

weather report

58°
at noon

Today

• Sunset, 7:28 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:01 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:29 p.m.

Middy Conditions

• Soil Temperature 52 degrees

• Humidity 15 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds north 23-31 mph

• Barometer 30.20 inches and steady

• Record High 89° (1962)

• Record Low 20° (1953)

Last 24 Hours*

High 69°

Low 36°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, winds north-east 10-20 mph, low 30-35. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, dry, high mid 70s, winds south 10-20 mph, low 40s.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: dry, high 70s, low 40s.

Sunday: chance of thunderstorms, high 65-75, low 40s. Monday: chance of rain, high 70, low 40.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.18 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.05

Loan deficiency payment — 40¢

Corn — \$1.77 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.96

Loan deficiency payment — 3¢

Milo — \$2.67 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.61 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.67

Loan deficiency payment — 22¢

Millet — \$3.60 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$6.40 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$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.

Shooter's anger kills 2, hurts 3

PEORIA, Ariz. — Richard Glassel's anger was well-known to his former neighbors at Ventana Lakes, a suburban retirement community with man-made lakes, tennis courts and grassy common areas.

More than a year ago, 61-year-old Glassel's dispute over the quality of the landscaping in the manicured common areas had grown increasingly heated, neighbors said. The association was so unnerved by Glassel that they obtained a restraining order against him.

Police said that anger boiled over Wednesday when Glassel allegedly stormed into a homeowners association meeting with a rifle and handguns and opened fire, killing two women and wounding three.

"He just came in, stood in the rear of the room and started firing," said Sheldon "Smokey" Stover, 76, who shouted warnings when the gunshots erupted.

Tornados damage homes, injure 10

PARSONS (AP) — At least 10 houses were destroyed, many others were damaged and the police were forced out of their damaged building when a tornado swept through downtown Parsons Wednesday night.

The twister was one of four that struck southeast Kansas as a line of severe weather stretched from southeast Kansas to northwest Missouri.

Only minor injuries were reported — including injuries to a woman and a child who were rescued from the basement of their collapsed home in Parsons.

"We were able to get the sirens off in time and that made a big difference," said Keith Stammer, public information officer in Labette County.

The storm also destroyed a carnival, scattering ferris wheel parts.

"This is nothing like we've ever seen in Parsons," said Martha Walters, an engineering administrative assistant. "We've never had damage like this."

Power was restored this morning in the community of 13,000 after crews worked through the night.

The police 911 center in Parsons was knocked out and calls were being routed to a dispatch center in Oswego, Stammer said. The police had moved their operations to the nearby fire department building.

A car dealership and a grocery store were also damaged, Stammer said.

Several square blocks of downtown were roped off, mostly to discourage people from going to look at the damage, Stammer said.

The Red Cross set up an emergency medical center in Parsons.

The state activated its Emergency Operations Center to take reports of the damage and direct state efforts to provide relief in the damaged areas, Moser said. She said the Federal Emergency Management Agency was notified.

The National Guard likely will be sent to the area this morning. The Kansas Highway Patrol had deployed 19 additional troopers to the area, including 12 to Parsons.

Stammer and Moser said better damage estimates would be ready today after authorities could survey in the daylight.

Tornados also touched down in Cherryvale in Montgomery County and Eire in Neosho County, where homes and mobile homes were damaged. There were not immediate reports of injuries.

At least four people had minor injuries in Crawford County. Undersheriff Dan Peak said McCune and Walnut were the hardest hit. Three homes were destroyed in McCune and two people were injured by straight-line winds estimated at 80 mph.

Peak said two people were treated in Walnut where a tornado touched down.

Damage was still being assessed this morning.

Peak said several other communities, including Arma, Girard, Hepler and Pittsburg all received high winds and light rain. Damage was limited in those areas to downed power lines and tree limbs.

The line of severe weather included heavy rain, large hail and straight-line winds, according to the National Weather Service. The storm system moved rapidly eastward, traveling at 50 mph to 55 mph at its peak.

The National Weather Service in Springfield estimates the tornados in Crawford and Neosho counties were one-half to one mile wide.

Can you make it go faster?



Students from Kara Smith's Second grade class from West Elementary were asking if the press could go faster during a tour of The Goodland Daily News Wednesday morning. Pressmen Richard Westfahl and Jim Bowker were checking the press as they started running The Bird City Times. Tom Betz, Editor, conducted the young people through the tour, and answered many questions about how newspapers are made, and about the Internet service for nwkanas.com.

Photo by Janet Craft / The Goodland Daily News

Relatives appear willing to let son meet father

By Alan Clendenning
Associated Press Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Faced with a court ruling criticizing the government's actions in the Elian Gonzalez case, Attorney General Janet Reno huddled with advisers today as the boy's relatives sparred through their lawyers over whether, and where, they might arrange a meeting.

In the latest victory for the Miami relatives of the 6-year-old boy, a three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta said Elian must remain in the United States until the court decides whether he should get an asylum hearing.

The order would not prevent the government from reuniting Elian with his father in the United States. The father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, has been waiting in Washington since April 6.

Reno, in Oklahoma City on Wednesday for the dedication of a memorial to the victims of the 1995 federal building bombing, said she would abide by Wednesday's court order.

