

weather
report

59°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 7:17 p.m.
- Tomorrow
- Sunrise, 6:18 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:18 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 52 degrees
- Humidity 37 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds southeast 13 mph
- Barometer 29.92 inches and falling
- Record High 90° (1930)
- Record Low 8° (1989)

Last 24 Hours*

High	70°
Low	40°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Becoming cloudy, low 40, southeast wind 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, 30 percent chance of thunderstorms during the day and 70 percent chance later on, high 70-75, low 35-40, southeast wind 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: chance of thunderstorms, high 60. Thursday: dry, high 55-65, low 30s. Friday: dry, high 60s, low 25-35.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.69 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.62
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Corn — \$1.95 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.83
Loan deficiency payment — 16¢
Milo — \$3.13 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.86 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.70
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.20
Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.70 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.00
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.
Bush's budget
\$1.96 trillion

WASHINGTON — President Bush sent Congress today the full details of his \$1.96 trillion budget, promising to restrain what he considers the excessive growth of government spending by trimming a multitude of government programs, from energy conservation to putting police on the streets. The nearly 5-inch-thick stack of blue budget books, which flesh out the broad budget outline the president released in February, seeks to put the new administration's stamp on the federal government by rolling back many initiatives promoted by the Clinton administration. All of the cuts make room for Bush's signature proposal, a \$1.6 trillion, 10-year tax cut, while also using a projected \$5.6 trillion surplus over the next decade to pay down a record amount of the national debt.

A third of wheat crop in bad shape

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Experts say there's a lot of variation from field to field in the Sherman County wheat crop, depending mostly on when it was planted last fall, but from 10 to 30 percent of the fields may be too poor to harvest.

Roger Stockton, K-State Research and Extension crops and soils specialist in Colby, said some wheat fields look good, but up to a third of the crop may be lost. He said he expects that insurance adjusters will be in and farmers will be planting a summer crop, such as corn, milo or

sunflowers, in those fields.

Stockton said the stand of wheat in the worst fields is thin and it's just not going to pay farmers to harvest it. When he has walked out in fields and counted plants per square acre, he said, some don't have enough plants to make harvest worthwhile.

A lot of wheat was just barely above ground when winter dormancy hit, Stockton said. He said there was a little bit of winter kill, but it was not a large factor in poor wheat stands here.

Stockton said all the wheat has broken dormancy, indicated when the plant greens up.

"(That) tells us that we have new growth," he

said, adding that the wheat is two to three weeks late in development.

"That can change quickly if we have a number of 70-degree days," he said.

He said the wheat has been running behind schedule because the late winter weather we've had, with spring temperatures below normal.

"If we get some seasonal temperatures," he said, "it can catch up in a short amount of time."

The National Weather Service office reported that Goodland received .26 inches of rain from thunderstorms on Friday. Stockton said the moisture would help the wheat crop unless the water

was standing in fields, which would drown the plants.

He said on average across northwest Kansas, the good fields add up to about 10 to 20 percent at most, with a lot in the middle. About 10 to 30 percent of the fields would need to be torn up and planted to an alternative crop.

Stockton said he was told that in southwest Kansas, the wheat crop was a little worse, with a third of the wheat acres expected to be abandoned. He said that in central Kansas around Concordia, Beloit and Hutchinson, the wheat crop was in a little better condition than here.



Frank Ponikvar, a truck driver from Brighton, made phone calls Friday afternoon after a strong gust pushed his semi tractor-trailer off I-70. The

driver wasn't hurt, but the semi had to be towed away.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Accidents land people in ditch, hospital

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Accidents this weekend left a Colorado trucker in the ditch with a beat-up truck and sent a 59-year-old Goodland woman and 6-year-old Burlington girl to the hospital with minor injuries.

A driver from Brighton, Colo., said a strong gust from a thunderstorm pushed his semi-trailer rig off I-70 Friday, causing him to lose control of the truck, which landed on its left side in the north ditch.

Highway Patrol Lt. Kevin Winston

said a trooper reported that the driver, Frank Ponikver, who works for Houg Enterprises, was headed west at 3:05 p.m. about 10 miles west of Goodland. The rig tipped over while he was trying to get control.

Ponikver wasn't hurt and stood in front of his semi after the accident talking on a cellular phone while papers swirled in the wind and flapped against a barb wire fence. The trooper said tow truck drivers used air bags to push the semi back onto its wheels and towed it away.

Brooke Taber, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Goodland, said thunderstorms in Colorado and Kansas on Friday brought winds up to 58 mph to Sherman County. The storms, dropping hail up to golf-ball size, did some damage in Thomas County but moved around Goodland.

