

weather
report

67°
at noon

Today

• Sunset, 7:27 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:03 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:28 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 57 degrees

• Humidity 14 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds northwest 18-26 mph

• Barometer 29.61 inches
and falling

• Record High 87° (1987)

• Record Low 18° (1953)

Last 24 Hours*

High 89°

Low 47°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 20 percent chance of rain, winds northwest 15-25 mph, low 35. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, dry, high 60-65, winds northwest 10-20 mph, low 30-35.

Extended Forecast

Friday: dry, high 75, low 30s. Saturday: dry, high 70s, low 40s. Sunday: chance of thunderstorms, high 65-70, low upper 30s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.17 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.04

Loan deficiency payment — 41¢

Corn — \$1.78 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.93

Loan deficiency payment — 6¢

Milo — \$2.69 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.63 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.60

Loan deficiency payment — 29¢

Millet — \$3.60 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$6.40 cwt.

Loan deficiency prmt. — \$3.61

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.

Judges say boy to get hearing

ATLANTA—A federal appeals court today extended its order keeping Elian Gonzalez in the U.S., the latest development in the custody dispute over the 6-year-old boy whom the government wants to return to his father.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel barred anyone from removing the boy from the country, but did not bar the government from reuniting him with his father.

There was no immediate reaction to the ruling from the Justice Department or attorneys for the boy's Miami relatives, but the news set off celebrations among Cuban-Americans outside the Miami home where Elian is living.

The appeals judges said they recognized the government's authority over immigration matters, but added that "we fail to see how an injunction in the case infringes upon the congressional power."

County names 10 members for bed-tax board

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

The Sherman County commissioners approved a list of names from the Goodland Chamber of Commerce to make up this year's board for the Convention and Visitors Bureau at Tuesday's meeting.

The members are Joni Wilson of the Comfort Inn; Bob Hildreth, Best Western Buffalo Inn; Norma Notz, Motel 7; Sherrie Clements, Howard Johnson Hotel; Elaine Morrow, Super 8 Motel; Dale Neill, KOA Kampground; Anthony Spomer, Anthony's Bakery and Cafe; Brenda McCants, Kansas Film Commission; Dan Whalen, Dairy Queen; and Mark Helms, McDonald's. The appointments will take affect immediately.

Clements, Morrow, Hildreth and Helms are new members; the rest are reappointments. Motel operators, including Hildreth, had been to the commission complaining about the board. County officials said they had trouble in the past getting hotel people to serve, however.

Later, Dorendo Harrel, administrator of the Sherman County Health Department, had a few matters to talk with the commissioners about.

She asked Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld, vice chairman of the commission, to sign a child care licensing and registration contract with Cheyenne County, which has asked Sherman County to provide a professional to evaluate its day care providers. Rhea Daise with the county health department is qualified and will do the job, said Harrel. Frankenfeld signed the contract.

Harrel told the commissioners that the health department needed to find someone to clean its offices, as the person who has been doing it was quitting. After a brief discussion, the commissioners told her to advertise for one.

Graves finds money for school increase

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA—Gov. Bill Graves plans to ask legislators to use what he called "hard dollars" to pay for an increase in spending on public schools.

Legislators already have approved a spending bill that includes an increase of \$50 per student for elementary, junior high and high schools for their 2000-01 academic year, the increase depends on the state receiving extra federal nursing home money.

Democratic leaders had a news conference Tuesday to criticize Republicans for forcing through that proposal. Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka, called it a "fantasy-based" budget.

About 30 minutes after Democrats finished their news conference, Graves sought out reporters in their Statehouse offices to make his announcement. He said he already was working on his own proposal.

Graves said the state can commit to the \$50 per pupil spending increase because public school enrollments were lower than expected this year, saving the state about \$13.5 million.

He said he will ask legislators to abandon the plan to link the \$50-per-student increase to the extra federal funds.

Graves also said he plans to propose adding extra dollars for special education programs, which many legislators have sought.

