

weather report

67°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:14 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:14 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil Temperature 77 degrees
- Humidity 52 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds northeast 12 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.17 inches and steady
- Record High 101° (1952)
- Record Low 37° (1947)

Last 24 Hours*

High 89°
Low 63°
Precipitation .03

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy with 30 percent chance of rain, low upper 40s, winds northeast 5-10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: partly sunny with 20 percent chance of rain in the evening, high around 80, low 50-55, light southeast wind.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: partly cloudy with 20 percent chance of rain, high lower 80s, low 58-63. Sunday: high 70s. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.83 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.71
 - New Crop — \$2.83
 - Corn — \$1.90 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.85
 - Loan deficiency payment — 14¢
 - Milo — \$1.60 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$4.34 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.37
 - Loan deficiency payment — 55¢
 - Millet — \$3.75 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$10.20 cwt.
 - NuSun — \$10.35 cwt.
 - Posted county price — \$10.28
 - Confection current — inquire
 - 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.

Sexual abuse meeting starts

DALLAS — The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops opened an extraordinary meeting on clerical sex abuse today with their leader calling the crisis “perhaps the gravest we have faced” and victims telling of their agonizing pain.

“This crime has left deep scars on my soul,” said Paula Gonzales Rohrbacker of Juneau, Alaska, who told the bishops she was molested by a seminarian her family had befriended. Another victim, Craig Martin of St. Cloud, Minn., cried as he recounted his story to hundreds of Roman Catholic leaders gathered at a hotel in Dallas.

Bishop Wilton Gregory, in a remarkably frank speech, acknowledged the prelates’ role in creating the scandal and pledged to take action to restore parishioners’ badly shaken faith in the church hierarchy.

Don't touch baby animals

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

Wild baby animals showing up in the area might be cute and look helpless, but don't pick them up and try to take care of them, officials say, even if they seem to be abandoned.

Now that spring is turning to summer, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is being swamped with reports of abandoned baby animals, says game warden Mike Hopper.

In most cases, though, the babies are doing fine.

“Very seldom will parents abandon a baby,” Hopper said. “They might be out collecting food, or working on a shelter, or whatever. They will back shortly, and they left the baby in a place they considered safe at the time.”

If someone does try to help out and take the animal home, Hopper said, it could suffer serious health problems, and besides, it's against the law.

“There is bacteria to deal with, when to feed, how to feed, and all kinds of other issues people might not be able to handle,” he said. “There are things that people don't have the ability to do as well as mom does.”

“It might sound corny, but mama knows best.”

Occasionally, a baby is truly abandoned. What are we supposed to do then? Hopper says the same thing.

“Keep your hands off of them.” Even if the baby gets eaten by a coyote or other predator, Hopper said, it

would be better off than living in a cage. After all, that is part of the cycle of nature, he said.

“It might seem harsh to let a mean ol' nasty coyote eat the baby,” he said, “but coyotes need to eat, too.”

State law requires people to have a permit to keep wildlife at home, he said. Keeping animals in captivity is illegal, and can bring a fine.

There are wildlife rehabilitators, volunteers who help injured and abandoned animals.

They know the proper way to handle to babies, Hopper said, but they are stretched thin and busy this time of year. The nearest one is in Hill City, about 120 miles away.

Even if a licensed rehabilitator gets to the animal, the chances of it making it back into the wild are slim, Hopper said.

He said he would like people to call the wildlife department if they find babies which seem to be abandoned, but to leave them alone.

“People might be thinking with their hearts, and not their minds,” Hopper said. “They want to do the right thing, but it causes problems.”

If anyone has a question about dealing with baby animals, or any other wildlife questions, Hopper says he would be happy to get phone calls at 899-5199.

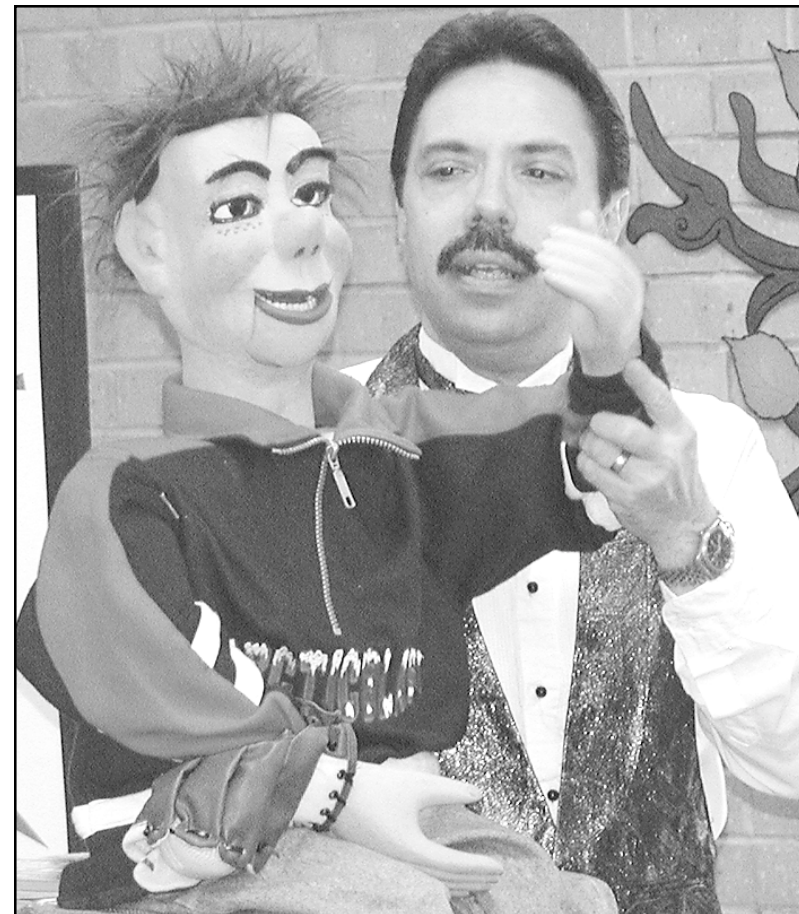
“Questions and answers are free,” he said. “If things aren't handled right, that's when they can get expensive.”



