

**weather report**

**39°  
at noon**



**Today**

• Sunset, 8:01 p.m.

**Tomorrow**

• Sunrise, 5:26 a.m.  
• Sunset, 8:01 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil Temperature 61 degrees
- Humidity 92 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds northeast 13 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.14 inches and steady
- Record High 95° (1953)
- Record Low 36° (2001)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High 72°  
Low 46°  
Precipitation none

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers early, low near 40, winds variable 5-10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: partly sunny, high upper 70s, low lower 50s, winds west 5-15 m.p.h.

**Extended Forecast**

Sunday: mostly sunny and breezy, high lower 80s, low lower 50s. Memorial Day: partly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**



**Noon**

- Wheat — \$2.49 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$2.45
  - New Crop — \$2.50
  - Corn — \$1.82 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$1.85
  - Loan deficiency payment — 14¢
  - Milo — \$1.51 bushel
  - Soybeans — \$4.27 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$4.34
  - Loan deficiency payment — 58¢
  - Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight
  - Sunflowers
  - Oil current crop — \$9.75 cwt.
  - NuSun — \$9.90 cwt.
  - Loan deficiency prmt. — 15¢
  - 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.**

**Bush signs weapon deal**

MOSCOW — President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a landmark nuclear arms reduction treaty in a gilded room of the Kremlin today, and proclaimed it would help cement vastly improved relations between the former superpower rivals. "Russia's a friend and that's the new thinking. That's part of what's being codified today," Bush said after he and Putin put ink to a pact that slashes nuclear arsenals by two-thirds. Putin said, "This is a serious move ahead to ensure international security." Even so, the two nations struggled to close their divide over Russia's continued nuclear assistance to Iran, with some progress reported. The arms accord would limit the U.S. and Russia within 10 years to between 1,700 and 2,200 deployed strategic nuclear warheads.

## Church official resigns

### Archbishop accused of sexual misconduct

By Melissa McCord

Associated Press Writer

MILWAUKEE — Pope John Paul II accepted the resignation today of Milwaukee Archbishop Rembert Weakland, the highest-ranking U.S. churchman to acknowledge a settlement of a sexual misconduct allegation against him.

The decision was announced in the daily news bulletin of the Holy See's press office, citing Weakland's age as an explanation.

The archbishop, a leading liberal in the church, acknowledged Thursday that he paid a settlement to a man who accused him of sexual assault more than 22 years ago. He denied ever molesting anyone, but asked the Vatican to expedite the resignation he submitted earlier this year after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 75.

Milwaukee's top prosecutor, E. Michael McCann, said he had known for years that Weakland had a relationship with a man, but there was no suggestion of any crime.

"He advised me that he had a relationship that had compromised him in some fashion," McCann told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel in Friday's editions. "He was troubled by it, but there was nothing criminal in it."

Weakland's resignation took effect immediately, archdiocese Chancellor Barbara Anne Cusack told The Associated Press today.

Bishop Wilton Gregory, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, said he was "deeply saddened" by the news.

"It comes at a time when the church in our country is suffering greatly from what seems to be an unending series of revelations and accusations," Gregory

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## Group moving forward

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

A new economic development committee formed to bring new businesses and families to Goodland met Thursday to mull over how to get the whole county involved and how to raise enough money to be effective.

Members did a lot of brainstorming at the two-hour meeting, but didn't make any final decisions beyond appointing Dave Daniels and Kim Bohme as co-chairpersons and voting to organize under Sherman County. Daniels is a rental property manager and Bohme is co-owner of Miller's Electronics.

People had different ideas about how to raise money and how to organize a board to run the economic development program, but they agreed on one thing: Sherman County will die if people don't start working to attract successful businesses and young families.

Most people in the group either own or run a business and say they'll eventually have to move it or shut it down if the population of Sherman County continues to decline.

"I'm ready to see something happen," said Steve West, president of Western State Bank.

The group was formed two weeks ago during a public meeting at Gambino's Pizza to talk about how to improve Sherman County's economy. More than 85 people came to the meeting, saying they're not satisfied with the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce's economic development efforts.

Twenty-four people volunteered to serve on a steering committee, which

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# Custody Battle

## Father takes sons to Texas after two-year fight

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

Mark and Tohna Thompson have jabbed at each other in and out of court over the custody of their four young sons for the past two years.

After secretly taking his children to Texas in January, Mark faces charges of intentionally interfering with parental custody and will next appear in court at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Goodland police obtained a warrant for Mark charging him with interfering with parental custody, a misdemeanor, after Tohna reported the children missing in January. Police Chief Ray Smee said the department contacted the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

The charge was updated to a felony after the police got information that Mark had taken the boys out of state, and, based on that, a federal warrant was issued for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

Mark said he took the boys to meet someone from Justice for Children, an organization that serves as an advocate for children, to get help in seeking custody. Mark said he would have taken the boys to Texas over a year ago (in December of 2000) if he had known the court wouldn't give him custody.

