

weather report

53°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:54 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:31 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:55 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 60 degrees
- Humidity 63 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds east 10 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.31 inches and rising

- Record High 99° (1927)
- Record Low 31° (1976)

Last 24 Hours*

High 69°
Low 46°
Precipitation .27

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, low near 40, winds southeast 10-15 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly sunny, high mid 60s, low mid 40s, winds southeast 10-20 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly sunny, high lower 70s, low upper 40s. Monday: partly cloudy with chance of thunderstorms from noon on, high mid 70s. Tuesday: chance of thunderstorms.

(National Weather Service)

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

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.50 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.42
- Loan deficiency payment — 3¢
- Corn — \$1.86 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.90
- Loan deficiency payment — 9¢
- Milo — \$1.55 bushel
- Soybeans — \$4.21 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.27
- Loan deficiency payment — 65¢
- Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$9.35 cwt.
- NuSun — \$9.50 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 36¢
- Confection current — \$16/\$8 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$27

(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

want answers

WASHINGTON — President Bush firmly defended himself today against Democratic suggestions he ignored warning signs of the Sept. 11 attacks, saying "I would have done everything in my power to protect the American people" had he known of Osama bin Laden's plans.

"I want the troops here to know I take my job as commander in chief very seriously," he told Air Force cadets and officers in a Rose Garden ceremony honoring their football team.

Bush's remarks reflect concern at the White House over political fallout from revelations he was told Aug. 6 that bin Laden wanted to hijack planes. Democrats and some Republicans in Congress have criticized Bush for not making the information public, and are questioning whether he could have done more to stop the attacks.

Officers to receive awards for valor

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Five Goodland law officers will receive awards for bravery in Wichita tonight for stopping an Indiana man who went on a rampage across two counties in October, stealing and wrecking cars, endangering citizens and injuring officers.

Glenn Johnson, a Goodland police officer; Brian Horney and David Albers, Sherman County highway patrol troopers; Robert Lamb, a sheriff's deputy; and Undersheriff Kevin Butts will be honored during the Joint Kansas Law Enforcement Conference Banquet at the Wichita Airport Hilton. Each will receive "The Gold Award" from the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police for uncommon valor in the line of duty.

Larry Welch, director of the Kansas



David Albers



Kevin Butts



B. Horney



G. Johnson



Bob Lamb

Bureau of Investigation and chairman of the police chief association's awards committee, said the association puts on the conference each year for members of several law enforcement organizations.

Kansas officers who saved lives, performed above and beyond their duties and showed exceptional bravery during the past year are recognized at the banquet.

Welch said 157 city, county, state and federal officers were nominated this year, and the awards committee picked 44 to honor.

Each will receive either a bronze, silver or gold award, he said, adding that gold is the highest award behind "The Chief's Award," which is given to the family of an officer killed in the line of duty.

Welch said unanimous votes on our committee are rare.

Welch added that it was the most bizarre and complicated case the committee has ever reviewed.

"That case was the dog-gone-dust case I've ever encountered," he said. "To this day we still don't know why that young man was running."

It started the afternoon of Friday, Oct.

26, when Mark Christopher Palmer, 19, Carmel, Ind., rolled his car on I-70 in Burlington, Colo. He ran from the scene, threatened Kit Carson County officers with a garden hoe and tried to ram the undersheriff with a pickup he stole from a farmer.

After rolling the truck on I-70 in Sherman County and stealing another pickup from a man who stopped to help, Palmer raced through Goodland on Business U.S. 24 with police officers, deputies and troopers close behind.

"Stop sticks" officers laid across the road punctured one of the pickup's tires, but didn't stop Palmer, who drove back onto I-70 at the east Goodland exit and headed west in the eastbound lanes. Officers caught up to him after he sideswiped a truck and tried to steal it.

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Officials to hear strategy

Group planning to hire fulltime leader

Members of the newly organizing economic development group steering committee will discuss their plans with the city commission Monday at 5 p.m.

The group has met with the county commissioners, who indicated support for the plan to organize a new economic development board and hire a full time economic development person.

Curtis Hurd, city commissioner, has been meeting with the group and is a member of the steering committee. He suggested the steering committee meet with the city commission to see if there is a sense of support for the new program.

"I don't know if the entire commission will support this," Hurd told the steering committee, "but I think they need to be asked."

