

**weather report**

**87°**  
at noon



**Today**

• Sunset, 7:13 p.m.  
**Tomorrow**  
• Sunrise, 6:20 a.m.  
• Sunset, 7:11 p.m.

**Middy Conditions**

- Soil Temperature 76 degrees
- Humidity 35 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds south 18 mph
- Barometer 30.11 inches and falling
- Record High 104° (1931)
- Record Low 40° (1961)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High 95°  
Low 54°  
Precipitation none

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: Partly cloudy, 40 percent chance of thunderstorms, winds southeast 15-25 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 95-100, low 60, winds north 10-20 mph.

**Extended Forecast**

Thursday: chance of thunderstorms, high 95, low 60. Friday and Saturday: chance of thunderstorms, high 85-95, low 55-65.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**

**Noon**  
Wheat — \$2.65 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.33  
Loan deficiency payment — 12¢  
Corn — \$1.66 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.49  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 50¢  
Milo — \$2.58 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.23 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.29  
Loan deficiency payment — 61¢  
Millet — \$7.00 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$5.45 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.39  
Confection current — \$15/\$6 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.**

**Bush proposes three debates**

NAPERVILLE, ILL. — George W. Bush stood by his offer for three presidential debates, including one next week, branding rival Al Gore's quick rejection as "Washington doublespeak." Gore maintained his resistance to the Texas governor's proposal.  
Speaking at a rally before a Labor Day parade in this Chicago suburb, Bush taunted Gore for not accepting the offer. "My opponent said he would debate me anyplace, anytime, anywhere," Bush said Monday. "I said fine. Why don't we just show up... and discuss our differences."  
Gore, meanwhile, insisted Bush must first accept the three 90-minute debates proposed by the Commission on Presidential Debates. Gore has accepted those offers, saying they will reach the widest possible viewing audience

## Two bike thefts hit family hard

By Rachel Miscall  
*The Goodland Daily News*

At 10, Alison Mioke is no stranger to the sometimes harsh ways of the world. Alison's great-grandmother gave her a mountain bike for her 11th birthday, but a few days later it was stolen off of the front porch of the girl's home at 10th and Cherry Street.  
Danyale Nothdurft, Alison's mother, said her daughter was devastated. She said Alison's grandmother was visiting and replaced the early present — Alison's 11th birthday isn't until Sept. 25. Nothdurft said her daughter had left the first bike unsecured on the front porch, but decided to chain the new bike to a pole on the porch.  
As Nothdurft left for work on Wednesday, she said, she noticed the week-old bike was missing.  
"I don't know if they took the handlebars off or what they did," said the mother, who works at Super 8 Motel on K-27, "but the chain was there and the bicycle was gone."  
"It almost made me want to cry," she said, "and I can't afford to buy her another one."  
Nothdurft said thieves are now trying to get into her home. Wednesday night, she said, someone tried to break in, damaging the lock so bad that she is replacing it.  
Nothdurft said she has reported it all to the police, but they haven't been able to find either bike, which she described as maroon mountain bikes made by a company called "Next."  
Police Chief Ray Smee said the depart-

ment has recently had a few reports of stolen bicycles and officers have even found some — but none matching the description of Alison's bike.  
He said it's important for people to check with the department to see if their bike has been found.  
"We have recovered two or three," Smee said, "but no one has come to claim them. We sold 30 or so unclaimed bicycles last year."  
He said he has no idea at this point who took the bikes.  
"If we knew, we would go get it," he said.  
She said both bikes were bought at Wal-Mart and the second bike's front tire is different than its back tire because the tire was damaged while Alison was riding.  
The thefts have created other problems for the family, Nothdurft said. She said she has to be to work a half an hour before Alison has to be to school, so she can't drive her. The bike was her daughter's ride to North Elementary, which is about eight blocks.  
"Either I'll be late for work," she said, "or she'll have to walk."  
On Friday morning, Nothdurft said her daughter had been leaving early to walk to school.  
Nothdurft said she partially blames the thefts on a broken street light near her home. The light at 10th and Cherry is not working, she said.  
City Manager Ron Pickman said it's the first he's heard that the light isn't working.  
"I will tell them it is out," Pickman said, "and it will be replaced."

