

weather report

26°
at noon

Today
• Sunset, 5:26 p.m.
Tomorrow
• Sunrise, 6:34 a.m.
• Sunset, 5:27 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil Temperature 37 degrees
• Humidity 84 percent
• Sky cloudy
• Winds north 10 mph
• Barometer 30.20 inches and falling
• Record High 74° (1986)
• Record Low -06° (1942)

Last 24 Hours*
High 38°
Low 22°
Precipitation .11 inches/Snow 1.6 inches

Northwest Kansas Forecast
Tonight: Partly cloudy; low 15-20; winds southwest 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Sunny; dry; high mid 40s; winds west 5-15 mph; low 20.

Extended Forecast
Sunday through Tuesday. Sunday: dry; high 50; low 20. Monday: dry; high mid 50s; low 25-30. Tuesday: chance of rain; high mid 50s; low 30.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon
Wheat — \$2.32 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.23
Loan deficiency payment — 22¢
Corn — \$1.75 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.88
Loan deficiency payment — 11¢
Milo — \$2.69 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.35 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.37
Loan deficiency payment — 52¢
Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.75 cwt.
Loan deficiency prmt. — \$3.92
Confection current — \$13/\$8 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$12 (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.
Republicans on final push

HILTON HEAD, S.C. (AP) — Launching a final effort to propel conservatives to the polls on Saturday, George W. Bush dismissed as “weak-kneed” those supporters who have raised doubts about his campaign. Rival John McCain called his backers “a few brave people” thwarting the Republican Party establishment.
“I’m going to win tomorrow, I believe that,” Bush said as he began a day of rallies in the state’s conservative northwest corner. “These people who are getting nervous now are going to regret getting nervous.”
McCain began a series of primary-eve events along the coast, where he is strongest, seeking to broaden and energize his base to counter Bush’s huge effort to get Republican voters to the state’s presidential primary.
“It all comes down to turnout,” McCain said in Hilton Head today.

Judge lifts order; benefit district petition filed

By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

Following a court hearing on Thursday afternoon, in the Sherman County courtroom, Thomas County District Judge Glenn D. Schiffner lifted the temporary restraining order that had been placed on Road 68, also known as the Nemechek Road, on the word of the Sherman County Commissioners they would keep the road intact until the legal process has been completed.

For now, the remaining four mile stretch of pavement will remain “as is.” A special meeting was called by the commissioners after the hearing in which they made a decision to declare that Road 68 would be a minimum maintenance road.

About 20 individuals, mostly those who live in the area of the road, were in the courtroom Thursday to see what the outcome of the hearing would be.

Attorney Ron Vignery representing the plaintiff, John Sanders, said in his opening comments that after a meeting held at the home of Brad Schields on Friday, at which Commissioners Kenny Davis and Gary Townsend were present, 33 signatures were obtained on a petition representing 1,100 acres of ground.

Vignery said this was a matter of citizens exercising their rights to keep their road. He added that a lot of people are interested in the road and in paying their share of the cost to keep it.

During the hearing, Vignery called two witnesses. The first witness was Larry Ihrig, who has lived in Sherman County all his life and farms mainly north and east of Goodland. Ihrig owns a farmstead and land along Road 68.

“This is one of the busiest roads in the county, as far as market traffic,” said Ihrig.

Ihrig said he has watched the oil roads in the county being torn out and has driven over the roads.

“I thought this road still was holding up compared to some of the others that have gone to pot,” he said.

At some point after the commissioners made the decision to tear out Road 68, Ihrig contacted Jerry Andrews of Burlington, Colo., who gave an estimate on Feb. 7 of how much it would cost to fix the road. He said it would cost \$20,000 to patch the holes and \$10,000 to fix the cracks, for a total of \$30,000.

Ihrig said Andrews told him that he didn’t understand why the commissioners would want to tear this road out.

Ihrig filed a petition with County Clerk Janet Rumpel shortly before noon on Thursday to establish a special benefits road district.

This district can accept donations to maintain the road. Already, \$2,700 has been received towards this Ihrig said.

President’s Day closes offices, banks Monday

Monday Goodland city offices, Sherman County offices, banks and post offices will be closed for President’s Day.

Goodland postal officials said the office window will be closed and there will not be any local delivery. However, the outgoing 4 p.m. truck to Colby will run.

The Goodland city offices and Sherman County offices will all be closed for the holiday.

The Goodland Public Library, however, will be open. “We don’t close for many of the holidays,” an employee said, “I know we will be open as I am scheduled to work.”

Monday is an official national bank holiday and all of the Goodland banks will be closed.

The Goodland schools and the Northwest Kansas Technical School will have regular classes on Monday.

The Goodland Daily News will publish Monday.

President George Washington, born Feb. 22, and President Abraham Lincoln, born Feb. 12, were the original reason there was a holiday in February. When the federal government decided on making as many holidays as possible be three-day weekends President’s Day was created to be the next Monday—not Valentine’s Day—after Lincoln’s birthday and before Washington’s birthday.

