

weather report



76°
noon
Monday

Today

• Sunset, 4:48 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:14 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:47 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 51 degrees
- Humidity 12 percent
- Sky mostly clear
- Winds south 15 to 22 mph
- Barometer 30.22 inches and steady
- Record High today 91° (1950)
- Record Low today 7° (1993)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	63°
Low Sunday	40°
Precipitation	none
This month	.63
Year to date	13.89
Below Normal	4.56 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near 81 with winds from the southwest at 5 to 10 mph and changing to the north in the evening from 10-20 mph. Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 53, a low near 29 and winds out of the northeast at 10-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of snow or rain at night, a high near 59 and a low around 33.

(National Weather Service)

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

Seeing where you've been

By Sharon Corcoran

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A Kansas native entered his home state Monday, riding his bicycle backwards, on a quest across the United States to raise awareness for several issues and to reach Washington to push a bill for the medical use of marijuana.

Curan Wright, 36, a Wichita native, is biking backwards across the United States to raise awareness of homelessness, HIV/AIDS and for a federal law allowing the medical use of marijuana.

He began his ride on Aug. 17, AIDS Awareness Day, in Venice Beach, Calif., and is heading toward Washington, where he plans to do whatever it takes to speak to Congress.

A former undercover police officer, Wright tested positive for HIV and has since been homeless for the past year. Wright said he served as a bodyguard for Gov. Kathleen Sebelius for one day. He has bicycled backwards before to raise money for leukemia treatment and research.

Wright said since his diagnosis with AIDS, he has stirred things up many times with the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Agency with his push for the medical use of marijuana.

Though California has a state law allowing the drug's use for medical purposes with a prescription, it conflicts with federal law that prohibits marijuana no matter its purpose, and federal agencies have raided medical marijuana dispensaries in the state.

Besides, it is still illegal in California to use marijuana for recreational reasons, and laws vary from county to county as to how much a person can have when it is for medical purposes. And people who use the drug for fun have tried to circumvent laws against it by claiming to have a medical need for it.

"On a state level," Wright said, "medical marijuana is not working. There are kids claiming to have chronic pain — it is a big mess."

And the people running the dispensaries only care



Wright



Curan Wright, a Wichita native, is riding his bicycle backwards across the United States to raise awareness of homelessness and HIV/AIDS and to push for a federal law allowing the medical use of marijuana. He came through Goodland last Tuesday.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

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Costume contest tonight

Spooks and goblins invade Goodland's downtown tonight from 5 to 7 p.m. for the sixth annual Moonlight Madness celebration and costume contest.

Several downtown stores will be open late with specials for shopping, and there will be treats for the kids who stop by to show off their costumes.

The basement of El Dorado Western Wear, 1101 Main, will be the site of the Moonlight Madness costume contest.

The Madd Hatter will provide music beginning about 5 p.m. and costume judging begins at 5 p.m.

There will be three age groups for the costume contest, with cash prizes for first, second and third in each. The 4-and-under group will be judged at 5 p.m., 5 to 8 at 5:30 p.m., and 9 to 12 at 6 p.m..

The Goodland Kiwanis Club has donated the prize money, Wal-Mart is providing candy and Big Brothers and Big Sisters will help judge.

Businesses participating in the event or handing out candy include Jacque's Hallmark, SmitteO's Video, J.C. Penney, Farm Bureau Insurance, Mr. Jim's His and Hers Shop, Stitch 'N Place, Madd Hatters, El Dorado Western Wear and The Goodland Star-News.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$7.75 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$7.56
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Corn — \$3.37 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.38
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Milo — \$3.21 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$8.51 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$8.80
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scouler Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowboys win big

In the first quarter running back Fernando Martinez broke free for a 52-yard touchdown to put Goodland on the scoreboard 7-6. The Cowboys won the game 41-33. See photos, story on Page 11.

College plans to open day care center

By Ramona C. Sanders

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Northwest Kansas Technical College is planning to open a daycare center for the children of its students.

President Ken Clouse said he hopes to open the child care facility in January. The center will be a licensed group home that can accommodate up to 12 infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers, Clouse said.

The daycare center will be located in a three-bedroom house near the campus at 1311 Harrison, which was recently purchased by the college. The 14,000-square-foot house is expected to cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000 when the details are finalized.

Clouse said there is a need for the child care center because about 20 percent of the college's student body fall in the non-traditional age category of between 23-56 years of age.

"We have students needing to have a place for their youngsters," Clouse said. "Its important for them to have their little ones in a safe, secure and wholesome environment."

