

weather report

**90°
at noon**



Today

- Sunset, 8:09 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 5:38 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:09 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 82 degrees
- Humidity 32 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds south at 8 mph
- Barometer 30.12 inches and falling
- Record High 105° (1934)
- Record Low 50° (1958)

Last 24 Hours*

High	92°
Low	59°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: clear, low near 65, south winds 5 to 15 mph.

Thursday: mostly sunny, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, high near 95, southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday: dry, lows near 65, highs near 95.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.09 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.89
 - Loan deficiency payment — .56¢
 - Corn — \$1.76 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.58
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — .41¢
 - Milo — \$2.21 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$3.85 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.65
 - Loan deficiency payment — 1.24¢
 - Millet — \$4 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$7.10 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.62
 - Oil new crop — \$7.10 cwt.
 - Confection current — \$17/10 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$15 (new crop)
- (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Judge reverses convictions

TOPEKA (AP) — A Shawnee County judge has overturned four drug convictions after finding a "high probability" of evidence tampering in the Shawnee County Sheriff's Department.

Judge Charles Andrews on Tuesday reversed the convictions of Lamar Ronnee Tibbs, Abdel-monim E. Yousif, John T. Kelly III and Frank A. Newton and dismissed their cases.

Three of the men were either on parole or probation as a result of the convictions. Andrews ordered the fourth, Tibbs, released from prison. Andrews placed responsibility for the overturned convictions "squarely on the shoulders of Sheriff (Dave) Meneley and part of his department."

Five drug cases have either been dismissed or overturned since allegations of corruption in the department surfaced earlier this year.

Wreckage found, body recovered

AQUINNAH, Mass. (AP)—John F. Kennedy Jr.'s body was recovered from the wreckage of his plane today and brought aboard a Navy ship to be identified by his uncle, sources told The Associated Press.

The Navy destroyer USS Briscoe was heading toward Cape Cod to participate in a possible memorial service, said a government source close to the recovery. A family source said a final decision on a burial at sea had still not been made early this afternoon.

The plane, which had Kennedy's badly mangled body in it, was found late Tuesday night by an underwater vessel working off the salvage ship USS Grasp.

"They've got the fuselage and John Kennedy's in it," a government source with firsthand knowledge of the investigation told the AP earlier. There were no immediate reports of the bodies of Kennedy's wife and sister-in-law, who also were on board the plane when it crashed Friday night.

Early this afternoon, a Coast Guard helicopter took Sen. Edward M.



JOHN F. KENNEDY, JR.

Kennedy, and his two sons from the Kennedy compound in Hyannis Port to Menemsha Harbor at Martha's Vineyard, where they got on a boat.

The restricted flying zone around the

USS Grasp was extended from 3,000 feet to 5 miles.

The heightened activity took place after ships from the Navy, Coast Guard and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration spent Tuesday night scouring a site 7 1/2 miles southwest of the Martha's Vineyard coast, a spot that investigators had speculated was the likely splash point for the plane.

It crashed while carrying Kennedy, 38, his wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, 33, and her sister Lauren Bessette, 34.

The fuselage was first spotted at 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, according to a statement issued by the safety board, and subsequent investigation confirmed that it was Kennedy's airplane.

White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said the discovery was made with remote cameras. The Grasp was being repositioned so divers could go down and assist with the recovery, a senior administration official said.

"The highest priority remains locating and recovering the remains of all three," Lockhart said.

The Bessette family had no comment on the discovery of Kennedy's body, said Grant Stinchfield, a family friend.

The Kennedy family was notified of the discovery in the early morning hours, a family source said. They have discussed a range of options for handling the remains, including the possibility of a burial at sea.

No dates or details have been completed, said a family source.

"Several options are being discussed. No decisions have been made," the family source said. Stinchfield said the Bessettes were working with the Kennedys on plans for a service. Nothing has been finalized, he said.

