

weather report

64°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:49 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:36 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:50 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 63 degrees
- Humidity 55 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds calm
- Barometer 30.29 inches and steady
- Record High 99° (1962)
- Record Low 29° (1946)

Last 24 Hours*

High 78°
Low 51°
Precipitation 0.02 inch

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, low near 50, south wind 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Sunny, high 80, low 50-55, south wind 15-25 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: dry, high 90. Monday: dry, low 90, low 55. Tuesday: dry, high 80-85, low 50.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Current wheat — \$2.84 bushel
 - New wheat — \$2.86 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.73
 - Corn — \$1.75 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.71
 - Loan deficiency payment — 28¢
 - Milo — \$2.76 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$3.81 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.81
 - Loan deficiency payment — \$1.09
 - Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$6.65 cwt.
 - Oil new crop — \$5.90 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency prmt. — \$3.02
 - 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.

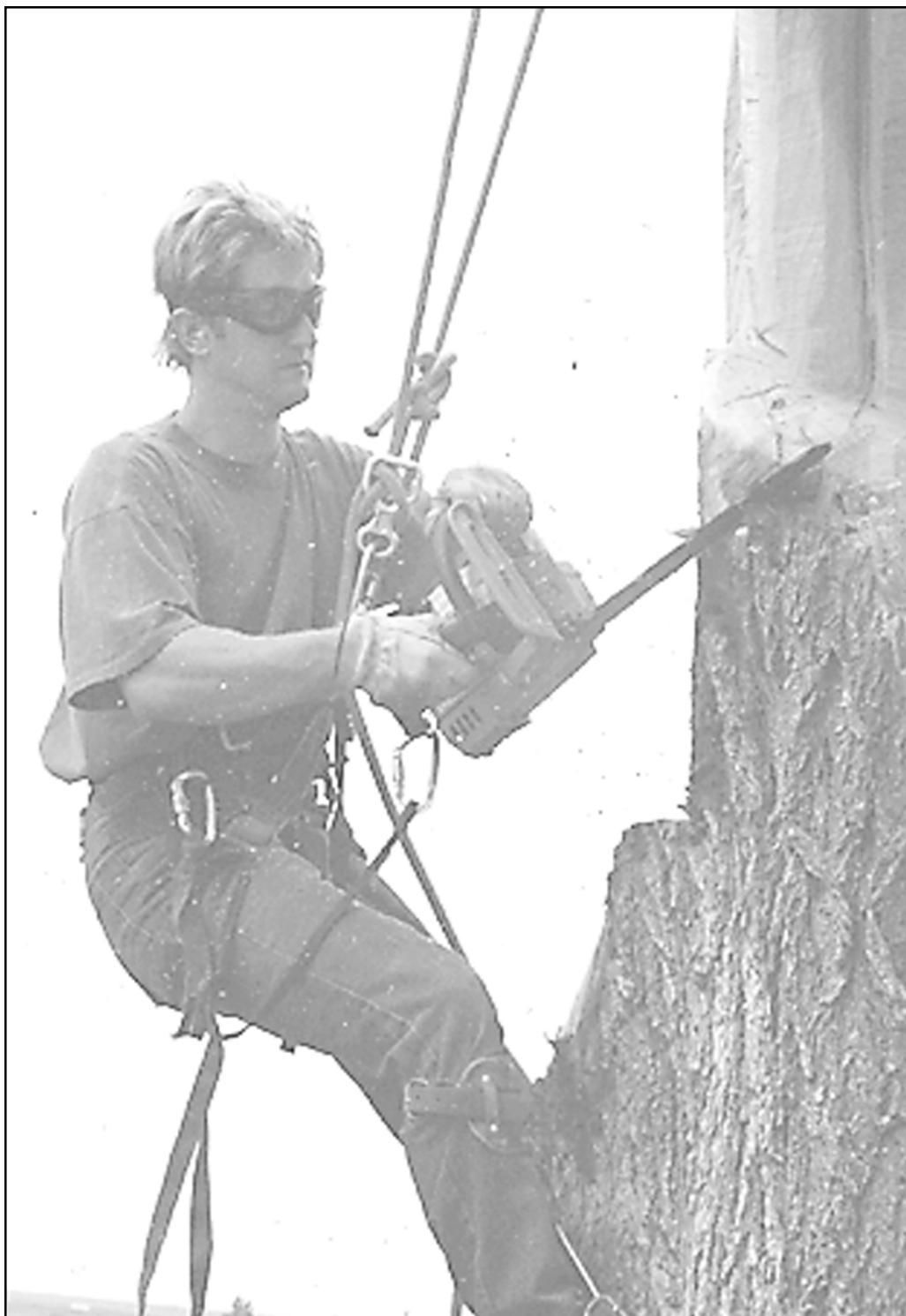
Bomber death put off to June

WASHINGTON — Attorney General John Ashcroft postponed next week's execution of convicted Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh until June 11 and ordered an investigation into the FBI's failure to turn over thousands of documents to McVeigh's defense team.

The execution had been scheduled for Wednesday in Terre Haute, Ind. President Bush said that Ashcroft "made the right decision."

"Today is an example of the system being fair," he told a White House news conference, even as he said the decision "creates some frustration" among families of the bombing victims.

"It is now clear that the FBI failed to comply fully" with an agreement to hand over all documents in the case, Ashcroft said Friday at a news conference.



Jeff Russell of Milliken, Colo., cut a chunk of wood from a dead tree at Sugar Hills Country Club Thursday afternoon as he worked to make a tree sculpture of it. The sculpture, which will be finished today, is a squirrel sitting on golf clubs.

Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News



Bringing out dead trees

Arborist transforms stumps into lawn decorations

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

With a chainsaw buzzing in his hands, a harness strapped around his waist and sawdust flying around his head, Jeff Russell turned a dead tree at Goodland's Sugar Hills Country Club into a squirrel sitting on golf clubs.

