

weather  
report

51°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 7:15 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:21 a.m.  
• Sunset, 7:16 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 52 degrees  
• Humidity 26 percent  
• Sky partly sunny  
• Winds north 36-45 mph  
• Barometer 30.15 inches  
and rising  
• Record High 87° (1978)  
• Record Low 16° (1961)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 69°  
Low 33°  
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, low 25,  
winds 15-25 mph. Tomorrow: Sunny,  
dry, high 70, winds southwest 10-20  
mph, low 35-40.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: dry, high 80s, low 40-45.  
Monday: chance for rain, high 60s,  
low 30s. Tuesday: dry, high 55-65,  
low 30s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.19 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.06  
Loan deficiency payment — 39¢  
Corn — \$1.79 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.96  
Loan deficiency payment — 3¢  
Milo — \$2.72 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.64 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.54  
Loan deficiency payment — 35¢  
Millet — \$3.60 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$6.15 cwt.  
Loan deficiency prnt. — \$3.30  
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.

Boy's father,  
Reno confer

WASHINGTON — Juan Miguel Gonzalez today met Attorney General Janet Reno, his most powerful ally in a struggle to regain his 6-year-old son Elian from relatives, and emerged “sure ... that I’m going to have my child soon.”

Afterward, Reno pledged “to take every step to ensure that a transfer occurs in a fair, prompt and orderly manner” to the father, who wants to take the boy home.

Accompanied by his wife, infant son and lawyer, a solemn-faced Gonzalez met at the Justice Department for just over an hour with Reno and Doris Meissner, Immigration and Naturalization Service commissioner.

Speaking in Spanish afterward, Juan Miguel said, “I have been able to explain the suffering that I have been going through and the suffering my son Elian has been going through for the last months.”

# Airport bill signing gives city hope

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Without much flourish, President Clinton Wednesday signed the Airport Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century, which Goodland city and chamber officials hope will help them recruit a new air carrier.

The new law includes a provision which appears to revoke the Feb. 2, order terminating subsidized air service to Great Bend, Goodland, Lamar, Colo. and several other cities.

The Kansas Congressional delegation, led by Rep. Jerry Moran and Sen. Sam Brownback, has been trying to arrange a meeting with the secretary of transportation to be sure the department

interprets this provision as intended by Congress.

However, Ron Harding, executive director of the Goodland Chamber of Commerce, said he has not heard that such a meeting has been set.

“This is good news,” Harding said, “and we believe the law gives us an opportunity to find a reliable air service to included Goodland as one of their routes.”

Discussions are continuing with the airline companies that have indicated an interest in serving Goodland, and Harding said at least one is talking about routes going east in Kansas as well as west to Denver.

City Manager Ron Pickman said

there are several sections in the bill which may be helpful to improving the Goodland municipal airport.

One deals with runway improvements, and Pickman said he is hoping the Federal Aviation Administration will agree to use the new law to help with the extension of the main runway.

Currently the city is asking the agency for about \$2 million to move the runway to the south by 700 feet, and had also asked for a 700 foot extension to bring the total length to 6,500 feet. The agency told the city no to the extension, but Pickman is hoping that the new law will give them a reason to change their mind.

“The FAA officials told us they were

only going to fund safety improvements,” Pickman said, “and we are arguing that the extension is needed for the safety of larger planes. What they are saying they will fund is the removing of 700 feet from the north end to the south end of the main runway because there was not enough safety clearance to the north.”

Without the additional length, there are restrictions on airplanes which can land at Renner Field. Another problem, Pickman said, is that the main runway is not strong enough to handle big jets.

Also in the new law is a pilot program to encourage communities to join together to develop air service which would include cities within a state and

also in neighboring states. One requirement, however, is that this program would be funded 75 percent by the federal government and 25 percent by the participating governments.

“We will have to wait until the regulations implementing the new law are published to see how these programs will be set up,” Pickman said. “It appears to us that the new law favors expansion of rural airports, and we are hopeful that we can use this to continue the improvement of our airport and help us find a new air carrier.”

It usually takes about 60 days after a law is signed before regulations to implement it are published in the Federal Register, officials said.

## District opens gym Monday

Public invited to come  
see Max Jones, meeting

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland School Board will hold an open house at 6 p.m. Monday, for the recently completed Max Jones Fieldhouse expansion, to be followed at 7:30 p.m. by the regular board meeting, also at the fieldhouse.

