


weather report

56° at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:45 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:06 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:46 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 33 degrees

• Humidity 24 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds north 30 mph

• Barometer 29.92 inches and falling

• Record High 75° (1953)

• Record Low -19° (1963)

Last 24 Hours*

High 54°

Low 20°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast


Tonight: Partly cloudy; low 15-20; winds north 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny; dry; high 50-55; winds northeast 5-15 mph; low 25.

Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday. Friday and Saturday: dry; high 60-65; low 25. Sunday: dry; high 60; low 25-30. (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 — \$1.95

Loan deficiency payment — 50¢

Corn — \$1.72 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.70

Loan deficiency payment — 29¢

Milo — \$2.60 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.03 bushel

Posted county price — \$4

Loan deficiency payment — 89¢

Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$6 cwt.


Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.95

Confection current — \$13/\$8 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$13 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire



Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Ag Secretary defends policy

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman used a question-and-answer session on the Internet to press his case that Congress needs to make “fundamental changes” in the 1996 Freedom to Farm law.

“My highest priority is to improve the conditions for small and medium farms in this country,” Glickman replied Tuesday to a questioner from Ashland, Kan., who told Glickman that farmers “need help fast.”

The hour-long Q&A, which was sponsored and moderated by McClatchy Newspapers, was a first for Glickman. McClatchy editors screened questions that were posted by the public to an Internet site and passed 11 of them to Glickman for him to answer. The majority dealt with the farm economy and the struggles of family farms.

Plan delayed to tear out paved county road

By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County Commissioners made a decision Tuesday to have the Road and Bridge crew begin tearing up the pavement on Road 67 from K-27 to Road 25, commonly called the Nemechek Road, but today Commissioner Kenny Davis said there will not be any pavement removed until a group of citizens have a chance to meet with the commission.

This decision was one the commissioners have debated over for two or three years, and after meeting with Curt Way, Road and Bridge director for the county, said they realized no one wants to lose an oil road, but it would be very costly to fix properly.

However, today Commissioner

Kenny Davis said no action will be taken until after next Tuesday’s commissioners’ meeting, as a group of people who live on or use this road wanted to meet with the commissioners and Way to discuss the matter.

At Tuesday’s meeting, Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld said he thought it would take more than an overlay to get the road in good shape. Way agreed with that statement.

Davis said, “I don’t want to spend a lot of money to resurface it.”

“I can’t see spending money to put hot mix on it, when it’s just going to break away,” said Way. He said the road has no base.

Way said now would be a good time to start the project as the crew was almost done pulverizing the Brewster

Road and it would work better when it was cold than hot.

In other business, Commissioner Gary Townsend nominated Kenny Davis, as chairman, and Chuck Frankenfeld, as vice chairman, of the commission for this year. The motion carried and Davis took over his duties as the new chairman.

Ed Wolak, city employee, accompanied by Way, asked the commissioners if they would waive the fee for construction and demolition debris for city residents. The city has started a special pickup program for solid waste items, such as tree limbs, unpainted wood, appliances, metal, furniture and tires in an effort to eliminate these items from being put in trash dumpsters and to provide a way for households which don’t

have a way to get any unwanted items to the landfill, to be able to dispose of them.

Frankenfeld moved that the county waive the fee for Goodland residents and the motion carried.

Frankfeld asked Way about hazardous waste from households and Way said a man from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment would come out and talk to them.

Crystal Linsner, computer manager for the county, gave a report on Y2K.

“Everything went really good, no problems,” said Linsner.

She said central dispatch had an older computer that the date didn’t roll over on to the new year, but it wasn’t hooked up to the main system and didn’t create any problems.

then it affects everyone.

Brockhausen said he has sampled the water at Smoky Gardens and it’s doing well.

He said the organization’s budget was cut seven percent this year. Brockhausen said if funds get cut again, the program will have to charge fees from the public to cover costs. He wanted to see if the county would give straight funding for the program if needed.

He said the code was started June 1, 1993. At some point in the near future, he said he would revisit and see if changes needed to be made in the code.

