

weather report

72°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:41 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:45 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:42 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 49 degrees
- Humidity percent 27
- Sky Partly cloudy
- Winds SW 18
- Barometer 29.42 inches and falling

• Record High 93° (1949)

• Record Low 26° (1954)

Last 24 Hours*

High 65°

Low 43°

Precipitation .07

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy; 30 percent chance of thunderstorms; low 45; wind S 15-25. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy; 20 percent chance of thunderstorms; high 65; wind - breezy.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday through Friday: Dry all three days; highs each day around 60; lows each night 35-40.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.21 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.17
 - Loan deficiency payment — 28¢
 - Corn — \$1.80 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.84
 - Loan deficiency prmt. — 15¢
 - Milo — \$2.67 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$3.85 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.02
 - Loan deficiency payment — 87¢
 - Millet — \$4 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$8.55 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency prmt. — \$1.10
 - Oil new crop — \$8.85 cwt.
 - Confection current — \$17/10 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)
- (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Bombs leave Belgrade dark

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — NATO blacked out Belgrade with a precision strike on a major power grid, saying Slobodan Milosevic would get no "reward" for freeing three U.S. POWs. Yugoslav media reported allied warplanes mistakenly hit a bus today, causing heavy casualties.

Workers restored power today to some parts of Belgrade and other parts of Yugoslavia, but at dusk many residents faced a second night without electricity. It was impossible to determine how much of the capital was without power. State TV remained off.

NATO said it had no information on the reports of a noontime airstrike on a bus traveling from the western Kosovo city of Pec to Rozaje in Montenegro. The Montena-fax news agency quoted police sources as saying about 20 people were killed.

Blaze sweeps vacant grocery

Firemen, marshal seek cause

By Keith Lippoldt

Goodland Daily News

A fire heavily damaged the former Mosburg IGA building in downtown Goodland on Friday, sending flames shooting through the roof before firemen could arrive from their station next door.

Volunteers quickly controlled the blaze, leaving fire officials and police wondering what had started the blaze in the empty building.

"We are probably looking at this as a suspicious fire," said Goodland Fire Chief Dean Jensen. "We found the power off and the gas off. We now need to determine how something like this could happen. I don't have the expertise to determine cause. That is why we called in the big boys."

The blaze was called in just after 5 p.m. Friday afternoon and the Goodland Fire Department battled it for well over an hour. The first report came from former Goodland Police Officer Scott Callaway, who had been visiting the city building and spotted the smoke as he was leaving.

The investigation began literally before the blaze was out with the arrival of Police Chief Ray Smee at the scene. A state fire marshal was called in from Garden City on Saturday and was scheduled to return today to continue the investigation.

"This fire is being treated no differently than any other fire," Chief Smee said. "The fire marshal was on the scene Saturday for his initial investigation and will be back this morning..."

Smee said investigators decided Saturday to hold off on a full scale investigation until insurance company representatives could be present.

"We went inside the building and conducted a search but we did not tear into the scene," Smee said. "We wanted the insurance company to have an opportunity to survey the scene at the same time."

"Everybody will go in together."

Smee said the building does have a sprinkler system but investigators had not figured out if it was operational. The grocery closed in March of 1998, and until recently had been used by Garcia's Furniture to store merchandise. It was empty at the time of the fire, however.



The strain and work show on faces as a fire crew prepares to enter the front door at Mosburg IGA on Friday. The volunteers were (from left) Mike Rubio, Jeff White and Roger Crotinger. (The man holding the hose could

not be identified.) An onlooker (below) watched as flames shot through the roof of the vacant grocery just before firemen started to attack the blaze.

Photo by Keith Lippoldt/Goodland Daily News

The building is owned by Geary Mosburg, though Bankwest of Goodland has a loan on it. Bank officials at the scene said they believed the power and gas had been shut off.

There was power leading up to the building, though, and city linemen had to shut off a transformer at the back of the building to avoid any possibility of fire fighters being shocked. They also cut a power line running through flames over the roof to lights in the parking lot and shut off the main circuit box outside.

Firemen were forced to cut out sections of the back wall of the metal building and the roof to get to the fire. A crew took one hose line in through the back door, then another entered through the hole chopped and sawed in the wall. Fire fighters alternated in the smoky, difficult work inside, as the city's new pumper poured a steady stream of water on the roof using a turret gun.

The vacant building was secured with steel bars at the entry doors when fire fighters arrived. The volunteers

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Photo by Tom Betz/Goodland Daily News

Signs, banners welcome students as school resumes

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — Signs and banners decorated Chatfield High School today to welcome students from former rival Columbine High School, who haven't been to class since a devastating shooting attack.

For the rest of the school year, Chatfield students get their school for mornings. Columbine students, whose school is still a police crime scene, were to move in late today to take over Chatfield in the afternoon.