The entire package would cost about \$21 million. He declined to talk about his proposals beyond the \$50-per-student increase in school spending.

"I didn't want something to be written this evening that mistakenly implied that we weren't prepared to fully fund, with hard dollars, education funding," he said.

Hensley and House Minority Leader Jim Garner, D-Coffeyville, were

pleased by Graves' announcement and suggested their criticism led Graves to act.

"How's that for results?" Garner asked.

Legislators are scheduled to reconvene April 26 to wrap up their business for the year. They plan to draft one bill to tie up unresolved issues in a nearly \$8.65 billion budget for the state's 2001 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Last year, legislators and Graves committed to increasing public school budgets by \$50 per student during the current school year and another \$50 for the 2000-01 school year. The figure was supposed to reach \$3,820 for 2000-01.

But the promise came before officials knew the true extent of the state's financial problems. The state finished its 1999 fiscal year on June 30 with \$73.4 million less in revenues than expected.

This year, Graves' proposed budget provided enough money to get the school spending figure to \$3,807 per student in 2000-01 — \$13 less than promised.

Then, after legislators learned from Graves that the state could receive as much as \$120 million in extra federal nursing home funds in fiscal 2001, his fellow Republicans linked the school spending increase to the extra money.

After his announcement, Graves said he expects Democrats to support the final budget bill. No Democrat in either house voted for the bill containing most of the state budget for fiscal 2001.

Garner hesitated to make such a solid commitment. He said he's sure the school finance proposal will be "put in with some less than tolerable stuff," adding, "but we'll see."

Hensley said his caucus would support the school finance plan "wholeheartedly."

Graves replied: "I'll hold them to that."



Fire Chief Dean Jensen (above, at left) helped volunteers get into their bunker gear and breathing apparatus Tuesday as they prepared to attack a smoky bathroom fire at 206 Harrison. They needed the breathers, as plastic tile was producing thick, noxious black smoke. Homeowner Esta Hargadine (below left) had to explain exactly where her purse was to fireman Rick Murray so he could retrieve her keys. Then firemen and a state trooper who stopped to help could back her car out of the garage in case the flames spread. After starting their attack with a 1 1/2-inch line, volunteers opened doors and windows and began ventilating the house with fans. (below right)

Photos by Steve Haynes and Tom Betz/The Goodland Daily News



Fire drives woman from her home

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Goodland firemen needed only about 10 minutes to douse a smoky fire which drove a woman from her home at 206 Harrison on Tuesday, but the owner was left shaken by the sudden blaze.

Esta Hargadine, who said she has lived in the home for 40 years, watched as black, foul-smelling smoke streamed from the windows and firemen rushed in and out.

Mrs. Hargadine said she had just gotten home from work at the Elk's Lodge and was cleaning out the gutters in front of her home when she got thirsty and went inside to put on a pot of coffee. She was greeted by clouds of thick smoke.

"I couldn't even get in," she said.

The house had filled with smoke in the time she was outside, she said, and it poured out the front door.

Her neighbor to the north, Patricia Perrey, said she called 911 from her home. Neighbors comforted Hargadine as firemen carried fans, hoses and ladders into the house.

After a few minutes, state Trooper Rich Hageman, who

had been on his way home and stopped to help, moved Mrs. Hargadine's car onto the street, fearing the fire could spread to the garage. However, it never got that bad.

No flames could be seen outside the house, and firemen said they had the blaze under control within 10 minutes.

Fire Chief Dean Jensen said fire damage was confined to the bathroom where the blaze started. No specific cause had been determined, but the chief said he was suspicious of an electrical fan.

There was smoke damage through the rest of the house. The chief said the black smoke was caused by the plastic tile around the tub, which began to melt and burn because of the heat.

The call came in at 2:50 p.m. The firemen opened some windows and checked to make sure the fire did not extend into the attic. Two engines and 10 firemen responded, and the fire was under control within minutes.

But Mrs. Hargadine was still upset.

"Oh God, why did this happen to me," she said, running her fingers through her hair and shaking.