Davis asked him to follow up on what changes need to be made and they would discuss it a later time.

Under old business, the commissioners met with Bonnie Selby, county attorney, about the racing and farm leases. They asked Selby to have the farm leases done and ready to be signed by Feb. 1.

Employee evaluations were tabled until the next meeting as Frankenfeld handed out some new information.

Townsend reported on the situation of the removal of solid waste fees for some trailers at Nationwide Mobile Home Park, owned by Rick Billinger. He said the trailers are in city limits. The commissioners decided not to remove the solid waste fees from these properties for 1999, as it was too late to do anything now.

The commissioners voted to pay dues for 2000 for various associations. Those dues are as follows: League of Municipalities, \$512; Kansas Association of Counties, \$1,497; Northwest Kansas Planning and Development, \$5,328; and Kansas Legislative Policy Group, \$603.

The commission will meet again at 8 a.m. Tuesday at the courthouse.

Outside work nearly complete



Siding is being added to the outside of the new Wheatridge assisted living center, as construction moves forward. It is anticipated the building will be ready for an opening in the spring, and will house up to 31 people. In addition, work is moving forward on three duplex apartments as well.

Photo by Doug Jackson / The Goodland Daily News

In addition, she said the county’s IBM representative told her that out of all the counties he oversees, Sherman County was the only one who was current on updates. She said she was pleased to hear that. The commissioners thanked her for the job she had done.

Dale Brockhausen, chairman for the Northwest Kansas Local Environmental Protection Group, along with Sherryl Ketter, Sherman County representative for the group, met with the board.

Ketter said she wanted the commissioners to be aware of what the organization is and does.

Brockhausen said the organization was started in the 1990s and meets quarterly with one representative from each county. It now includes 16 counties.

It’s programs relate to water and water quality. The water testing is only for private wells. He said there are no standards for private drinking water, only public. Nitrates are a big concern. High concentrations affect babies under one year old. If real high, above 10,

State to set limits for Ark River

TOPEKA (AP) — The state plans to submit proposed limits on pollution levels for the upper and lower Arkansas River basins to the federal Environmental Protection Agency by June 30.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has set the amount of permissible pollutants entering the water in nearly one-third of Kansas river basins.

Setting total maximum daily loads, known as TMDLs, or the maximum amount of a pollutant that can safely enter a stream or lake for its designated use, is designed to improve water quality throughout the state.

Tom Stiles, KDHE’s chief of planning and prevention, said Tuesday determining TMDL levels for the Arkansas River basin is more complex than a similar

project that includes the Kansas and Lower Republican river basins in northeast Kansas.

The Arkansas River basins contain high levels of chloride, particularly near Hutchinson, he said. They contain high levels of sulfates near the Colorado border.

He testified during a joint meeting of the House Environment and Senate Energy and Natural Resources committees.

Stiles said putting TMDLs into effect in Kansas will require participation from those who live near the water supplies.

Landowners won’t be forced to change their activities to reduce water pollution, but the state eventually could take tougher action if pollution levels are not reduced.

Attorney General says state court does not have jurisdiction

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Janet Reno today upheld a decision giving custody of Elian Gonzalez to his Cuban father and said any challenge to that ruling must come in federal rather than state court.

To allow the 6-year-old boy’s Florida relatives time to challenge the federal decision, Reno wrote to their lawyers that the government is postponing its Friday deadline for turning him over for return to Cuba. She did not give a new deadline or say what steps the federal government might take next to enforce its decision.

Reno brushed aside a state court ruling Monday that the boy must remain in the United States until a March 6 hearing. She said the state court order “has no force or effect” on the Immigration and Naturalization Service’s decision in the case.

“The question of who may speak for a 6-year-old child in applying for admission or asylum is a matter of federal immigration law,” Reno wrote. The question of who speaks for the boy “remains one of federal, not state, law.”

A Miami television news crew filmed

Elian Tuesday as he made a comment about his sentiments while playing outside with a friend. An airplane was passing overhead, and the English translation of Elian’s remark is in dispute. A family spokesman, Armando Gutierrez, said he didn’t know what the boy said.