Several experienced pilots who flew into the Vineyard on Friday night said the hazy skies and darkness were challenging even for them. Kennedy obtained his pilot's license in April 1998.

At a briefing Tuesday, Robert Pearce, who is heading the investigation for the National Transportation Safety Board, gave a more detailed explanation of the approach.

All seemed fine about 34 miles from

the airport, with the plane descending from 5,600 feet to about 2,300 feet at a slightly faster-than-normal rate of 700 feet per minute.

About 20 miles from the airport, the plane started turning to the right and climbing back to 2,600 feet. After leveling off, it flew for a short time before beginning another turn to the right and starting "a rapid rate of descent" that may have exceeded 5,000 feet per minute, or about 10 times faster than normal.

The descent was 3,000 feet per minute faster than what would be a stressful approach for even the most experienced flier, experts said.

Pearce would not speculate on the damage caused by such a crash, but said: "I'm sure you can draw a conclusion by the debris we've been bringing in, which is fragmented."

On the fourth full day of the search, the FAA acknowledged it was asked in a phone call from an intern at the Martha's Vineyard airport to help locate the plane Friday night.

Work nears on assisted living center

By Charlie Baker

The Goodland Daily News

A new lifestyle arrangement is coming to Goodland in the new millennium.

Developer David Beardsley of Heritage Healthcare Management, Inc., said they are just about ready to break ground on the 31 unit assisted living center to be north of Eighth Street between Montana and Texas. He said they will also begin construction on three duplexes to be located next to the center.

The center will have 31 units with varying degrees of assistance available. Residents in the center will take their meals in the dining room. Some of the units do have a kitchenette area.

"Some have a sink and refrigerator," said Beardsley, "a few may have microwaves."

"There won't be stoves in any of the units in the center. They are designed for residents who want or need the care."

All of the units will have a private bath, but there will also be a central bathing facility. "It is a facility that has an opening in the side so you can walk into it, set down, close the opening behind you, fill it with water, and enjoy a whirlpool" said Beardsley.

"It is very easy to use, and people in our other facilities really like it."

The center will have several public areas for residents to meet in. There will be living and dining rooms near the entrance, an activities center, beauty parlor, and a library.

"One thing we have learned in developing facilities is the need for seating areas throughout the buildings," said Beardsley.

"We have seating in the front, in the (U-shaped) halls, and in the atrium." "Residents may take a walk and find they need to sit and rest, or, stop and visit with a neighbor, there is always an area nearby where they can stop."

Another feature Beardsley said he has learned to include is windows that look into the hallways.

"People really enjoy having those windows into the halls," he said, "they can see what is going on, who is passing by, or, they can close the blinds if they want the privacy."

For those who are more independent and want to live in a retirement community setting that still has services available, the development will offer duplexes.

"Residents in the duplexes can contract for whatever services they like," said Beardsley.

"They can come to the center for meals, they can have meals delivered to their homes, or, they can prepare their own."

Residents in the center will rent their units. Residents that opt for a duplex can either rent or purchase the unit, whichever fits their situation, said Beardsley.

Construction could begin yet this month, said Beardsley. He said construction should take about nine months. "My best estimate is we are looking at nine months from now, sometime next spring."

Sheriff promotes 'Kansas click'

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Every hour someone dies in America simply because they didn't buckle up says Mickey DeHook, law enforcement liaison for the Kansas Bureau of Traffic Safety.

He works with police chiefs and sheriffs throughout Kansas to promote and enforce safety belt and child safety seat laws. DeHook met with Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson on Monday.

Law enforcement plays a critical role in getting the message out about using seat belts by making public service announcements, having articles in newspapers, speaking to civic organizations and enforcing the laws according to DeHook.

"The single most effective action law enforcement can take to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries is to get people to buckle up," DeHook said.

Kansas has a 59 percent seat belt usage rate, while the national average is 69 percent. President Clinton has set a goal of an 85 percent national usage rate by 2000.