Weather played little part in a two-car accident near the west I-70 Goodland exit on Sunday that sent passengers in both cars to the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Trooper Rich Hageman reported that

Everette Nothdurft, 71, and Bettie Stethem, 59, both of Goodland, were southbound on K-27 in a 1996 General Motors van, when a Scott City man headed east turned left off the exit ramp across the van's lane at 1:26 p.m.

The van hit the back of Darian Miller's Chevrolet Celebrity, carrying Teri Miller, 37, Arron Laviolet, 9, and Heather Laviolet, 6, all from Burlington. The report said Heather Laviolet and Stethem were taken to the hospital, where officials say they were treated and released.

Bush says relations will suffer

Nation's officials growing impatient

By Will Lester

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush said today that "diplomacy takes time," but cautioned China that relations with the United States will suffer unless the 24 crew members of a U.S. spy plane are released soon.

"Every day that goes by increases the potential that our relations with China will be damaged," Bush told reporters during a Cabinet meeting to discuss his budget proposal.

As the standoff dragged into its second agonizing week, Bush repeated the message delivered by his national security team on Sunday interview shows.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and national security adviser Condoleezza Rice attended the Cabinet meeting as Bush was asked twice what he could do to end the show-down.

"All of us along this table understand that diplomacy takes time but there is a point, the longer this goes, there is a point at which our relations with China become damaged," Bush said. He repeated the line later: "Every day that goes by increases the potential that our relations with China will be damaged."

"We're working behind the scenes.



Standoff U.S.-China

Navy pilot Jeff Vignery
and 23 crew detained

9 days



We've got every diplomatic channel open. We're in discussions with the Chinese," Bush said. "Now it's time for our troops to come home so our relations will not be damaged."

Bush had just concluded a telephone call with Brig. Gen. Neal Sealock, the military attache at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, who met with all 24 crew members for 40 minutes today.

"Their spirits are very high and that is good news," Bush reported. Spokesman Ari Fleischer quoted Sealock as telling Bush: "Their unit integrity is second to none. Their spirits are as high as I've ever seen them."

The remarks by Bush and his advisers signal a growing impatience with China in the ninth day of the standoff. Some U.S. officials had expected the administration and China to come to terms over the weekend.

The Americans have been held by the Chinese since their crippled EP-3E surveillance plane made an emergency landing on Hainan island in

southern China April 1 after colliding with a Chinese fighter jet. The Chinese pilot is missing.

Bush sent a letter to the pilot's wife, Ruan Guoqin. Her public anguish has fueled tensions between the two countries as she accused Bush and his administration of being "too cowardly" to apologize for the loss of her husband.

Bush and other top U.S. officials tried on Sunday to balance their sympathy for her with tough reminders to Chinese officials that the standoff is damaging relations between the two countries.

"I don't want to put a timetable on it; every day that goes by without having it resolved raises the risks to the long-term relationship," Vice President Dick Cheney said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Administration officials were careful to avoid spelling out specific consequences of further delay in sending the 24 Americans home, but repercussions in Congress were possible. Lawmakers cited a possible trade fight later this year.

City, county officials to meet on recycling

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

City and county commissioners plan to meet at 5 p.m. today at the city building with the members of the newly appointed city/county recycling committee and get started on plans for a recycling system.

In March, city and county commissioners decided to develop a county-wide recycling effort after two hours of discussion about problems in the solid waste system.

The county commissioners appointed a 10-person solid waste committee on March 20 and set up the joint session with the city to discuss issues with the new group and give them some direction from the two boards.

Members of the committee are Jeff Deeds, Gary Newell, Scott Showalter, Sandy Rogers, Fred Wedel, Tom Betz, Richard Hawks and Dave Daniels.

Friday during a special session, the county commissioners accepted a low

bid of \$102,432 from Miller Construction for construction and installation of an elevator at the Good Samaritan Center.

Work is expected to take 130 days. The other bid was \$151,716 from Rhoads Construction.

The elevator is to be built on the southeast wing of the center to allow access to the basement.

County commissioners also approved a proclamation from Mary Messamore, director of communications and emergency management, designating April 8-14 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week. Messamore said the men and women who serve as dispatchers will be honored this week.

Tuesday, county commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. for their regular meeting in the commissioners' room on the first floor of the courthouse, Eighth and

See COUNTY, Page 7

Sen. Roberts to stop at bank

On an annual statewide tour, U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts will stop at the First National Bank in Goodland from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Anyone who wants to meet or talk with Sen. Roberts, who represented the 1st District of western Kansas for 16 years in the House of Representatives,

is welcome at the reception, organized by the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce. The bank is at 202 E. 11th Street.

The senator plans to visit all 105 Kansas counties this year, continuing the annual listening tour he started while he was a representative.