

weather  
report

70°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 8:04 p.m.
- Tomorrow
- Sunrise, 5:24 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:05 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 65 degrees
- Humidity 47 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds southeast at 10 mph
- Barometer 30.14 inches and falling
- Record High 98° (1934)
- Record Low 33° (1947)

Last 24 Hours\*

High	74°
Low	46°
Precipitation	—

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly to mostly clear, low 50-55, wind south at 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 80-85, wind south at 20-30 mph

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Dry, high 85-90, low 55. Memorial Day: Thunderstorms possible, high 75-80, low 55. Tuesday: Thunderstorms possible, high 75-80, low 50-55.

(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 — \$2.11  
Loan deficiency payment — 34¢  
Corn — \$1.72 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.83  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 16¢  
Milo — \$2.60 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$3.98 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.83  
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.06  
Millet — \$4.00 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$7.85 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.01  
Oil new crop — \$8.10 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.

Teen streaker  
beats charges

VALLEY CENTER — A high school senior who ran naked through a packed gymnasium during homecoming got off the hook because he did it quietly.

Jason Hobaugh, 18, was found not guilty on a charge of disorderly conduct in Valley Center Municipal Court, ducking a fine of \$500 and possible jail time.

Before the trial, city prosecutor Barry Arbuckle asked the charge be amended to “using offensive, obscene or abusive language or engaging in noisy conduct tending reasonably to arouse alarm, anger or resentment in others.”

Hobaugh’s attorney, Steve Mank, countered that Hobaugh never spoke or made any other noise as he ran — dressed only in sneakers and a Halloween mask — through the gymnasium during halftime of the Homecoming basketball game in February.

# Nuclear powers face off in south Asia

DRAS, India (AP)—An Indian helicopter gunship was shot down today over the disputed territory of Kashmir, where India’s campaign against Pakistan to dislodge secessionist Islamic militants has escalated tensions between the two nuclear powers.

India’s air force accused Pakistan of downing the Mi-17 helicopter over the Himalayan territory, which is claimed by both countries. Pakistan denied the charge, and a Kashmiri militant organization claimed responsibility for the attack.

“We shot down this helicopter,” said Syed Salahuddin, chairman of the United Jihad Council, an umbrella group purportedly backed by Pakistan that claims to represent 14 Islamic secessionist groups operating in Indian-ruled Kashmir.

The claim could not be independently verified. The helicopter’s downing came despite a generally quiet morning in the skies over the frontier area. For two days, India has launched relentless airstrikes aimed at forcing alleged Pakistani-backed guerrillas from the mountains.

India also demanded the return of pilots whose MiG fighter jets were downed on Thursday. Pakistan, which claims to have shot down both jets, paraded a captured pilot on state television today. It said the other pilot was killed.

India’s military said one MiG-21 was flying over India when it crashed due to mechanical failure. The second plane, a MiG-27, flew in to assist the first pilot and was shot down by a surface-to-air missile.

Journalists, escorted by Pakistani army officials, saw the wreckage of one of the downed MiGs — including its tail emblazoned with the Indian flag — strewn over a mountain ridge about seven miles inside Pakistani territory. Army spokesman Maj. Gen. J.J. Singh said 12 soldiers are also missing.

Kashmir has been at the center of two of the three wars that India and Pakistan have fought since their independence in 1947. After both countries tested nuclear weapons last year, world leaders feared an arms race between the South Asian rivals. The United States, Britain, Russia, Japan, China and U.N. chief Kofi Annan urged restraint by both nations.

Pakistan pushed hard today for international intervention in the conflict, and a government minister said “two nuclear-armed adversaries are facing each other eyeball to eyeball.”

## ‘Hard 50’ rules clear for courts

### Kansas toughens top-end sentence

By Carl Manning

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — A new pair of laws will give courts and criminals a better idea of what the Legislature expects to qualify for a “Hard 50” prison sentence.

On Thursday, Gov. Bill Graves said the new laws, which go into effect July 1, will go a long way to make sure that people who commit violent crimes won’t be back on the streets anytime soon.

“It does make the state a safer place to live,” Graves said during a ceremony at his Statehouse office, where supporters got signed copies of the bill. He signed the bill into law last month without ceremony, along with scores of other bills.