Russell, a tree arborist who lives in Milliken, Colo. southwest of Greeley, Colo., said Vi and Tommy Tompkins, club members, asked him to create a sculpture out of a dead tree sitting in front of the club. The Tompkins know Russell's relatives, who live in Goodland.

The job took about 3 1/2 days, with Russell starting the carving, a squirrel sitting on top of a golf club in a golf

bag with other clubs, on Tuesday.

"It's been fun," Russell said.

He said he plans to complete the carving, which has to be treated with a special preserving oil, today. He said it has taken longer because of the tree's height — about 15 to 20 feet — and because he ran into some decay after he started and had to make adjustments to the design.

When trying to come up with an idea of what to carve, he said, he thought about making a raccoon, but club members told him they hadn't seen raccoons around the golf course, just squirrels. He said he had to leave the tree thick enough for it to stand up to high winds.

Russell, who has carved other dead trees in Goodland for his relatives,

said club members told him a squirrel family used to live in the tree, which has been dead for a couple of years. He said he was told that the squirrels would steal golf club covers and food from unattended golf carts.

Russell said his 13-year-old son Park, who he said is very artistically talented, drew the design for the club's carving in about five minutes. He said he showed it to the club members, and they loved it.

Besides a rock climbing harness for climbing tall trees, Russell said he also uses tree climbing spurs, similar to electrical lineman's spurs, and a rope. He wears safety goggles when carving.

Though he lives in Colorado, Russell has ties to Goodland.

The Tompkins heard about Russell's carving of three bears out of a dead tree in Clarence and Clara Scheopner's front yard, 702 E. Ninth, in 1999. Russell, who owns Arbor Co., a tree trimming and removal service in Greeley, Colo., said tree carving was something he had always wanted to try.

He said he started doing it in August 1998.

He is married to a granddaughter of the Scheopners — which is how he came to do the carving for them. His wife is Lori (Gertge) Russell, daughter of the Scheopner's daughter, Phyllis Gertge.

Russell said he got started carving

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New hospital leader talks about center, job

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Starting out life in Anthony, Jay Jolly, the new administrator at Goodland Regional Medical Center, said he is glad to be back in Kansas and likes the geographic location of the High Plains.

Jolly comes to Goodland from Brazil, Ind., where he was a hospital administrator for six years. The hospital was sold to a larger one in nearby Indianapolis.