## State Fair ticket sales slow

HUTCHINSON (AP) — Entertainment at this year's Kansas State Fair starts with a bit of nostalgia and ends with the newest generation of singers and songwriters.  
The fair opens Friday, with 10 days filled with music, rodeo and racing at the Hutchinson fairgrounds.  
Ticket sales have been soft, fair general manager Bill Ogg said, but that could change in the days ahead.  
"We hope it's a combination of the weather and that people just haven't

started thinking about the fair yet," Ogg said last week.  
Kicking off the musical lineup is Creedence Clearwater Revisited on Saturday night.  
Stu Cook, bass guitarist and founding member of the original Creedence Clearwater Revival, and original drummer Doug "Cosmo" Clifford decided five years ago to get a band together.  
The result was a reincarnation of the original band, now called Creedence Clearwater Revisited.

## Commissioners disagree on county holiday policy

By Tom Betz  
*The Goodland Daily News*

Sherman County commissioners found themselves deadlocked Thursday over how to apply the county's holiday policy for the Monday the courthouse closed to mark the funeral of Commissioner Gary Townsend.  
Road superintendent Curt Way asked Commissioners Chuck Frankenfeld and Kenny Davis why two hours had been cut from his employees that week.  
Road and Bridge crews work four 10-hour days during the summer, taking Fridays off. County offices were closed the day of the funeral, and the road employees were being paid for eight hours rather than the full 10 for that day.  
Davis said when he was asked about the matter, he had asked how other holidays were handled and was told the county paid eight hours. He said he was looking to see what was typically done with such situations and referred to the county personnel manual as the basis for the decision.  
"I don't think this is right," Commissioner Frankenfeld said. "they have a 40 hour work week and they are losing two hours."  
"I disagree," Davis said. "How do we do this now?"  
"I think we should error on the side of the employees," Frankenfeld said. "I don't think we can use this and be fair."  
"I guess it is my fault that it is this way," Davis said. "I was going by what has been done."  
"I was notified we would be closed," Way said, "not that it was a holiday. If there is a jealousy factor, I am sorry about that."  
A question was asked about how the Labor Day holiday would be handled,

and County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the employees will be paid eight hours, and have the option of using two hours of personal leave or vacation to bring it up to 40 hours.  
"I feel this is changing their work week," Frankenfeld said. He then made a motion to pay the road and bridge employees the full 40 hours.  
"The motion dies for lack of a second," Davis said. "Do we interpret the

## Crew sucking mud to fix leak



City crews sucked mud and dirt out of a hole in front of the Sherman Theatre on Main Street today as they worked to locate a leaking water line. Randall Stasser, in the hole, directed the nozzle as Neal Thornburg assisted from above. Travis Gillihan held the ladder while Dean Townsend supervised. Once the line was found, the crew pumped water out to enable them to repair the leak.  
Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

## Cowboys open season with loss 40-21



Luke Stone tried to gain yardage in the second half of the Cowboys' first game of the season against the Hays High Indians. The Cowboys started off strong in the first half, leading 21-20, but lost speed in the second and wound up losing 40-21. The Cowboys' first home game will be at 6:30 p.m. Friday against Holcomb. Please see story and photo on Page 6.  
Photos by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

Smoky Gardens. No decisions were made. Meeting with the commissioners was Randy Bellamy, chairman of the Smoky Gardens board.  
• Discussed the changes in Smoky Gardens regulations with Chairman Bellamy and board Secretary Kenny Sanderson. Without having the final draft from the county attorney, the commissioners decided to delay this until the next meeting. Bellamy said the board had agreed with the suggested changes, and that unless there was a major change the board would back what was presented. Bellamy said he knew that Jim Robinson, the state wildlife officer for the area, wanted to make sure that whatever was done would allow him to write tickets at Smoky Gardens.  
• Discussed a plan for an annual inspection program for the fire alarm system in the courthouse and the old Southwest Bell building. The commissioners asked William McKnight, building maintenance supervisor, to check with a local company that does the fire extinguishers to see if they can also do the fire alarms.  
• Discussed the suggested changes in the department budgets, including a request from the county attorney about making the office a line item in the budget, adding up to \$6,000 to the Weed Department for a part-time person and adding \$15,000 to the rural fire department capital outlay. With the changes the budget should be ready for a public hearing in September, and Rumpel said she would get the figures sent to the county auditor for their review.  
The next regular meeting will be 8 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, when new Commissioner Kevin Rasure is expected to be sworn in to fill the vacancy.