

weather report

68°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:32 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:56 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:33 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 58 degrees
• Humidity 40 percent
• Sky partly sunny
• Winds south 12-18 mph
• Barometer 29.94 inches and falling
• Record High 89° (1989)
• Record Low 21° (1958)

Last 24 Hours*

High 69°
Low 49°
Precipitation .02 inches

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Severe thunderstorm watch until 6 p.m. Partly cloudy, 40 percent chance of thunderstorms, gusty winds and hail possible, low 40-45, winds northwest 15-25 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, high 70-75, low 40s, winds north 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday through Friday: dry, highs in the 80s, lows in the 40s. (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 — \$2.07
Loan deficiency payment — 38¢
Corn — \$1.77 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.95
Loan deficiency payment — 4¢
Milo — \$2.67 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.61 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.64
Loan deficiency payment — 25¢
Millet — \$3.60 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.39 cwt.
Loan deficiency prnt. — \$3.54
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.

Vets in Hanoi to help Viets

HANOI — A prominent group of U.S. veterans returned to Vietnam today for the 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

The delegation of top business leaders and others plan to share expertise with a country trying to integrate into a global economy.

“They are coming back to do the job they were originally sent to do, which is to help the people of Vietnam,” said Jan Scruggs of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

The delegation includes James Kimsey, founding chief executive officer of America Online; Herbert Allison, former president of Merrill Lynch in New York; and Marshall Carter, chief executive officer of State Street Corp.

They were given red-carpet welcome at Hanoi’s Noi Bai Airport, with gifts of flowers by girls in ao dais, Vietnam’s traditional flowing tunic over trousers.



Little ones took care while picking up plastic eggs during an Easter egg hunt Saturday morning at Gulick Park sponsored by the Goodland Topside Lions Club. One little guy (above) reached down to gently pick

up an egg during the hunt. As 3- and 4-year-olds rushed to pick up eggs, Lion Connie Grieve gave directions.

Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Bright eggs keep kids hopping around park over Easter weekend

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Brightly colored plastic eggs with candy or stickers inside were scattered around Chambers Park on Friday afternoon.

In the warm weather, eight children cared for by Western Childcare, a daycare center at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, went on an Easter egg hunt.

Two brothers scrambled for eggs, falling down in the excitement. A few of the younger ones were more timid and needed some help from parents or daycare workers to find and pick up the eggs. Some stopped before the hunt was over, to open the eggs and eat their candy.

A few parents took pictures of their little ones in action, while one videotaped the activity. One grandmother followed her granddaughter around to watch her hunt for eggs.

Then on Saturday at Gulick Park, the Goodland Topside Lions Club, held an Easter egg hunt for kids 10 and under. A crowd of parents, grandparents, and kids gathered on a sunny morning. Kids carried all types of baskets to gather eggs.

The hunts were divided into four age groups, 2 and under; 3 and 4, 5 to 7, and 8 to 10.

Lions’ members scattered plastic eggs with treats inside in two roped-off areas, and the hunts alternated between the two.

Lion Connie Grieve, wearing a hat like the Madhatter’s, announced the age categories and told the kids when they could go.

Parents and grandparents crowded around the roped-off areas to coax little ones, take pictures and watch the action.

The two younger age groups took a little more time to pick up their eggs.

However, when it was time for the kids in the two oldest age groups to go, it was a mad dash to get to the eggs as fast as possible and it took hardly any time at all.

In between hunts, kids played on the swings, teeter-totter, merry-go-round, and slipper slide at the park.



Body of Kansas flier buried after 58 years

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — Fifty-eight years after his death, a Rawlins County aviator who had been missing since his plane disappeared in World War II has been laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

Ensign Edward W. Riepl of Herndon, near Atwood, was buried Friday at a ceremony attended by 40 of his war-time buddies and family members.

“I’m just so happy this could all finally come to a close. It was very nice,” said 75-year-old Jerry Riepl, Edward’s brother.

At the time of his death, Riepl was 24 and the co-pilot of a plane that went down near an island in the South Pacific. He was listed as missing in action until 1994, when loggers found the

wreckage.

It wasn’t until last year that advances in DNA genetic research helped the Pentagon identify Riepl and 15 other U.S. servicemen missing from World War II and the Vietnam War. Officials extracted DNA from Riepl’s bones and matched it with blood samples donated by his brothers.

