

weather
report

55°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 5:51 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:52 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 38 degrees
- Humidity 35 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds southwest 8 mph
- Barometer 30.09 inches and falling
- Record High 76° (1945)
- Record Low -01° (1958)

Last 24 Hours*

High 49°
Low 26°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 25-30, winds southwest 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, dry, high 60-65, winds south 5-15 mph, low 30.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: chance of thunderstorms, high 60-65, low 25-30. Thursday: dry, high 45-50, low 20-25. Friday: dry, high 50-55, low 20-25.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.22 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.09
Loan deficiency payment — 36¢
Corn — \$1.81 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.89
Loan deficiency payment — 10¢
Milo — \$2.75 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.48 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.33
Loan deficiency payment — 56¢
Millet — \$3.70 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.05 cwt.
Loan deficiency prmt. — \$3.88
Confection current — \$13/\$7 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.

Candidates
trade charges

METAIRIE, La. — The likely Democratic and Republican nominees looked past vanquished foes to the general election as they campaigned in Southern states voting in another round of primaries Tuesday.

Al Gore charged that George W. Bush lacks a health care agenda because he is beholden to campaign donors interested in a tax cut.

Bush countered that it was Gore who compromised himself for campaign cash, adding: "This guy will say anything to get elected."

At a rally in Brandon, Miss., Bush gave his retort to Gore's claim that Bush isn't ready to lead.

"If America is pleased with what Clinton-Gore has done to the spirit of America, I'm not the right person," Bush said. "But if America wants somebody not of Washington ... come and join this campaign."

Down to the wire!

Bulldogs squeak way to state title

After winning the state Class 1A state championship on Saturday, the Brewster boys held the net and the state trophy aloft for fans to see at Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays. The Bulldogs had to go down to the wire for the overtime victory, taking the lead back with 15 seconds left to go. Brewster's Cody Rush cut loose for eight of his 14 points in the overtime, tossing a three-pointer to put the Dawgs ahead and then sinking three foul shots to seal the victory. The overtime began when Phil Widener (2, below) went up to grab the tipoff. See story, more photos from Hays on Page 6A.

Photos by Doug Jackson/The Goodland Daily News



Commissioners to fill a slot on 911 dispatch board

An appointment to the Sherman County Communication Board is expected at Tuesday's county commission meeting, filling a spot was made vacant by the resignation of Mark Heckman.

The commissioners will also review the bids from Ron Lucas and Darrel Schrader for mowing the county's ditches this year. A decision was de-

layed from last week's meeting due to a few changes made in the contract.

Sheriff Doug Whitson is scheduled to present bids on new copiers for his office.

Discussion will continue on the restroom project at the courthouse and the bill from Mike Miller, general contractor on the project.

A decision is to be made about the paying B & B Electric for installation of a fire alarm system at the courthouse. Miller subcontracted them for this work, and while he still has some work to finish, the commissioners don't want to make the electricians wait any longer for their money.

William McKnight, county building manager,

is to turn in bids for spraying dandelions at the fairgrounds, which he was to get after last week.

Retired lawyer Pete Whalen is on the agenda to talk to the commissioners about uncollected taxes. They want legal advice on what their responsibilities are in this area and to know how to go about collecting the unpaid taxes.

Events of week aim at teaching how to spot, avoid nasty weather

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Tornadoes, lightning, hail, flash floods and high winds. Lots of nasty weather is possible this time of year, and around the state, this week is Severe Weather Awareness Week to get people ready for whatever may come.

During the week, the state Division of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service will sponsor activities to increase awareness of severe weather dangers and teach them how to save lives and reduce damage.

The Goodland Weather Service office has a test planned for both the morning and evening on Tuesday in conjunction with the statewide Severe Weather Awareness Day. Warning Coordination Meteorologist Kevin Lynott said it is to get people to think about what measures to take in case of a real weather threat. The test should last from 10-15 minutes and a statement will be issued afterwards.