Is that magic?

Glenda Mann (top) pulled a rabbit out a box during a magic show Wednesday morning at the Goodland Public Library. Mike Mann (right) gave a ventriloquist act with Billy the Dummy. Glenda and Mike's Magic Show, based in Hutchinson, entertained a packed room of kids with tricks designed to encourage them to read.

Photos by Doug Stephens
The Goodland Daily News



Board member questions raise

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

A Goodland School Board member said Monday he wouldn't approve the 2002-2003 negotiated agreement because he doesn't think the district will be able to afford the \$450 raise teachers are promised in the contract.

“I want teachers to get a bigger raise,” said Ron Schilling at Monday's meeting. “but I'm scared next year we will be squirming for money. From what I'm hearing, we can't pay for this raise.”

Schilling said he's been reading that the state's serious budget problems could get worse next year and schools may not receive the \$20 per-student

increase lawmakers passed in May.

“The state absolutely scares me right now,” he said. “I think they're writing checks they can't cash.”

Even with Schilling's dissenting vote, the agreement passed, as the rest of the six board members voted for it.

Negotiators for the board and teachers union finalized the contract in late May. The sides settled on a \$450 raise for staff after the teachers proposed a \$1,000 increase and the board offered \$200. Board negotiators also agreed to remove one day teachers have to be in the classroom.

See AGREEMENT, Page 7

Laying directions



All Iowa, a company from Iowa, painted white and yellow stripes on the new section of K-27 north of Goodland this morning. Highway officials said the job should be finished today.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Chamber chairman resigns

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce board has lost its chairman. Rob Tomsic said he resigned from the Chamber at the beginning of the month.

Bill Mehling, senior vice-president of loans at First National Bank, and Dane Scherling, director of Koons Funeral Home, have been appointed co-chairmen until the end of the year.

Tomsic, owner of Topside Office Products, wouldn't say why he quit. “I would really rather not say,” Tomsic said. “You guys can just put me down as ‘no comment.’”

With Tomsic no longer a board member, the Chamber now has five vacant positions, four of which end this year,

and one which goes through next year.

Other members who have quit this year include Merlyn Stasser, Don Newell, Steve West and Schyler Goodwin. Goodwin and West have helped form a new economic development group to bring new businesses into Goodland.

The board will review names of people who might be interested in filling the positions, Scherling said, and will approach any they feel would fit the spots.

They will then choose among those who said they would serve.

Jo Simmons, Chamber office manager, said the names of the new board members would be released as soon as all the positions are filled.

The executive board of the Chamber

is currently filled by seven people. Ron Harding, president; the co-chairmen; Terry Richardson, second vice-chairman; Tim Rath, economic development vice-chairman; Cesar Miller, treasurer; and Debbie Lucas and Jeff Deeds, activities co-chairmen. The vice-chairman position will remain vacant until the end of the year, when a new chairman is chosen.

Linda Knott and Donna Swager hold one-year terms. Jeff Deeds' and Richardson's terms end this year. Wayne Aten, Steven Riebel, Eric Yonkey and Harding will serve through 2003, and Lucas, Mehling, Rath, Scherling and Miller through 2004. Dean Blume, city commissioner and long-time board member, holds a non-voting advisory position.

Wind shift helps crews fight fire

LAKE GEORGE, Colo. (AP) — Firefighters chopped down trees, dug fire lines and soaked houses with water today as a 90,000-acre wildfire crept toward homes southwest of Denver.

Wind from the north slowed the blaze's growth toward the city proper, leaving the fire's northeastern edge roughly 10 miles from the outer reaches of the Denver metropolitan area this morning.

But at the southern end of the fire,

firefighters were defending homes.

Dale White, 38, sat in the parking lot of a library and watched smoke billow over the subdivision where he lives. White, a carpenter staying with his mother in Chipita Park, said he was resigned to the possibility of losing his home.

“It's just a matter of time. I know there are a lot of houses over there being lost,” he said. “It's all up to nature.”

The blaze, which started Saturday in

the Pike National Forest, has destroyed 22 homes and is burning on 135 square miles of land. Colorado is in the middle of one of its worst droughts in years, resulting in bone-dry trees and brush — the perfect fuel for wind-driven flames.

Incident commander Kim Martin compared conditions to those that led to massive fires in Yellowstone National Park in 1988. A total of 948,000

See WILDFIRES, Page 7