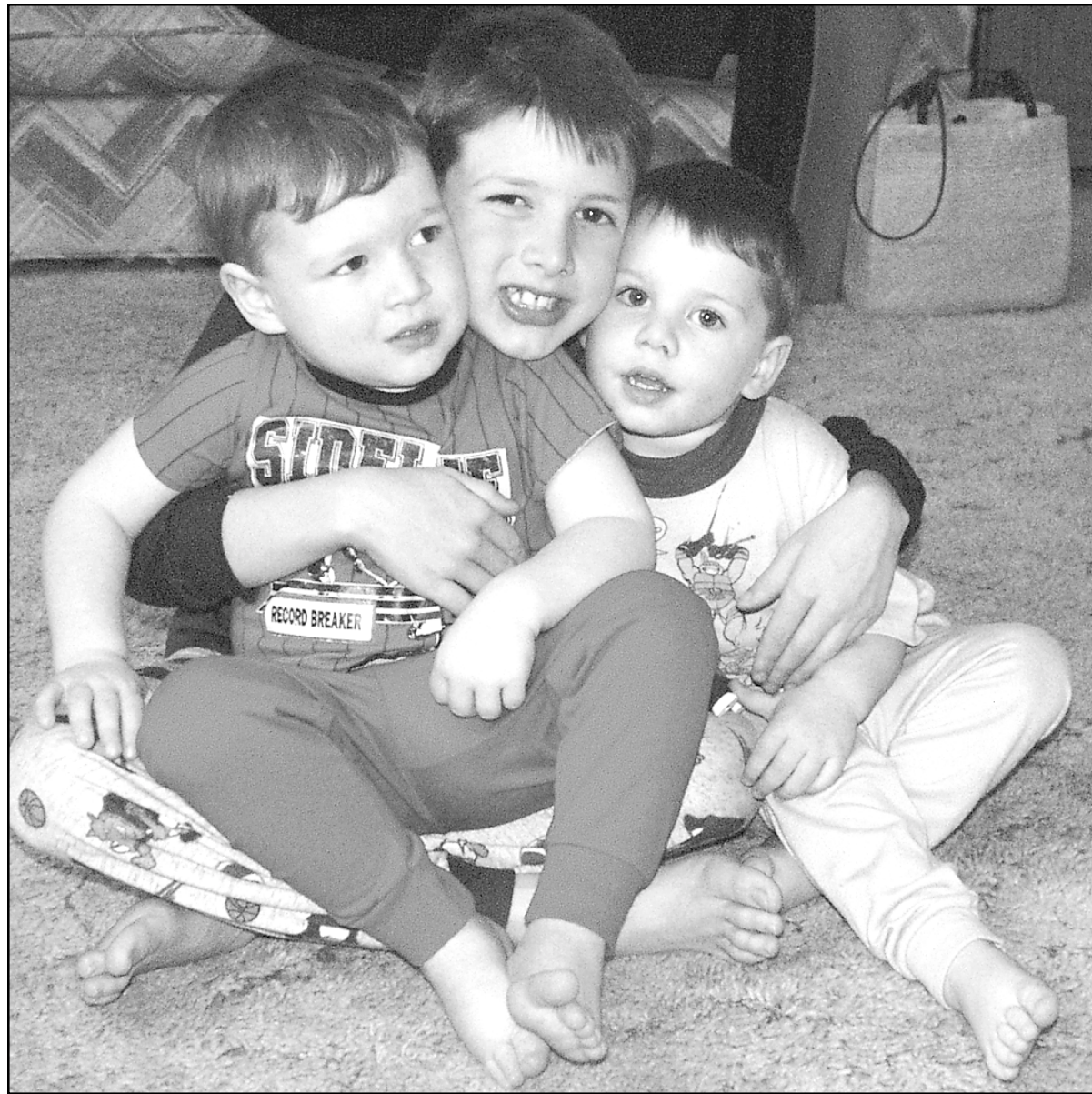
Mark said he has lived at the same address in Goodland for seven years, while Tohna has moved around a lot and he figured he would be considered the more stable of the two and would get custody. He contacted Justice for Children about five months ago, said Barb Baldwin, director of casework at headquarters in Houston, but the information he gave her did not meet the organization's criteria. The organization requires documentation of any alleged abuse, Baldwin said, and he never provided any.

"We want to help everyone we can," she said, "but we cannot be effective without documentation."

Mark had joint custody with Tohna of the four boys, Jaeger, 8; Jacob, 7; Jonah, 3; and Job, 2, when he took them to Texas.