The state’s Hard 40 law says convicted first-degree murderers can be sentenced to life in prison and ordered to serve 40 years before being considered for parole, if the crime was especially heinous or cruel. One of the new laws increases that time to 50 years.

The other law clarified what qualifies for the state’s toughest prison sentence, other than death.

The change was prompted by a Kansas Supreme Court ruling that said a Wichita man who killed his former girlfriend by repeatedly hitting her with an ax didn’t qualify for the Hard 40 sentence.

The court concluded that because the victim was dead before the second blow, that removed the crime from the realm of Hard 40 consideration.

“I wouldn’t say it was a bad opinion; I would say it was a wrong opinion,” said House Majority Leader Kent Glasscock, who introduced the legislation this year.

His proposal rewrote the law to say a court should consider the entire violent act — as long as it was continuous — in deciding whether it merits the Hard 40 sentence.

The other law simply increased the Hard 40 to Hard 50 and leaves Glasscock’s measure otherwise unchanged.

Graves said he was “surprised and disappointed” with the court’s ruling. It meant George Spry, convicted in the 1993 ax murder of Barbara Chafee, received a 25-year sentence and will be eligible for parole in 15 years.

“This isn’t a horror movie — it’s real life — and killing someone with eight ax blows to the head warrants the toughest prison sentence possible,” said Glasscock, R-Manhattan.

Chafee’s two daughters and sister were on hand to get signed copies of the bill and pose for photographs with Graves.

The sister, Nancy Klem of Rose Hill, said she’s glad for the changes in the statutes.

“It won’t help us now, but if it happens to another family, they can take comfort that the person will be put away for a long time,” she said.

Daughters Sharon Morfitt of Spivey and Sally Schippers of Wichita said the changes will give judges better directions on imposing the Hard 50 sentence.

Both said they were shocked to learn that their mother’s murderer could be out of prison in 15 years. They will oppose his release at any parole hearing.

“We will be there every time he comes up for parole. We won’t go away,” Schippers said.



Flags from Kansas and Oklahoma, the home state of the Koss Construction paving crew, fly atop the concrete finishing machine (above) as it trundles along I-70 east of Goodland. Specially designed expansion joints are laid down (below left) before the new highway is poured

to tie the sections together and give it strength. A worker keeps a close eye (bottom photo) on the progress of the base laying machine as it works the combination of recycled concrete and flyash which is supposed to provide a strong base. Photos by Tom Betz / Goodland Daily News

## Paving crews push job nearly half way

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

For anyone who likes watching big machines at work, or maybe still has young-at-heart dreams about running ‘em, the paving project working its way east on I-70 from Goodland to Edson, is a grand opportunity.

However, there is a new twist for those dreaming of growing up to run this type of equipment — the construction project and all the details are being handled using the metric system. That means the project covers 16.4 kilometers (10.2 miles) and the main concrete being laid is 260 millimeters deep (about 10.5 inches).

Donna Binning, Kansas Department of Transportation construction engineer on the project, said the state

went to the metric system a couple of years ago because it was part of the requirements of the Federal Highway regulations, which required states to use metrics by a certain date.

She said the contractor, Koss Construction of Topeka, is pushing near the halfway mark with the main concrete ribbon and should be ready to roll east after the Memorial Day weekend.

“They have finished the tough end of the project,” she said. “The area around the Goodland exits was the toughest part of the stretch, and they have completed that.”

Koss said the exits are difficult because of the care taken to limit the disruption to Goodland businesses and travelers around the ramps.

“The worst end is done and we are pushing the four mile mark,” said Tom Breyfogle, project engineer for Koss. “We know what kind of a problem the project can be and we’re trying to keep Goodland open as much as possible.

“We were concerned about the weather, and it has been a rather wet spring. We were very glad we were able to get the west ramps completed within the (30-day) time frame.”

Breyfogle said this was the first all-metric project he had worked on, as the crew doing the concrete work is from the Oklahoma division. He says an upcoming project in Oklahoma will be done using the metric system also. He says it is much easier to work with the metric system, where the basic units of measure are all divisible by 10, and that it is simpler to figure.

Some examples he provided are there are 202,500 square meters of concrete in the 16.4 kilometers (instead of square yards), and that the shoulders will be 1.8 meters on the inside and 3 meters on the outside. (The inside shoulder will be six feet