Clouse said the daycare center will



Northwest Kansas Technical College has purchased this house on 1311 Harrison to be used for a 12-child daycare center for the children of the college's students. The center is scheduled to open in January.

Photo by Ramona C. Sanders/The Goodland Star-News

be certified by the state. The college plans to hire two staff members, including a director, for the new center.

He said the college expects to upgrade the house, which was built in the early 1960s, by re-wiring the electrical, replacing some of the flooring, building a fence and painting.

The college expects to charge a rate of \$2 an hour for the daycare center, which has a tentative annual budget of \$40,000, Clouse said.

"We're not really trying to make a profit, but hopefully we'll break even," he said.

Clouse said depending on demand, the college may consider building a larger facility that can accommodate up to 25 children and opening up enrollment to the children of college staff.

"Initially what we're going to be doing is open it up to the student body," said Clouse. "The faculty knows that students come first here. That's the mission of the college: to serve our students. At the same time we don't want to overlook our students or our staff."

Black-footed ferret plans face new legal battle

By Tom Betz

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Plans by landowners in Logan County — who voluntarily want to reintroduce the endangered black-footed ferret — have been hit with another legal maneuver from the county, and a special hearing is set for 10 a.m. on Tuesday in Topeka.

Larry and Betty Haverfield said Sunday they were surprised by the announcement that Logan County was trying to lift the restraining order a Shawnee County district judge imposed in September.

Haverfield, who owns about 6,000 acres of grazing land and controls another 1,500 acres south of Russell Springs has been battling to keep his prairie dogs for more than two years. A lawsuit filed in December by Logan County to force Haverfield to allow the county to "eradicate" the prairie dogs, based on a 1904 state law, was settled without going to trial in early September. At that time the attorney, from Hays, who had been hired by Logan County, had said both sides had agreed to the settlement.

In September the state Department of Wildlife and Parks issued a permit to poison about 100 acres of Haverfield's land and Logan County hired Donald Walter, a contract exterminator from Tribune, to poison the prairie dogs. A 30-acre strip of land 100 yards



A black-footed ferret was on display at the open house in Oakley in November.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

wide was poisoned with aluminum phosphide before a district judge in Shawnee County issued a restraining order.

Lawyer James M. McVay of Great Bend, filed a response on Thursday asking the Shawnee County district judge to lift the restraining order against the poisoning, and a tentative hearing date has been set for Tuesday. McVay, a new lawyer hired by Logan County, is asking the court to issue a restraining order against Haverfield and neighboring landowner Gordon Barnhardt to keep cattle off the "infested area" while the poison Rezol is being used

between now and March 15.

The response does not spell out the area of "infestation," Haverfield said, which were defined in specific legal descriptions in the Sept. 4 permit issued by Keith Sexson, assistant secretary of Wildlife and Parks.

Haverfield was billed \$1,793 for treating 1,087 holes with Fumitoxin, another brand name for aluminum phosphide. Haverfield, who has created border areas around his property to try to control the prairie dogs said he has spent more than \$12,000 and even tried to hire Walter to poison the barrier areas with a less toxic poison. Haverfield said Walter told him he could not do that because of his contract with Logan County.

The Haverfields and Barnhardt haven't given up the fight, and with the help of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service they plan to begin the black-footed ferret project this winter.

Haverfield said he was not sure what the latest legal hassle will mean as far as the ferret project is concerned.

Haverfield and his wife toured a ferret reintroduction project in South Dakota in September to see how the program is done, and to see how to keep an eye on the nocturnal prairie dog eaters.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service asking for written comments

The federal wildlife service held a public

open house in Oakley in November about the reintroduction of black footed ferrets on private land in Logan County, and the federal service is giving citizens until Nov. 19 to submit written comments on the environmental assessment.

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will certify, in writing, to all cooperating landowners and their neighbors that black-footed ferrets will not interfere with the rights of landowners to manage their property, including legal means of prairie dog control if ferrets leave designated release properties and enter nearby lands," said Steve Guertin, Acting Regional Director for the Service's Mountain-Prairie Region. "The Service is committed to maintaining property rights of neighbors and other landowners who do not desire ferrets or prairie dogs."

The proposed reintroduction of black-footed ferrets is to be on private lands in Logan County, that is currently used as grazing land, and is bordered by other private grazing and croplands.

Each property supports several active prairie dog colonies, which have been evaluated and are potentially suitable for black-footed ferrets. The proposed reintroduction ex-

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