Riepl’s childhood church, Immanuel United Church of Christ in Herndon, rang the church bells at 8 a.m. to coincide with the start of the chapel service in Washington.

An afternoon ceremony was followed by a group burial for Riepl and the seven other Navy aviators who failed to return from their patrol mission.

Session may end Saturday with many issues on table

TOPEKA (AP) — The list of what people want to do is long. The list of what they have to do is short.

The Legislature reconvenes Wednesday for the final days of its annual session. Its leaders are expecting that the session won’t last through the weekend.

They have to finish the next budget. And legislation on a wide range of issues, including open records, social services and even reorganizing the Kansas State Historical Society remain.

But most of them acknowledge that the only thing the Legislature really has to do before it adjourns is pass a final spending bill. Senate President Dick Bond isn’t even sure

that is necessary.

“If it gets contentious, there are many in leadership ready to go home and say we’ll just have to solve it in 2001,” said Bond, R-Overland Park. “We have accomplished the lion’s share of our work in terms of critical issues.”

The Legislature will resume its session on the 86th calendar day. Its leaders have set aside four days for wrapping up business, meaning it could adjourn Saturday, the 89th day of 90 allotted by the constitution.

The main piece of work will be the last spending bill, with different versions drafted by the House Appropriations Committee and Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Seizure of boy defended

White House says government had no choice but action

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House today blamed Elian Gonzalez’s Miami relatives for forcing the government into the armed seizure of the boy, asserting that “none of this had to happen” if they had respected the law and allowed him to be reunited with his father.

The administration also said it was proper for federal agents to carry weapons when they stormed the house.

“There was information that there might be guns in the house, out in the crowd,” presidential spokesman Joe Lockhart said.

President Clinton felt the raid was “the right thing to do and was the only alternative remaining,” Lockhart said. “All of this could have been avoided. None of this had to happen. This happened because the family did not respect the legal process here that dictated the father should be reunited with the young boy.”

En route to New York City with Clinton today, Lockhart ruled out Clinton’s meeting with Elian and his father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez.

“That would be the last thing that would be in the boy’s best interest,” he said.

Earlier today, Attorney General Janet Reno refused to second-guess the government’s actions.

“I have no regrets whatsoever,” she said on NBC’s Today. “I tried my level best to make sure we avoided this situation and if I bent over backward, so be it. I’m satisfied with the result.”

Marisleyis Gonzalez, the 21-year-old cousin who looked after Elian while he was in Miami, and the boy’s two great-uncles left a Washington hotel today “to try to speak to whoever we have to speak to” to meet with Elian and his father. She said the Miami relatives pose no risk to the father because “we are in his territory now.”

Armed agents broke into the Miami home of the boy’s relatives early Saturday only after negotiations with the family there produced mixed signals, Reno said.

“We were told we would have a deal if we did certain things,” she said, “and we did it, and it evaporated.”

The White House accused Republicans — in particular House Majority Whip Tom DeLay of Texas — of playing politics with the case and making “wildly inaccurate statements.”

“Tom DeLay went on television yesterday and said there was no warrant in this case, that they didn’t get a search warrant,” Lockhart said. “It’s factually not true, and easily knowable, if you’re not trying to play politics.”

The federal government worked hard to make sure the young Cuban refugee was reunited with his father in a peaceful and voluntary way, Reno said.

“We tried and tried.” In the end, “We did what we had to do and we now need to move forward and to give this little boy and his father a chance to heal.”

A longtime friend of Reno, Aaron Podhurst, was brought into the negotiations with the Miami relatives Thursday and was on the phone with the attorney general just before the raid was carried out.

“I believe a deal was within minutes or an hour away,” he told NBC. “I was shocked, I was disappointed, I couldn’t believe what I was looking at on TV.”

Podhurst said he talked to Reno shortly afterward and told her of his disappointment.

“She was as sad as I’ve ever seen her,” he said.

Elian and his father are staying at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington, where some of their Cuban relatives are demanding a meeting.

On Easter Sunday, the boy’s father tried to create a hometown aura at the Air Force base.

They shared a meal of black beans and rice, walked on the grounds of the base with Elian’s stepmother and half brother, even got a visit from the base’s Easter Bunny.