Lawyers for the family visited Reno here last week to press their argument that she overrule the INS decision. Weighing their arguments, Reno wrote, “I am not currently aware of any basis for reversing ... (that) decision.”

Reno added that the federal ruling

“may be challenged, if at all, only in federal court. We are prepared to litigate in that forum.”

Reno wrote that INS had decided that its Jan. 14 deadline for turning the boy over for return to Cuba “should be extended to accommodate any federal court proceedings.”

Reno appealed for a quick resolution.

“It is my strong hope that we can work together to resolve this child’s status as soon as possible.”

The federal government’s position won support today from David

Abraham, a professor of immigration law at the University of Miami.

“Immigration law is an exclusive federal monopoly,” Abraham said. “The judge had no authority to hear this case to begin with, apart from the fact that her ruling was entirely at odds with Florida law.”

Miami-Dade County Circuit Judge Rosa Rodriguez ruled Monday that the boy, who is the subject of an international custody battle between his relatives in the United States and Cuba, should remain in this country until March 6.

Legislators quickly cuts spending; kills primary

TOPEKA (AP) — Legislators are moving quickly to resolve pressing budget issues and cancel the state’s April 4 presidential primary.

In the House, Republican leaders have scheduled a debate for Thursday on proposed cuts in the current state budget. The Senate approved a budget bill Tuesday evening.

A revenue shortfall was behind both the Senate’s approval cuts in current state spending and its decision to delete \$1.5 million to cover costs associated with the primary.

The Senate voted unanimously to remove the money for the primary from a bill that makes dozens of changes in the state’s 2000 fiscal year budget, which ends June 30.

Republicans then used their majority — every GOP senator voted yes — to pass the bill. The 27-12 vote sent the bill to the House.

The House actually plans to debate another budget bill drafted by its Appropriations Committee. That way, members don’t have to wait for the Senate bill to be printed and avoid another two-day delay that would be required by House rules.

In the Senate, Democrats had expected the bill to pass from the beginning, but that didn’t stop them from prolonging the debate over the budget until it lasted more than five hours. Conservative and moderate Republican senators were determined to stick together.

“Why wouldn’t we?” said conservative Sen. Ed Pugh, R-Wamego. “We knew it had to be done. We expected everyone to vote straight through and get it over with.”

The budget bill would cut about \$65.8 million, or 1.4 percent, from general fund spending previously ap-

proved last year for fiscal 2000. The general fund is the largest source of money for Kansas government programs and where the state deposits most of its tax revenues.

Republican leaders insist that the Legislature must move quickly to make changes in the current budget so that state agencies know exactly how much money they can spend over the next six months.

They also say lawmakers cannot tackle the fiscal 2001 budget, which will finance state government after July 1, until they finish work on the 2000 budget.

Democrats wanted to prevent cuts in spending on special education, community corrections and mental health programs. However, their amendments all failed on party-line votes — which Democrats expected.

“We’re having a debate where few of

us are listening,” said Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka.

Legislators are revising the 2000 budget because the state finished its 1999 fiscal year on June 30 with \$73.4 million less in general fund revenues than expected. For fiscal 2000, revenue collections are \$9.3 million below estimates.

Democrats didn’t oppose canceling the primary because many of them think the money can be better spent on education or social service programs.

However, many legislators believe the primary would be a political beauty pageant staged too late to affect the outcome of the races for the Democratic or Republican presidential nominations.

The amendment that removed the money for the primary from the budget bill also called on Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh to get Kansas in-

cluded in a regional primary with at least six other states, perhaps as early as 2004.

House Speaker Robin Jennison, R-Healy, said his chamber probably will go along with the Senate plan. His chamber has its own bill to deal with the issue.

“Where we are heading now is going to improve the chances of having a primary that means something,” Jennison said.

In other action, five resolutions designed to convey the Legislature’s opinion on federal agriculture policy to Congress and President Clinton were introduced in the Senate.

The Senate budget bill is SB 403. The House budget bill is HB 2607. Bills are available on the Internet at <http://www.ink.org/public/legislative/fulltext.cgi>.