The open house will allow people to see the new gym as well as the new dressing rooms, concession area, weight room and elevator added to the west of the original fieldhouse.

Refreshments will be served in the concession area, and the school board will begin their regular meeting as soon as the open house is over.

Superintendent Marvin Selby plans give the board a wrap-up of the building project and any final details which might need to be addressed. He said there are a few things which are showing up, and the plumbers have a few things to complete before everything is done.

“The plumbers are supposed to be coming today to finish some of the things,” Selby said this morning, “and hopefully they will be done within a day or two.”

The board is having a strategic planning retreat Saturday at the Elks Lodge to talk about the future needs of the district for buildings and staff. The session will last most of the day, but since no action can be taken at the special meeting, Selby said there is an item on the Monday agenda to allow approval whatever comes out of the meeting.

The planning session will be open to the public, as are regular board meetings.

Also the board will consider leasing a skid loader for a year to be used for concrete projects this summer. Selby said there are several sidewalks to be poured, and the feeling is that this equipment will make it easier.

The board will also consider a motion to republish the budget to take advantage of a \$1,500 increase in state funding.

The next regular meeting will be 7 p.m. Monday, April 24.



## Wichita artist helps students improve work

Wilma Wethington, a Wichita artist, taught students how to draw with pastels on Thursday at the Carnegie Arts Center. She taught water painting today and will give an oil painting demonstration from 7-9 p.m. tonight for no charge at the center. She will teach oil painting on Saturday in the Goodland High School cafeteria. Her visit was sponsored by Bankwest. Wethington (top left) showed Lorna Thorpe (middle) what could be done on her drawing, while Ada Taylor watched. The artist (left) demonstrated for Monica Emig what her drawing needed.

Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

## Budget bill stalled by Democrats, conservatives

By Carl Manning

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — The wheels fell off the budget wagon in the House on Thursday, but lawmakers may have found a way to put them back on.

On the other side of the Statehouse, the Senate passed bills to change bingo laws and create a method for getting tobacco lawsuit money sooner than expected.

In the House, Democrats and conservative Republicans joined forces to reject a compromise version of the bill to finance state government starting July 1. The vote was 76-49.

Speaker Robin Jennison and other chamber leaders had expected the budget to pass, which would have sent it to the Senate. The rejection left Jennison, R-Healy, and other leaders trying to figure what to do next.

“Leadership has its work cut out for

### Committees have no plans to act on waste permit changes

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Two committee chairmen have no plans to take up a bill to make it easier to challenge state waste permits, despite the threat of a lawsuit.

The House Environment Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee had a joint meeting Thursday to review the bill. The Senate committee agreed to introduce it as a courtesy to Clyde Graeber, secretary of health and environment.

Graeber says his department is not following federal regulations on waste treatment permits. The bill is de-

signed to change state law so that the agency is in compliance and doesn’t face the threat of the federal government taking over its permit program.

The bill also was a response to a Kansas Supreme Court decision in March that said a group formed by Hodgeman County residents could sue the Department of Health and Environment to challenge a permit it issued in 1998 for a corporate hog farm.

But after the hearing, Senate Chairman Dave Corbin, R-Towanda, and House Chairwoman Joann Freeborn, R-

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it. We will go to Plan B — whatever Plan B is,” said Speaker Pro Tem Doug Mays, R-Topeka.

Senate Ways and Means Chairman Dave Kerr, R-Hutchinson, may have found a way

The budget was rejected in large measure because Democrats and conservatives had objected to Graves’ proposal to divert state pension funds to general government programs.

Kerr announced Thursday night that

public school enrollment this year was slightly less than expected, enough to save the state \$13.5 million in spending.

With those savings and a new forecast for state revenue collections, Kerr

said, lawmakers don’t have to enact part of Graves’ plan — dousing the dis-sidents’ fire.

Rep. Phill Kline, R-Shawnee, said fellow conservatives didn’t like the idea of “not living up” to pension contributions set in state law.

Told of Kerr’s announcement, he said: “That will help a lot.”

“It might be enough,” Kline said. “People have some other concerns, but that will help significantly.”

Also Thursday, the Senate voted 35-5 to return to the House a bill allowing bingo halls to offer more games. It also requires distributors of bingo cards to start collecting the state bingo tax. Previously, that tax had been paid by the nonprofit groups running the games.

Sen. Lana Oleen, R-Manhattan, who handled the bill, estimated the addi-

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