The weather office took the final step into the modern era of weather detec-

tion on Feb. 22, as agency officials formally commissioned the Automated Weather Information Processing System. This means that now all primary warning and forecast functions of the office are performed using this system, which eliminates several obsolete systems.

"Our forecasters have been using AWIPS since 1996," said Meteorologist-in-Charge Scott Mentzer, "and the system started paying benefits immediately."

Mentzer said Goodland's forecasters can access all of their observation, reporting and communications systems from a single computer console rather than hopping from one system to another. The automation helps them to be faster and more accurate in providing warnings and forecasts to the public.

"We have been doing all of our operations on AWIPS for several months as we prepared for commissioning day and the staff has been very impressed with how well it works. We are very proud to progress to a full AWIPS uti-

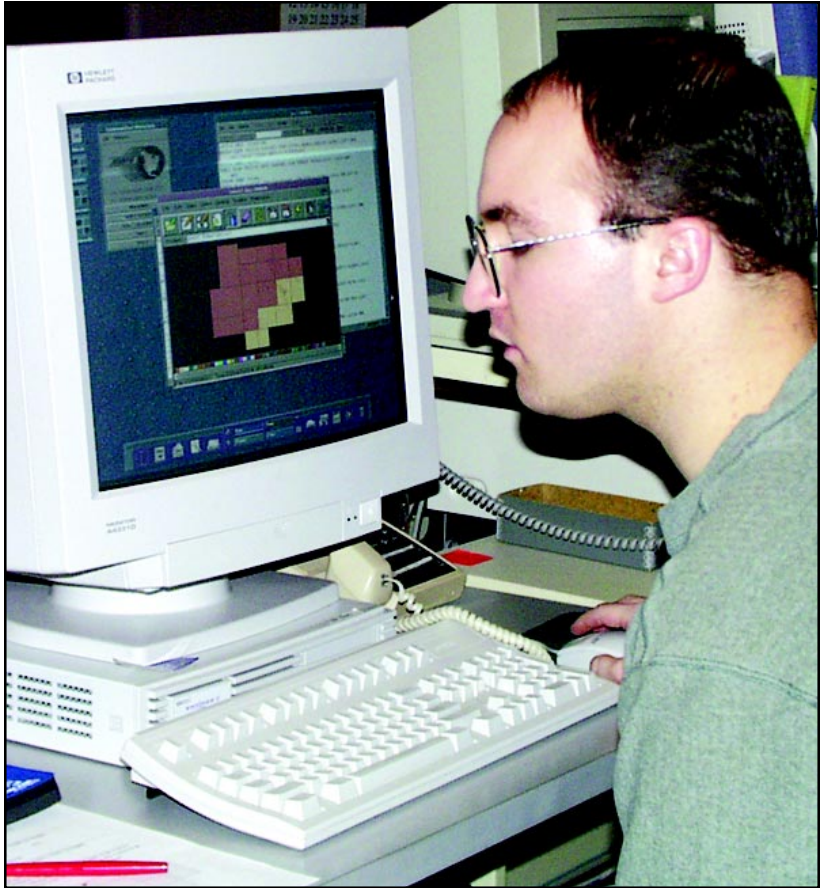
lization and to further streamline operations," said Mentzer.

The Weather Service will also be conducting its annual Severe Weather Spotters Training at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 23, at the Goodland Senior Center, which is free to everyone. People can sign up as volunteer weather observers, but that is not required.

Typically, April, May and June are when the greatest number of tornadoes occur in Kansas, Mentzer said.

Goodland meteorologists will show a slide presentation and a severe weather video to instruct volunteers on where to look for developing tornadoes, hail and damaging winds in a thunderstorm. They will also discuss when and how to report severe weather to the office.

Anyone interested in learning about severe weather is encouraged to attend. The weather office needs rural residents in southeast Sherman County to volunteer as spotters this year. In addition, spotters trained before 1998 need to be recertified.



Aaron Johnson, a meteorologist intern, updated the short-term forecast Friday afternoon at the Goodland National Weather Service office. The office is preparing for spring weather this week.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News