Three large banners adorned the school today, one reading simply: "Welcome Columbine."

"If we can do anything to help them, we're happy to do it," said Amber Mancuso, a Chatfield junior. "I think it's hit all of us hard, all of us

have friends there. When we found out, probably half the school was crying."

"We're welcoming them with open arms," Chatfield senior Chris Durant said. "Students are trying to do what they can to make the Columbine students feel comfortable."

The roughly 2,000 Columbine students haven't been in class since Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, went on a shooting and bombing rampage on April 20, killing 12 students, a teacher and themselves.

"I want to go back for sure," said Tiffany Typher, an 18-year-old senior wearing a "CHS" ribbon in her hair. But she added: "I don't want to go to Chatfield. I'd rather go back to Columbine, just to have closure."

Legislature finished big jobs

By Lew Ferguson

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Legislative leaders used the word "historic" to describe the 1999 session that concluded at the midnight hour Sunday, and few could disagree.

Legislators sent a modest tax relief package, an all-purpose criminal sentencing bill and funding for the state's juvenile justice system to the governor Sunday night, then adjourned.

That action culminated one of the more productive sessions on record.

Approved was landmark legislation creating a new 10-year comprehensive transportation program, an overhaul of the way Kansas manages its system of higher education and a trust fund for children's programs using tobacco settlement money.

The Senate adjourned at 11:49 p.m. and the House at 11:56 p.m. A skeletal crew will return May 25 for the ceremonial final adjournment, called sine die.

"It was the most historic session I've seen in my 13 years here," said Senate President Dick Bond, R-Overland Park. "It is one in which we can each take a great deal of pride."

House Majority Leader Kent Glasscock, R-Manhattan, said, "I think this Legislature surprised nearly all observers with its success. The veto session could not have gone any better."

"The higher education restructuring and transportation were truly historic achievements. The reality is that with an entirely new House, the accomplishments were truly significant."

Sunday was the fifth day of the Legislature's wrap-up session, and 91st day of the entire '99 session.

Final hurdles cleared on the last night included passage of a \$150 million Omnibus Appropriations Act that included \$81.2 million from state and federal funds for the Juvenile Justice

Authority. The Senate passed it 31-8 and the House 108-15.

Agreement also was reached between the two houses on a claims-against-the-state bill. It included money to compensate a Marysville couple whose twin daughters were taken from them and placed in state custody for more than a year.

Also sent to Gov. Bill Graves on Sunday were bills to:

- Provide \$27 million worth of tax relief over a six-year period, with most of it going to the ailing oil industry in a form of an income tax credit for producers on the property taxes they pay.

- Make multiple changes in the state's criminal sentencing laws, including increasing the so-called Hard 40 to a Hard 50 — meaning persons convicted of particularly heinous murders and sentenced to life in prison are

See SESSION, Page 4

Internet service gets faster main connection, added capacity for growth

Goodland Internet users may have suffered through an exasperating week at times as **nwkansas.com** upgraded its system, but should have smooth sailing this week on one of the fastest, most modern access providers in Kansas.

Starting Wednesday, the system was hooked up to a new "T-1" type data service by Southwestern Bell, more than doubling system capacity and speed. The connection, over a system known as "frame relay," replaced an older "ISDN" line.

Also in the cutover, the network was switched from at connection to the Kansas Press Association in Topeka to a direct link to CJNetworks in

Topeka, eliminating one "hop" between users and the Internet backbone.

"We actually doubled our line capacity," said Tom Betz, director of Internet services for the firm, "but it's more than that, because the frame relay line is much faster than ISDN. Actual throughput may be triple the old capacity, even more."

Since the system has grown to about 250 users, the extra capacity was sorely needed, Betz said, adding that the service expects to add more phone lines for users in the next week or so.

"We know people are having trouble getting in

at busy times," he said. "We will add more lines as soon as Bell can provide them."

Space for new lines is tight, he added, because of cable capacity behind the office location at *The Goodland Daily News*, but Bell should be able to squeeze some lines in. The service now has 28 lines and hopes to go to 32 next week.

While there were some interruptions and busy periods after the switch to the new access, the biggest came Saturday as workers for **nwkansas.com** reconfigured the incoming lines, modems and wiring in the office to make the system faster and more accessible. At times, as few as eight of the

lines were available while the switch was made. The work was done by 8 p.m. Saturday.

Steve Haynes, president of Nor' West Newspapers, parent firm of the Internet service, said the changes and new equipment involved are part of the company's continuing commitment to providing the best and fastest Internet service possible.

The firm intends to keep up with current technology as soon as it can be made available in rural markets, he said, adding that continued growth is making that difficult both for **nwkansas.com** and the telephone company.

"But we keep pushing it," he said.