

weather
report

50°
at noon



Today
• Sunset, 7:12 p.m.
Tomorrow
• Sunrise, 6:27 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:13 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil Temperature 48 degrees
• Humidity 100 percent
• Sky overcast
• Winds southeast 10 mph
• Barometer 29.92 inches and rising

Record High 86° (1943)
Record Low 15° (1936)
Last 24 Hours*
High 65°
Low 34°
Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast
Tonight: Cloudy with fog and drizzle, 40 percent chance of thunderstorms, low 45, southeast wind 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Cloudy with fog and drizzle early, high 75, low 40, south wind 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast
Thursday: chance of thunderstorms, high 80. Friday: chance of thunderstorms, high 65-75, low 35-45. Saturday: chance of rain, high 60s, low 30s.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets



Noon
Wheat — \$2.72 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.58
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Corn — \$1.91 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.81
Loan deficiency payment — 18¢
Milo — \$3.11 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.78 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.67
Loan deficiency payment — 1.23¢
Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.60 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$6.90
Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$14 (new crop)
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon
wire

Late news from the Associated Press
1 p.m.

Lawmakers
agree on bill

TOPEKA — Legislative negotiators reached agreement on a bill containing most of the next state budget after receiving a mixed assessment of Kansas government's finances.
The compromise bill drafted by three senators and three House members would appropriate \$9.11 billion for the state's 2002 fiscal year. That's about \$44 million, or 0.5 percent, less than what's in the current budget.
But the proposal isn't complete. It doesn't appropriate Kansas Lottery revenues or money from the state's share of the national tobacco litigation settlement. Those two sources amount to about \$87 million.
The negotiators worked late Monday night to finish their work, and legislative leaders believe their report will be ready to consider Wednesday.



Don't forget to vote

City, school election today. Polls open until 7 p.m.

World's eye turns to family here

Allen Frazee, a satellite truck driver for KAKE News in Wichita, had parked his truck outside Ron and Judy Vignery's home Monday afternoon while news reporters gathered information. Their son, Navy pilot Jeff Vignery, is one of 24 Americans being held in China after a military plane collision this weekend. Ron Vignery said at least a dozen newspapers called him Monday.

Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News



Television crews jam phones, city streets

By Rachel Miscal
The Goodland Daily News
Goodland's Ron Vignery, father to one of 24 Americans being held in China this weekend after a mid-air collision with a Chinese fighter, said the note was from a television news anchor asking for an interview. He said he and his wife Judy had decided on Monday not to talk to reporters with national newspapers or networks to keep their son out of the spotlight — but that didn't stop them from trying.
Monday afternoon, satellite trucks plastered with television station logos from Wichita and Denver sat outside Vignery's home on Arcade Avenue, in front of the church down the street and along Main Street.
Vignery said this morning that a satellite truck was parked outside the office of Vignery and Mason on East 10th Street while he tried to work. Of course, he said, he hasn't been able to get much work done this week.
Vignery said reporters from at least a dozen newspapers from across the country were calling his home and office on Monday and television news anchors were knocking on his door.

"They aren't rude," he said, "but they are persistent. We finally took the phone off the hook."
The Vignerys said Monday that they didn't want to put their son in danger by calling attention to him. Jeff, a lieutenant (junior grade) who became a Navy pilot in 1997, was the only confirmed name of the 24-member crew on Monday.
The rest of the names were released Tuesday as Chinese officials allowed U.S. diplomats contact with the crew for the first time since the collision on Saturday. Because other names were released, Vignery said, he and his wife decided to talk with an anchor from KBS News in Wichita today.
Don McKenzie, sales manager for

the KBSL satellite station in Goodland, said the exclusive interview will most likely air at 6 p.m. tonight. The Wichita crew arrived in Goodland about 2:30 p.m. on Monday, he said, spending the day interviewing people around town and waiting to talk with the Vignerys.
McKenzie said KAKE News from Wichita and Fox News from Denver were also in Goodland Monday gathering information.
Vignery said, though, that talking to newspapers isn't going to bring his son home.
"I'm terribly concerned about my son," he said, "but I'm not terribly concerned about the news media. I've got

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Officials
meeting
with fliers

HAIKOU, China (AP) — American diplomats met Tuesday night with the crew of a fallen U.S. spy plane, nearly three days after it made an emergency landing at a Chinese military base after colliding with a Chinese fighter jet. An American diplomat said they were in good health but gave no indication when they would be released.
Army Brig. Gen. Neal Sealock, the U.S. Embassy defense attache, was allowed to meet late Tuesday with the 24 crew members. It was their first contact with an American official since their EP-3 surveillance plane landed on the tropical Chinese island of Hainan after a collision with a Chinese fighter jet.
"They are in good health," Sealock said of the American servicemen and women. He said U.S. officials were working for their release, but gave no indication that would happen immediately. "Our goal is to get them home as soon as possible," Sealock said.
U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell called Tuesday for the "rapid" return of the crew and the sophisticated surveillance plane as he welcomed the meeting with the crew. President Bush had complained about Chinese delays in allowing the meeting.
"I'm encouraged by the fact that the meeting is taking place. It shouldn't have taken this long to happen," Powell said in Key West, Fla. "But, now that it has happened, I hope this starts us on a road to a full and complete resolution of this matter."
Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao said the crew's fate would be decided in light of a Chinese investigation. Asked at a Beijing news conference when the crew would be released, Zhu replied: "I don't know."
China demanded the United States apologize for the collision, which it