In recent years, while the emphasis remains on Lincoln and Washington, it is more of a general holiday in honor of all American Presidents.

“We would like to repair the road and maintain it,” Ihrig said.

Next, it was County Attorney Bonnie Selby’s turn to question Ihrig. She asked if Andrews was a certified or licensed engineer, to which Ihrig replied he didn’t know.

Selby also asked him how he was proposing that their portion of the \$30,000 be paid.

Ihrig said most of the petitioners were willing to pay their share of the amount.

“How many townships would be obligated,” Selby asked.

“Four,” Ihrig replied. “Voltaire, Shermanville, Itasca, and Washington.”

Vignery’s next witness was Lance Ihrig, son of Larry Ihrig, who lives four miles east of K-27 on Road 68, just at the east edge of the pavement, and has a wife

and twin sons. He said the road was important to his business and his family and was used daily by them.

He and Sanders bought a map from an abstract company and outlined the area within three and a half miles north of Road 68 and one and a half miles south. He said he worked Feb. 5 and 6, looking up all the landowners and the acreage. Then he sent out letters about the meeting at Brad Schields’ home on Feb. 7.

Ihrig said that about 30 landowners were present at the meeting including Commissioners Kenny Davis and Gary Townsend. John Sanders did most of the talking at the meeting and Vignery was also present.

He explained how he gave a point value to each piece of ground, according to how close to Road 68, it was located.

However many total points each landowner ended up with would determine the percentage of the road costs to be paid.

When asked by Vignery if it was his best, good faith effort, Ihrig said, “yes.”

Ihrig said that he had started circulating petitions on Feb. 11 and stopped at noon on Thursday.

Vignery asked if all the petitioners signed it, to which the reply was yes.

Selby asked him how many landowners were in the benefit district. After counting, it was determined there were 58.

“Do you have to be a resident of Sherman County,” asked Selby.

“I don’t know,” Ihrig said.

Selby said in effect 12 1/2 percent would be divided proportionately be-

tween those in the benefit district.

Judge Schiffner asked how the county would be damaged if the four miles of road remained. Selby said there was a concern about liability because of the present condition of the road.

After a short recess, Judge Schiffner said he thought the county was concerned about the length of time it would take to set up the benefit district.

Vignery said it might take more than two weeks and didn’t want to be locked into a short time frame. He felt they would need more reports and that the process may involve engineers and a bond council.

After this, Judge Schiffner lifted the restraining order on the word of the commissioners that they would not tear out any more of the road.

Getting a smooth ride



The new gym floor has been laid, and Mike Stroyek is spending his time riding behind a large floor sander preparing the floor for the finishing coats and painting of stripes and logos. The sanding is expected to be done by the first of next week.

Photo by Janet Craft / The Goodland Daily News

Pizza delivery man finds himself in Kansas after woman demands ride to bus station

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

Kit Miniclier

The Denver Post

She wanted to go to the bus station, but he couldn’t ask for directions. That was the dilemma facing a pizza delivery man who allegedly was kidnapped Wednesday afternoon and reported the incident to employees of the Kansas Department of Transportation Port of Entry at Kanorado when he arrived there about six hours later.

The victim, 32, whom authorities declined to identify, said a woman with a large handgun was hiding in his personal vehicle when he got into it after delivering a pizza at Fort Carson, about 1:30 p.m.
He said the woman, described as

being about 30 years of age, black, and with a large scar on her face, demanded to be taken to the Colorado Springs bus station, said Fort Carson spokeswoman Kim Tisor.

However, the delivery man did not know where the bus station was and neither did the armed woman, and she didn’t want him asking for directions.

She then ordered the driver to take her to the Denver bus station, about 70 miles north. Again, they couldn’t find the bus station, and weren’t about to roll down the tinted windows to ask.

Frustrated in attempts to get to a bus the armed woman then decided to have the driver take her to the Kansas border. As the driver approached Burlington he told her he wanted to buy gasoline. She was afraid he’d

squeal, so they drove on east.

At the Rose Avenue exit on the east side of Burlington she had him stop and after kicking him a couple of times got out of the car and walked away.

The driver continued east to the Kansas border and pulled into the Port of Entry at Kanorado about 6:30 p.m.. Elizabeth Schmidt was on duty with Shirley Barnhardt when a truck driver came in and said he saw a man try to get out of his car and fall to the ground. Schmidt said one of the drivers was also an emergency medical technician and he went to check on the man while she called Sherman County dispatch..

After being picked up by an ambulance and telling authorities his story a call was put out to the Kit Carson

Sheriff’s office, but the deputy and a Burlington police officer who responded were unable to find any trace of the woman.

The delivery man was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center where he was held overnight. He was treated for a previous back injury that may have been aggravated by more than six hours of tension and long-distance driving with his armed kidnapper, officials said.

Military police from Fort Carson and the agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation asked that the car be held until they could have it examined. Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson said the car was being held in Goodland, but was expected to be returned to Colorado Springs.