"But it does not disagree with my determination, it does not say that the boy cannot be reunited with his father," she said. "I believe Elian should be reunited with his father and I said that all along."

Reno later returned to Washington, canceling a trip planned today to a Montana Indian reservation. She held one meeting with her advisers on the Elian case and others were anticipated, but there was no word on when she might decide her next step.

White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said President Clinton and Reno spent about 45 minutes discussing the Elian Gonzalez case Wednesday night.

"He supports the approach the attorney general has taken here to try to reunite the boy with his father in a way that is prompt and orderly," Lockhart said. "There's obvious tension between the

prompt and orderly. These are issues the Justice Department is working through and I'm not going to speculate on what they may or may not do."

He said the Justice Department was looking forward to making its arguments before the appeals court next month, but declined to speculate on any actions that might be taken before then. A hearing was set for May 11.

Lawyers for the Miami relatives today repeated their offer to bring the boy to a meeting with his father. They said it could be anywhere in the country, but also said the boy was reluctant to get on an airplane.

"It's time that the family got together to deal with this as a family — no preconditions, no government, no lawyers," family attorney Kendall Coffey

told ABC's "Good Morning America." He said the family still preferred to meet within close driving distance of Miami because Elian is frightened about being returned to Cuba.

"Rather than insist that the boy go to Washington to see the father, why can't a grown-up get on a plane and come down to south Florida. ... Maybe he should come down this Easter? It's time that the family got together to deal with this as a family — no preconditions, no government, no lawyers."

Gregory Craig, an attorney for the father, said any meeting must begin with Juan Miguel being given custody of the boy. "It is long past time for this boy to be reunited with his father," Craig told NBC's "Today" show.

"The only meeting that we really care

about is the reunion with the son." After that occurs, the family can talk, he said.

The boy's great-uncle, Lazaro Gonzalez, decided to offer to bring the boy to a meeting with his father after being assured by the court ruling that the boy could stay in the country, attorney Linda Osberg-Braun said Wednesday. Previously, the Miami relatives had said they would meet the father only if it was without the boy.

In their decision issued Wednesday, the appeals court judges had harsh words for the government's handling of Lazaro Gonzalez's effort to win an asylum hearing for the boy. The Immigration and Naturalization Service had argued that Elian was too young to speak for himself and that only his father, as the sole surviving parent, could request asylum.

Smothering the smoldering embers



Rural firemen sprayed foam on smoldering embers about 3 p.m. Wednesday, west of Frontier Equity with the winds whipping up into the 30 mph range. The foam was to blanket areas where there were signs of smoke. The same area was the source of a fire a week ago which threatened several homes north of the area.

Photo by Janet Craft / The Goodland Daily News

Holy services begin tonight, Good Friday

Holy Week services will be held at the following churches in Goodland.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 220 W. 13th, will have a communion service at 6:30 p.m. today (Maundy Thursday) and a service at 6:30 p.m. on Good Friday.

The Goodland Ministerial Alliance will have Good Friday services from 12:10-12:50 p.m. on Good Friday at the Sonrise Christian Church. The offering will go to the Regional Prevention Center.

The Calvary Gospel Church, 4th and College, will have a Good Friday communion service at 7 p.m.

For Easter Sunday services, the Calvary Gospel Church will have a sunrise service at 5:45 a.m. Sunday at Mac Thompson's residence, 896 W. 35th, Goodland. Breakfast will be served from 8:15 to 8:45 a.m. at the church. Afterwards, Sunday school will be at 9 a.m. and a worship celebration at 10:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday services at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church will include a sunrise service with communion at 7:30 a.m., followed by breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Then Sunday school with an Easter egg hunt will be held at 9 a.m. and a worship service with communion at 10 a.m.

Farm income way up in '99

HAYS (AP) — Bolstered by federal government subsidies, the average Kansas farm family last year saw its income more than double, the Farm Management Association said Wednesday.

Kansas farmers made a net farm income average of \$42,488 in 1999, up from \$16,778 the year earlier, according to the group's annual report. But farm income is still below 1997 levels, when Kansas farmers netted \$59,352.

"The government payments were a definite factor," said Richard Wahl, an economist with the Kansas State University Farm Management Association.

All told, the federal government sent \$1.4 billion in subsidies to Kansas farmers last year. It was the second straight year the government bailed out the faltering farm economy amid low commodity crop prices.

"If we take the government payments out most incomes would be negative ... without those payments, very likely you can call it a crisis. With those payments, it is not a widespread crisis," Wahl said.

"It sets the stage for the same circumstances as a year ago — we are set up to need a good infusion from the government again in 2000," Wahl said.

Farmers in northwest Kansas had the highest net farm incomes in the state, for the second year in a row. Their average net farm income last year was \$67,537, the highest in 10 years. A year ago their income levels stood at \$50,485.

Incomes from other Kansas districts:

- Northcentral: \$44,561 in 1999 and \$14,767 in 1998.
- Northeast: \$25,123 in 1999 and \$12,170 in 1998.
- Southwest: \$55,674 in 1999 and \$31,286 in 1998.
- Southcentral: \$43,664 in 1999 and \$16,156 in 1998.
- Southeast: \$37,493 in 1999 and \$3,460 in 1998.