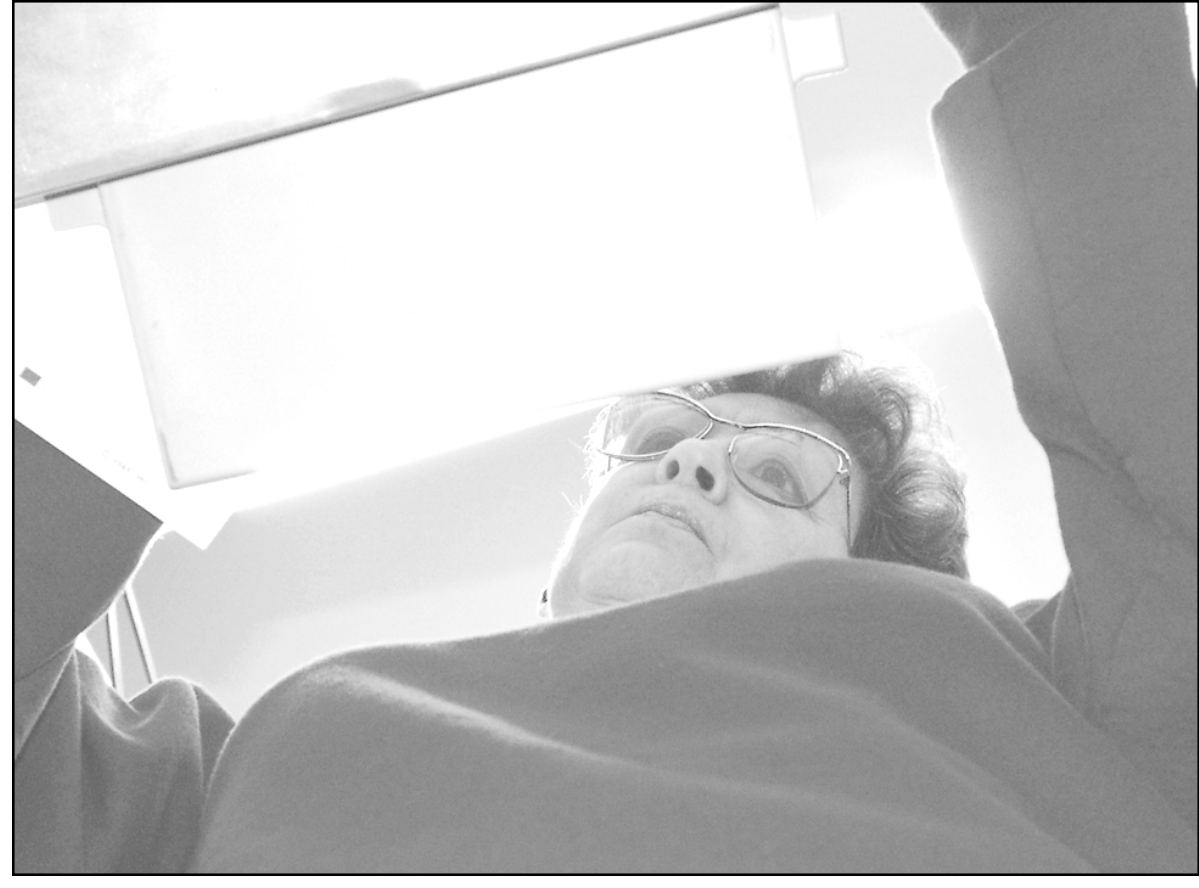
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Commission decides
to fix roof on city hall

By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News
The Goodland City commission decided to spend \$800 to fix the roof of the city building at its meeting on Monday night.
City Manager Ron Pickman said building inspector Jerry Nemechek had checked with the company who had put the roof on and was told that the warranty will cover repairs to the leak. He said the company recommended additional repairs that would extend the life of the roof for about five years. The cost would be \$1,652. The company said it would pay \$852, if the city pay \$800.
Lawyer Jeff Mason spoke at the meeting on behalf of Dale Neill, owner of KOA Kampground. He said Neill is having a drainage problem at the campground, at the east edge of Goodland. Mason said a drainage tube under the railroad tracks had either been capped or plugged. Mason said the problem is going to have to be resolved and it may require the cooperation of the city.
Public Works Director Ed Wolak presented two bids to the commission for a trencher and backhoe with trade-in for the city electric distribution department. The bid from Ditchwitch of Kan-

sas in Valley Center for \$46,048 was accepted. This will also include a boring machine with bits and rods.
The commissioners said good-bye to veteran member Jim Mull, who chose not to run in this year's election. He has been a commissioner for 10 years; Monday was his last meeting.
The commission approved payments of \$57,150 to Associated Pool Builders of Bismarck, N.D., and \$22,877 to Rhoads Construction of Goodland for work on Steever Water Park.
Mayor Chuck Lutters proclaimed April 1-7 as International Building Safety Week, April 8-14 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week and April as Fair Housing Month.
Pickman said county commissioners had requested another workshop on trash, which will be at 5 p.m. Monday. He said the newly appointed county solid waste committee would attend.
Pickman said the tree board held a clinic on Friday with Jim Strine of Hays and had a good turnout. After the clinic, officials decided that a couple of trees in Gulick Park would need to be removed. It was noted that the Zimmerman tree moth is affecting Austrian pine trees around the community.

At the polls



Sandra Filkins voted at the Sherman County Courthouse this morning, picking candidates to fill open seats on the city commission and school board. County Clerk Janet Rumpel said voter turnout had been light for the general election, as the only true race is for the city commission and only Goodland residents vote in it. She said she didn't expect a high turnout from rural residents. Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News