

weather report

68°
at noon

Today

• Sunset, 8.07 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5.22 a.m.

• Sunset, 8.08 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 71 degrees

• Humidity 46 percent

• Sky clear

• Winds northeast 20 mph

• Barometer 30.17 inches and rising

• Record High 95° (1940)

• Record Low 36° (1951)

Last 24 Hours*

High 95°

Low 53°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy, 20 percent chance of showers, low 50-55, winds northeast 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, chance of thunderstorms, high 75-80, low 50-55, winds southeast 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday and Sunday: chance of thunderstorms, high 75-80, low 50's. Monday: dry, high mid 70s, low 50-55.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.28 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.27

Loan deficiency payment — 18¢

Corn — \$1.88 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.84

Loan deficiency payment — 15¢

Milo — \$2.78 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$0.00 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.46

Loan deficiency payment — 43¢

Millet — \$3.60 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.370 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.89

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.

Albright heads to Middle East

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — President Clinton said today he is sending Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to the Middle East to narrow the gaps in the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. He said an agreement is “within view now.” Clinton, who spoke after meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, said he would meet soon in Washington with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. He said Albright would go to the Middle East next week.

“Both leaders know from me and they know from their own experience that they now have to be prepared to make an intense effort and to do things that they have not done in the past — with real courage and vision — if we are going to actually get a framework agreement that deals with the outstanding issues,” Clinton said.

Auditor says county in good shape

By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

Mark Bauer, auditor with VonFeldt, Bauer, and VonFeldt from Larned, gave the county audit report at Wednesday’s Sherman County commissioners’ meeting. He said everything was in good shape and complimented County Treasurer Shelby Miller and County Clerk Janet Rumpel on their books.

The commissioners met with Mike Miller of Miller Construction, contractor on the handicapped restroom project at the courthouse, to see if the project had been completed. He said everything had been completed, except for the a brass closure on the door of the time clock room which needed to be put on. Miller said it would be installed

this week. William McKnight, county building supervisor, was also there and he told the commissioners that everything seemed to work.

Bill Dattola with Business Office Systems in Kearney, Neb. talked to the commissioners about leasing a postage machine. But after some discussion, he said he couldn’t save them any money at this time, since they had purchased a Pitney Bowes postage machine a couple of years ago. He asked them to keep him in mind for the future.

Stephen West and Ron Harding, representatives of the Goodland Chamber of Commerce, presented a list of six economic development projects that they have come up with for Goodland. They wanted input from the commissioners as to which projects they con-

sidered to be a priority. No decision was made, but the commissioners said they would consider giving them money for their efforts when they were ready to do the budget for 2001. The six projects named were an airline, a downtown grocery, a retail store to go in where Gibson’s was, expansion of the sunflower plant, a family dairy, and call center clients. The group received \$30,000 for their budget from the city of Goodland and will use half of it to do a feasibility study for a grocery.

Tom Rohr of Dependable Glass in Goodland came to see the commission about a letter he received saying that the landfill wouldn’t accept glass products anymore. He can still take glass to the landfill, but any automobile windshield shields need to be disposed of in the

construction and demolition pile, while other glass can go in with the regular trash.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby talked with the commissioners about two bills from the Goodland Regional Medical Center that the sheriff’s department had turned in. They were for medical expenses on Tirso Zuniga, who was a prisoner in the county jail and had hung himself. One bill was for \$1,830 and the other for \$189. Selby didn’t think the county should be responsible for paying these bills. The commissioners approved a motion to withhold payment for these two bills until Selby and Sheriff Doug Whitson could look at paperwork and determine if he was in the care of the county at the time of his death.

The commissioners approved a motion to draft a letter to the State of Kansas stating that the county wants to go with the financial assurance test to comply with the requirements for the new landfill site. Rumpel will draft the letter.

The commissioners did not meet with Curt Way, road and bridge director, as he still had to get bids on and test drive two other loaders before he could present the bids. He will meet with the commissioners next week.

They also approved a motion for Way to sell an 8600 Ford tractor and he will go ahead and advertise it.

The commissioners will meet again at 8 a.m. on Tuesday in the commissioners room on the first floor of the courthouse.

High winds down trees, cut visibility

Wind gusts reached a peak of 81 miles per hour in Burlington about 9 p.m. Wednesday evening, and in Goodland the wind gusts reached 62 mph reported the National Weather Bureau..

The high winds lasted about an hour, and there were reports of six to eight inch tree limbs blown down in Goodland, and blowing dust caused visibility problems on I-70.

Kansas State Patrol dispatchers in Norton said there were no reports of any vehicle accidents caused by the wind, and that I-70 was not closed in Kansas during the storm.

