


weather report

56° at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:57 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:29 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:58 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 64 degrees

• Humidity 86 percent

• Sky mostly cloudy

• Winds northeast at 11

• Barometer 29.98 inches and rising

• Record High 98° (1934)

• Record Low 30° (1931)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 88°

Low 51°

Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 45 to 50, 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, winds north at 10-20 mph.

Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high near 75, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, winds southeast at 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast


Friday through Monday: Chance of thunderstorms, highs in the 80s, lows in the 50s

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.23 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.18

Loan deficiency payment — 27¢

Corn — \$1.71 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.85

Loan deficiency pmt. — 14¢

Milo — \$2.59 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.04 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.98

Loan deficiency payment — 91¢

Millet — \$4.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$7.80 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.31


Oil new crop — \$8.05 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.

Gore breaks tie on gun bill

WASHINGTON — With Vice President Al Gore casting a tie-breaking vote, the Senate today approved a Democratic proposal to slap fresh restrictions on gun transactions at gun shows and pawn shops. Democrats immediately declared victory over the powerful gun lobby.

“What you just saw is the NRA losing its grip on the United States Senate, at long last,” declared Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota.

“This is a turning point for our country,” Gore said after the vote. “Finally, this majority is turning the corner and helping to protect the children and families of this country.”

President Clinton called to congratulate Gore for his vote and praised the Senate for “the common-sense approach” of the plan, said spokesman Joe Lockhart.

# Student wounds six at school

CONYERS, Ga. (AP) — A student with two guns opened fire at his high school today, shooting six schoolmates exactly one month after the Colorado massacre.

The suspect tearfully surrendered after putting a gun into his own mouth.

The most seriously wounded student was listed as stable after surgery for a gunshot wound to the intestines.

Hours after today’s shooting, the U.S. Senate approved a Democratic proposal — with Vice President Al Gore casting a tie-breaking vote — to place fresh restrictions on gun transactions. The proposal would require mandatory background checks for all transactions at gun shows and for anyone seeking to reclaim a weapon at a pawn shop.

The suspect was described as a 15-year-old sophomore at Heritage High School who according to a friend had recently broken up with his girlfriend. The gunman had two weapons, a .22-caliber rifle and a .22-caliber revolver, District Attorney Richard Read said.

“I looked to my left and saw this guy in front of the girls bathroom,” said Jessie McCumber, a 15-year-old freshman. “He started running sideways and shooting his gun at no particular person. Everyone’s screaming, ‘Oh, my God, he’s got a gun!’”

The shootings happened about 7:55 a.m., or about 20 minutes before classes were to begin in this middle-class suburb 20 miles east of Atlanta. Today was the final day of classes for seniors at Heritage.

“I thought it was firecrackers until I saw the kids running toward me,” math teacher Tony Gray said.

Senior Joe Watts said the gunman dropped the rifle as he fled. Once outside, he pulled out a revolver, dropped to his knees and put it in his mouth, Watts said.

An assistant principal embraced the gunman, who began crying and said, “Oh, my God, I’m so scared,” Watts said.

It was “complete pandemonium,” senior Michael Ramos said.

Nathaniel Deeter, 15, said the gunman had broken up with his girlfriend three days ago and since then had told Deeter, “I have no reason to live anymore.”

“I told him he was crazy,” Deeter said. “I thought he was just feeling sorry for himself because a lot of kids feel like that.”

Chris Dunn, a sophomore and friend of the suspect, said he had seen guns at his friend’s house but never heard him mention plans to shoot anyone at school. He did notice the boy’s grades had been falling.

“He wasn’t even trying anymore, which I was kind of concerned about,” Dunn said.

The most seriously wounded, a 15-year-old girl, was airlifted to Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta where she underwent surgery for a shot that had pierced her intestines. The hospital gave no detail on her condition other than that it was stable. The others injured had superficial wounds: Three were held for observation at Rockdale Hospital in Conyers and two were treated and released.