The new administrator, who started work May 1, is replacing Jim Chaddic, who was fired in November after the hospital had a long period of financial problems. Jolly said he first began working in hospital management while attending college at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

He said he is impressed with the

hospital's facilities.

"We are fortunate to have such a wonderful facility like this in the community," Jolly said. "The tendency is to think there is always something better at a bigger hospital, but this hospital can handle a wide variety of needs."

The administrator said he wants to keep in touch with the community, and wants people to feel comfortable coming to him with questions or problems. "We need to encourage dialogue with



Jay Jolly

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Vignery to throw first pitch at game

Goodland's hometown hero, Lt. j.g. Jeff Vignery, will be in the limelight once again before returning to duty, as he will throw out the first pitch at the Kansas City Royals baseball game on Tuesday.

The game will start at 7:05 p.m. Central Time at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo. Vignery, one of 24 Navy officers held in China for 11 days last month after a military plane accident, said he will fly back to the Naval Air Station at Whidbey Island, Wash. on Wednesday, returning to duty on Friday.

After the Navy pilot received a special welcome at Max Jones Fieldhouse Saturday, he said he was working out a date with the Royals, but hadn't agreed to anything.

The Royals wanted him to attend Tuesday's game, he said, but he planned to fly back to Washington that day. Judi Vignery, his mother, said today that with some explaining, the airlines changed he and his wife Julie's tickets to Wednesday. Over the past several weeks, Vignery has been featured at a number of events, honoring him



Jeff Vignery

Breaking news

Judi Vignery, Lt. j.g. Jeff Vignery's mother, said this afternoon that her son and other members of the crew held in China for 11 days were called back to duty as soon as possible, forcing the Navy pilot to cancel plans to throw out the first pitch at a Kansas City Royals game on Tuesday.

She said Jeff and his wife Julie will return to the Naval Air Station at Whidbey Island, Wash. on Sunday, and are disappointed about not being able to attend the game. The Navy, Judi said, has cancelled leave for all officers, though she didn't know why.

for his gallantry and bravery.

"The Royals have given us a block of tickets and we will meet him there," Judi Vignery said, noting that Jeff and Julie, both Kansas natives, are in Dodge City visiting her parents.

"We encouraged him to accept the Royals offer," she said, "because it was a once-in-a-lifetime chance."

District will get less help

Fewer students equals less money from state

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

With declining enrollments and less state money coming in, the Goodland School District is facing budget problems in the next school year. The school board, teachers and administrators will search for solutions next week.

Although state lawmakers have agreed to pay more state money per student in the next school year, the Goodland district will have about \$2,000 less to spend because of declining enrollment. School officials say they don't know how the district will pay for raises, health insurance increases and other annual increases.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said he and school board members will talk about the budget problems at the board's regular meeting Monday — before teachers and administrators meet Tuesday morning to discuss a 32.8 percent increase in health insurance rates. School will start about an hour late, at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, so the staff meeting can take place from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

For the past few weeks, negotiators for the school board and the teachers' union — who are working on the 2001-2002 negotiated agreement — have had to put off talking about salaries and benefits, waiting for the state Legislature to make a decision on a school finance plan.

The board's negotiating team, however, has been giving the teachers information about how much raises, health insurance rates and benefit increases will set the district back next school year.

A sheet Kathy Russell, head of the board's team, gave to teachers at a recent negotiating meeting said raises and health insurance increases alone will cost the district close to an extra \$250,000 in the coming school year.

If lawmakers pass the school finance bill on the table, Russell said at the meeting, the Goodland district will be facing a "financial crisis." Lawmakers approved that very bill early Tuesday morning.

Passing a \$2.35 billion school finance plan, the Legislature decided to increase the base state aid per pupil by \$50, to \$3,870, in the fiscal year that starts on July 1. That won't help the Goodland district, however, because enrollment here has been dropping steadily for many years and fewer students means less money.

The news, though, isn't as bad as school officials expected.

At one point, Selby said the district's new budget would be about \$9,000 less than this school year's. But, he said Friday, the district will be getting more state money than he expected for special education students.

With its own money problems, the state has, however, left the Goodland district in a financial bind and it's com-

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