Sergeant Lance Wheat of the Colorado State Patrol in Burlington said there were no wind related accidents in the Burlington area, and that despite the reduced visibility I-70 was not closed in Colorado either.

In Goodland a tree fell in a back yard at the corner of 15th and Walnut, and the city cut the power to a feeder line to allow the safe removal of the tree. The affected area was an eight block area from in the alley between Cherry and Caldwell in the power outage for a one-block stretch from 15th north to Eighth Street.

Ed Wolak, public works director, said the city has had many calls from citizens about downed tree limbs, and expects city crews to be working on these for several days.

Phone bills should drop

WASHINGTON (AP) — Starting in July, U.S. households should see savings on their phone bills, with reductions as high as 50 percent for those who don’t make any long-distance calls. Moderate to heavy long-distance users can expect to see more modest decreases.

The reductions will result from a dramatic overhaul of the phone subsidy system that was devised by the industry and adopted by the Federal Communications Commission on Wednesday.

The commission cut by \$3.2 billion the “access fees” that local phone companies charge long-distance carriers to connect calls — costs that typically are paid by phone users. Long-distance companies have pledged to pass on the savings, meaning their customers should see lower rates.

Low-volume callers would see the most immediate benefits, with their bills dropping \$3 to \$4 a month. Those who make a moderate or large amount of calls may only see small reductions in the short-run, but stand to gain from falling long-distance rates or price wars that the new plan could trigger, officials said.

Consumers should begin seeing the changes in their July statements.

Businesses also would see some reductions in their monthly charges, although it is unclear just how much they would save. Typically, businesses, which make a large volume of long-distance calls, have benefited from access charge reductions with lower per-minute fees as well.

Regulators have sliced access charges by several billion dollars over the past few years to better reflect local phone companies’ connection costs. But Wednesday’s reduction is the most dramatic.

Memorial Park shaping up ...



The new Memorial Park ballfield is taking shape as city crews work to pour the pad for the new bleachers Wednesday. The announcers booth and concession stand with restrooms is ready for the siding. Ed Wolak, public works director said it is hoped the new field lights can be put in place early next week. Crews also are working on burying the power lines for the new scoreboard down the third base line.

Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News



Appeals court rules in favor of boy's father

By Erin McClam
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — A federal appeals court sided with Elian Gonzalez’s father today in the 6-month-old international custody battle, ruling that immigration officials were entitled to deny an asylum hearing for the Cuban boy.

Elian must remain in the United States for 14 days to give his Miami relatives a chance to appeal.

The three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the Immigration and Naturalization Service’s decision that only a parent can act for his 6-year-old child in immigration matters “was within the outside border of reasonable choices.” It said that principle held even if the parent was in another country and the child was in the United States.

The judges denied a motion by Elian’s father to replace the boy’s great-uncle Lazaro in the asylum case. Had the judge granted the motion, Juan Miguel Gonzalez would have been able to drop the asylum request and take him home to Cuba.

“Notwithstanding that much has happened since Lazaro brought this suit, ... we see no powerful reason to make a change at this point,” the judges said.

Marisleyxis Gonzalez, Elian’s cousin who cared for him during his Miami stay, said that she still believes God will not allow Elian to be returned to Cuba.

“I hope the laws of this country favor him and give him the opportunity to seek asylum,” she said. She also hopes the courts will order Elian’s father to allow her and her family to visit

the boy.

Today’s 33-page unanimous ruling affirms a lower court decision that the INS acted properly in rejecting the asylum application, filed on behalf of Elian by his Miami relatives.

The judges ruled that because no federal law directly applied to the case, the INS was required to come up with a policy dealing with “the extraordinary circumstances of asylum applications filed on behalf of a 6-year-old child.”

The judges said it is up to the INS to determine the best policy.

“The INS did not abuse its discretion or act arbitrarily in applying the policy and rejecting plaintiff’s purported asylum application,” said the ruling, written by Judge J.L. Edmondson.

“The court neither approves nor disapproves the INS’ decision to reject the

asylum application filed on plaintiffs’ behalf, but the INS decision did not contradict (federal law).”

Minutes after the ruling, lawyers for the boy’s Miami relatives sought help from Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, who handles emergency matters from the 11th Circuit for the nation’s highest court.

The request urged Kennedy’s help “to assure that Elian will remain in the United States” until the full Supreme Court can consider a formal appeal.

“No child, whatever may be his immigration status, deserves fewer judicial rights than hardened criminals. Surely, this traumatized and innocent child deserves the court’s consideration and protection,” the request said.