Students gathered outside the school on a track after the shooting, then began boarding buses to

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## STORM WATCH

### Experts keep eye on clouds

#### Weather station predicts storms that pose danger

By Keith Lippoldt  
*Goodland Daily News*

The storm system that rolled through northwest Kansas Wednesday afternoon produced heavy rain, hail up to ping-pong-ball size and winds with gusts of 70 miles per hour.

None of that came as a surprise. In fact, it had been expected for more than a day.

With the help of multi-million-dollar computer equipment and a multi-million dollar doppler radar system on site, the 16 meteorologists on the staff of the National Weather Service had this system covered well before it became severe.

“May through early June is the time of year when this area experiences the majority of our severe weather,” said Scott Mentzer, meteorologist in charge of the Goodland office. “This storm will probably be a very minimal event, but it could do damage and hurt people. That is why we are here.”

On this day, the Weather service office was heavily staffed with weather watchers. Besides office staff, five meteorologists were on duty plus a meteorological service technician. This is more than usual, but with the threat of severe weather, some were putting in extra time.

“We normally have three forecasters on duty,” Mentzer said. “One works the short term forecasting (six to 12 hours ahead) and does radar interpretation. One works on the five-day forecasting and the third is responsible for collecting and transmitting data. There are more of us here today because of the unstable weather.”

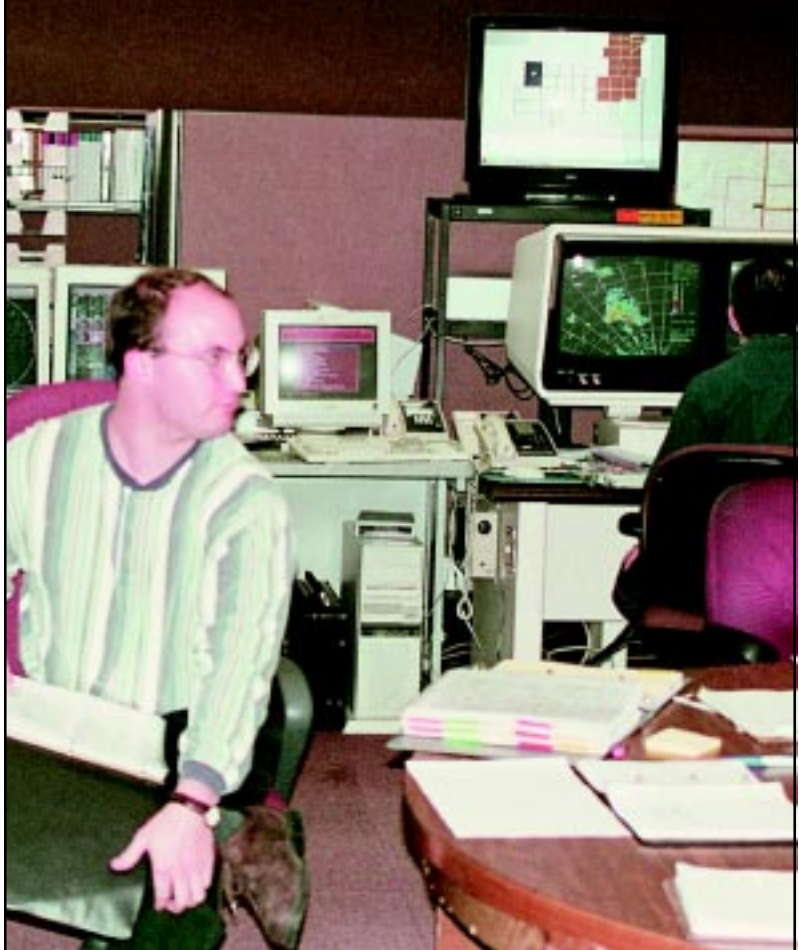
Wednesday afternoon’s weather

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With storms firing up all around Wednesday, Meteorologist David Thede (above) watched two radar screens, one showing relative wind velocity and direction on the left, plus the “base reflectivity” screen on his

right which depicts in the core of the storm. During the same storm, Aaron Johnson reviewed a folder of warning data as Vincent Papoll manned a station behind him. Photos by Keith Lippoldt/Goodland Daily News



## Weather office here proud of its ‘Hammer’

The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Goodland will be receiving the Hammer Award after a performance review from Vice President Al Gore’s staff.