City Manager Ron Pickman will review the Chamber's economic development committee request to waive city fees for the development of a Taco John's restaurant along K-27 south of Howard Johnson's.

Building permits and utility connection fees will cost the owners, Kendall and Jackie Cooper, about \$11,000, Tim Rath said at the May 6 meeting.

"They didn't realize it would have this kind of cost," Rath said. "This is an opportunity for the city to invest in the community."

Pickman told the commissioners the city will have to install an electrical transformer, water meter and connections from the main water line.

The Cooper's were not at the May 6 meeting, and had not asked the Chamber committee for help, Pickman said. "I don't think he'd turn down help, though," he said.

Pickman will discuss the recent letter from Sherman County about the state Department of Health and Environment's analysis of the water contamination at the old city/county landfill.

A comparison of tests from monitoring wells at the old landfill appear to show the underground contamination may be moving to the west where the city has one of its water wells.

Pickman said the monthly tests of water from that well do not show any contamination, but said the city is reducing pumping to see if the underground flow decreases.

He will give the city commissioners an update on the situation, and discuss other measures that may be done to protect the well.

In other business, the commission will:

- Appoint two members to the recently created Construction and Demolition Debris Committee, three to the Shade Tree Commission and two to the Airport Advisory Board.
- Review bids for mowing weeds on vacant lots in the city.

The city commission meets at 5 p.m., the first and third Mondays of each month, upstairs in the Administration building, 204 W. 11th.

Children On Wheels Day?



First graders Kaleb Zielinsky (above, left) and Joshua Whisnant found a handy spot to hide from the wind during Careers On Wheels (C.O.W.) Day Thursday at the Goodland Municipal airport. Elementary students

looked at 17 types of vehicles on display, including planes, fire engines, police cruisers, an ambulance and a hearse, and learned about the jobs that go with them.

Photos by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Star Wars fans travel to Goodland for premiere

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Star Wars fans started lining up outside the Sherman Theatre at 4 p.m. on Thursday for the opening show of "Episode two: Attack of the Clones" at 7 p.m.

A few were carrying plastic light sabers and Yoda dolls. Some traveled more than 60 miles to see the fifth movie released in the popular science fiction series.

The film opened nationwide on Thursday and millions of fans flocked to movie theaters across the U.S., with 170 taking in the show here.

Allan Briney and Cody Schields, both Goodland High seniors, were the first ones in line. They said they wanted to make sure they got the best seats in the theater.

Schields said he likes the Star Wars movies because of the story they tell and the special effects. He said his favorite character is Darth Maul, an evil Sith who was killed in the first episode in the series, "The Phantom Menace."

"He seemed like a very fierce warrior," Schields said.

Sean Greenley, another senior in line, said he likes the evil characters better than the good ones.

"Why are the evil guys always cooler than the good guys?" he asked.

Aaron Seaney, 17, and Zach Lamb, 18, said they traveled from Burlington with 9 of their friends to see the movie, which was not playing in their town. Arriving just after 4, they said they would be waiting about three hours to



see the film, but said it would be worth it.

"We've been planning to come for two weeks," Seaney said. "We're movie geeks."

He said he couldn't pick a favorite part or character in the movies. "It's Star Wars," he said, "what isn't there to like about it?"

Standing behind Seaney with a double-sided red light saber, Devin

Keister, a seventh grader in Goodland, said he likes the action in Star Wars.

"I mostly like the men fighting," he said, twirling his saber.

Debbie Benge brought her two grandkids, Clayton Dry, 6, and Cassie Smith, 4, about 60 miles from Stratton, Colo. to see the movie.

"I called the theater to see what was showing," she said. "I didn't think they'd have it on the first day. That's



Clayton Dry (above), 6, brought his light saber from Stratton, Colo. to see the premiere of the new Star Wars movie Thursday. Zach Lamb, 18, came from Burlington with his Yoda key chain.

Photos by Rachel Miscall

pretty big."

Benge said she gave Clayton episode one for his birthday and he wanted to see "Attack of the Clones," episode two. Holding up his blue light saber, Clayton said he likes the Jedi Knights. "They're cool," he said.

The movie will be playing in Goodland through Thursday, June 13. For show times call the Sherman Theatre at 785-899-6103.