The couple had been separated for two years, Tohna said, but their divorce was not final until Feb. 11.

Mark had the boys for the weekend of Jan. 11-13, starting Friday morning. Jaeger and Jacob did not show up at school Friday. Mark and the boys were found in Bastrop City, in central Texas, near Austin, on Jan. 28, and



Jaeger (middle) hugged his brothers Jonah (left) and Job in the living room of their mother Tohna's home. Tohna and her ex-husband Mark have been fighting for custody of their four children for two years, and Mark is accused of kidnapping the kids in January.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News



Mark



Tohna



Jacob



Jaeger



Jonah



Job

Tohna and her mother brought the boys back that week.

Mark said he intended to bring the boys back to Goodland, but had to wait in Texas for his paycheck to be sent so he would have the money for the trip home. He said he arranged for a friend to pick up his check from the Total convenience store in Goodland, but

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## Police, courts busy with abuse cases

An estimate of how prevalent family violence, child abuse, parental kidnapping and custody disputes are in Sherman County is hard to come by, but the police, courts and social workers keep busy handling such cases.

The state Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services office here has investigated 104 child abuse complaints in Sherman County in the last 12 months, said Gene Dawson, area director for northwest Kansas.

This is pretty typical for any 12-month period, he said.

Judge Jack Burr and Police Chief Ray Smee both said they do not know how many family violence or child abuse cases they have handled in the last year. But Smee said the police have handled quite a few.

"It comes in spurts," Smee said.

"We can go weeks without any, then have two or three on the same night."

In 25 years on the police force, Smee said, he has dealt with cases involving sexual abuse, physical abuse and mental abuse.

Parental kidnapping is not as rare as people think, he said. When he first joined the police force, Smee said, there were no laws in place to deal with it. Parents had joint custody, he said, and one would often take off with the kids.

Smee said the Mark Thompson case is the only one he has been involved with since the laws changed.

There were 78 domestic relations cases filed here in 2001, which includes divorces, parentage (paternity) and protection from abuse. Protection from abuse includes men, women and children.

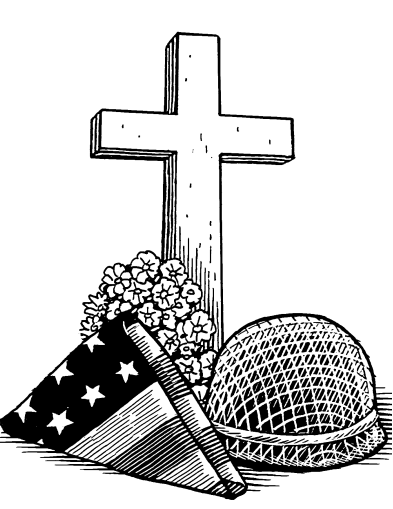
## Veterans honored on Monday

The Goodland Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion will hold Memorial Day services to honor veterans Monday at the Brewster, Goodland and Kanorado cemeteries.

The first service will be held at 8:30 a.m. in the Brewster Cemetery, followed by a 10 a.m. service in the Goodland Cemetery and an 11:30 a.m. service in the Kanorado Cemetery.

Tony Kafka, pastor of the Sunrise Christian Church, will speak in Goodland; and Leonard Cox of the Kanorado Methodist Church and Dorine Chambers of the Brewster Methodist Church will speak at the other services.

Chet Ross, a retired U.S. Air Force chaplain, will present the orders of the day, which are read at the decorating of the graves for all who died defending their country. Ross will also read the closing prayer.



Heckman will give the opening prayer. Bill Selby, commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, will say the Memorial Day prayer.

Harold Karspeck, Veterans of Foreign Wars chaplain, will call off the names of those veterans who have died

since last year's Memorial Day services.

Joanne Wahrman, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars auxiliary, will lay a wreath in the veterans' plot at each cemetery.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars color guard and drill team will be at each service to bring in the flags and give a 21-gun salute to honor the departed veterans.

At each of the services, Darin Richardson, who just graduated from Goodland High School and Amanda Jolly, a senior next year, will sing the national anthem and other music.

Denise Shoff and Eva Selby will play "Taps" at the Brewster service and Isabelle Hellerud and Bryon Russell will play the mournful song in Goodland and Kanorado.

Balloons will be released at the end of the Goodland service to cap off the ceremony.

## Holiday closings

The following will be closed on Monday in observance of Memorial Day:

- City and county offices
- The United States Postal Service
- Goodland Public Library
- United States Department of Agriculture
- County landfill
- City trash pickup. Regular Monday stops will be picked up Tuesday.
- The Goodland Daily News. The office will be closed and no paper will be printed.
- Many private offices and businesses. Contact individual offices to find out if particular businesses will be open.