The Kansas Click is the state campaign to promote seat belt use, which Sheriff Whitson is involved in.

"In the last 13 months, I have seen two fatality accidents, where both persons were ejected from the car," Whitson said. "I feel both would have been saved if they had worn safety restraints."

The campaign is targeting the part-time seat belt user and the nonuser and through education and awareness is hoping to change attitudes. Sheriff

"There's an attitude some people share, that it's a government thing. They think there should be freedom of choice," said DeHook. "Where in fact everyone pays for people who are unbuckled and are involved in traffic

put their child in a child safety seat. It borderlines on criminal neglect," DeHook said. "A child doesn't have a choice. If a parent isn't doing it now, they need to start doing it."

Research shows that if a driver is unbuckled, 70 percent of the time, children riding in that vehicle, won't be buckled either.

"They are just a missile on impact," Whitson said. "It's not a good scenario."

Parents are role models. If they don't buckle up, they are sending the wrong message to their child.

"The people in Sherman County are fortunate to have a lawman, who is proactive and not reactive and cares about the welfare and safety of his people," DeHook said.

DeHook commended the county individuals who signed a certificate of commitment stating that they recognized that safety belts and child safety seats are the most effective

means of reducing fatalities and serious injuries from motor vehicle crashes, and pledged to promote and enforce the use of safety belts and child safety seats....making unbuckled....unacceptable.

The county individuals include County Commissioner Gary Townsend, District Court Judge Jack Burr, former County Attorney Michael Irvin and Sheriff Doug Whitson.

"There's been more than one night, I've spent walking the living room floor, because I couldn't sleep, after a traffic crash," said Whitson. "You learn to cope."



Sheriff Whitson does The Kansas Click

crashes. Not only loss of life, serious injuries or disability injuries, but higher taxes, higher health costs and higher car insurance."

A misconception exists where people think if they have air bags they don't need to buckle up. If unbuckled, a person is going forward, while the air bag is coming out at about 200 mph. There's a risk of serious injury or death.

Currently, Kansas law requires children under four be in a properly used federally approved child safety restraint system.

"It's irresponsible for parents not to



Kenny Studer, a worker for the city of Goodland, tamped down fill dirt around the new drain pipe going under Armory Road. Workers for the city expect to finish the project and open the road today. The project is part of the effort to improve drainage to the east and will carry water to a tube under Caldwell Avenue.

Photo by Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News

House GOP push tax cut

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a risky roll of the political dice, House Republicans launched their \$792 billion tax cut towards a showdown floor vote today with no guarantee there was enough support to pass it.

Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., met late into the night Tuesday with about a dozen shaky GOP moderates and said the votes needed for passage likely would be whipped up at the last minute on the House floor. Debate was expected to begin in the early afternoon.

"We never have them until right before the vote," Hastert told reporters. Earlier, he had appealed to GOP rank-and-file in a private caucus for party unity: "I need each and every one of you."

With only a wafer-thin majority in the House, GOP leaders could ill afford to lose their own members as long as Democrats remained virtually united in opposition — particularly on a bill so central to the Republican agenda.

But the Republican moderates stood in the way.

Some questioned the accuracy of

projected budget surpluses totaling \$2.9 trillion over 10 years, while others wanted more of the money used to pay down public debt. Still others said it would eat up the money needed for Medicare and critical government spending — particularly if the economy turns sour.

"The votes are not there at this point," said Rep. Michael Castle, R-Del., who has offered a \$514 billion alternative tax bill. "We need to have a smaller tax cut."

GOP leaders planned to offer moderates a chance to vote on a non-binding resolution stating that Congress would commit to reducing the \$3.6 trillion debt to \$1.6 trillion over 10 years, but many of them complained it had no teeth.

In part to placate the moderates and in part to meet Senate budget rules, Archer on Tuesday reduced the bill's overall cost from \$864 billion to \$792 billion — the same level as a Senate GOP alternative. That means almost no significant tax relief would occur until 2001.