Gore realized in the early 1990s that there was much waste and lack of pride in government. He established a system that rewarded agencies for making “significant contributions in support of reinventing government principles,” the Hammer Award.

“There were things that he wanted changed in the government work system,” said Kevin Lynott, warning coordinator at the office. “For instance, he wanted less individuality and more teamwork. He believed in customer service and in empowering employees to help in the decision making process. He wanted to see these agencies set realistic goals and achieve them in a cost-effective way.”

The award consists of a \$6 carpenter’s hammer, as opposed to the \$400 government hammer of old, a ribbon and a note from Gore enclosed in an aluminum frame. Since the award was created in 1993, only about a thousand have been given out.

“This is a great honor for our employees,” said Scott Mentzer, meteorologist in charge of the Goodland office. “It is nice to have the efforts and hard work of our employees recognized from such a top level.”

Customer service is a priority of the National Weather Service, Lynott said, whether it be providing storm updates, road conditions, river stages or a long range forecast.

“We are really focused in our public,” he said. “We tailor to them. For example, being in an agricultural area, we provide a water resource product for farmers. They need to know if they need to irrigate.”

The office will get its Hammer on Tuesday, June 22, in a ceremony at the weather station.

# Graves ally replaces rebel budget chair in House

By John Hanna  
*Associated Press Writer*

TOPEKA — Rep. David Adkins, a close ally of Gov. Bill Graves who has handled special policy assignments, is the new House Appropriations Committee chairman.

House Speaker Robin Jennison confirmed Wednesday that he had appointed Adkins to replace Rep. Phill Kline, R-Shawnee. Adkins, R-Leawood, is giving up the chairmanship of the House Taxation Committee, but the budget chairmanship is more powerful.

Jennison named Rep. Susan Wagle, R-Wichita, as chairwoman of the tax committee. Wagle, a conservative, ran against Jennison when House Republicans designated him speaker in December.

The speaker fired Kline last week for forging

an alliance with Democrats on budget issues throughout the 1999 session. Kline not only lost his chairmanship, but his seat on the committee as well.

The question is whether Kline’s firing will lead to lasting discord between Jennison loyalists, who include Graves’ fellow moderate Republicans, and more conservative GOP representatives. Jennison acknowledged that Wagle’s appointment as Taxation Committee chairwoman was designed in part to satisfy conservatives.

“I still have as a goal to bring this caucus together,” Jennison said during a telephone interview.

Wagle said: “Will it come together? I hope so.”

Adkins, a 38-year-old attorney, is serving his fourth term in the House. He has been chairman of committees on juvenile justice, higher educa-

tion restructuring and the use of funds from a settlement of lawsuits with tobacco companies.

“David is one of the best consensus builders in the Legislature,” Jennison said.

Politically, Adkins is close to Graves. He served as master of ceremonies for Graves’ second inauguration. Kline was among Graves’ harshest critics in the Legislature.

Adkins said he is committed to “working to achieve the goals of the Republican caucus.”

But he added: “I tend to approach these things as a pragmatist. ... I’ll bend over backwards to be fair and accommodating to all voices and all concerns. Anybody who wants to follow the rules will have no problem.”

Wagle, 45, is the owner of two small businesses. She was first elected to the House in 1990 and served as its speaker pro tem from 1995-98.

Jennison said he picked Wagle for the tax committee because he was pleased with her work as chair of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee. That panel handled abortion and gun legislation this year.

“She exhibited the kind of teamwork we need between chairmen and leadership,” Jennison said.

Wagle said her fellow conservatives will be supportive of her appointment, noting that they will be wary of Adkins.

“I think David’s going to carry out the will of the caucus,” she added.

She said of Jennison and Adkins: “They’re serious about running a tight ship, and they’re serious about cutting taxes.”

Jennison said he has not decided who will replace Wagle as chair of the Federal and State Affairs Committee.