State University researcher who has been studying gas leaks in elevator work areas.

The industry also opposes a second proposed regulation that would require a company to notify businesses and residents within 750 feet of a facility that fumigation is in progress.

Reed, who is on the agenda to appear at the hearing this spring, said it is inevitable that the EPA will pass more stringent handling and labeling restrictions. But, he said, he hopes the agency will back away from its current plan.

## Measure might help oil firms

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansans heading to the polls Tuesday to vote in school board and city elections may be surprised to receive a ballot for a proposed constitutional amendment.

That surprise could jeopardize the amendment's success, supporters concede.

Little attention was given when the House adopted on Feb. 12 and the Senate on Feb. 25 a resolution placing the issue on the municipal election ballot.

And no group has been willing to spend any money to publicize it — either in support or opposition. Even the Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association declined to mount a media campaign.

The proposal, the only statewide issue on Tuesday's ballot, would allow cities and counties to exempt oil and natural gas operational expansions from property tax. It wouldn't affect property already being used for oil and gas operations.



Visibility dropped dramatically in Sherman County this morning as Mother Nature showered the area for a few hours with very large, wet snow flakes. The heaviest was about 10 a.m., and the snow had stopped by early afternoon. The spring weather continues a pattern of quick-moving storms with another possible by Thursday, when rain is expected.

Photo by Tom Betz / Goodland Daily News