

weather report

71°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 5:52 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:10 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:51 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 57 degrees

• Humidity 17 percent

• Sky mostly cloudy

• Winds northeast at 14 mph

• Barometer 29.95 inches and falling

• Record High 86° (1937)

• Record Low 17° (1925)

Last 24 Hours*

High 82°

Low 43°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low near 35, north winds 5 to 15 mph.

Thursday: mostly sunny, high near 65, south winds at 5 to 15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday: dry, lows near 30, highs in the 60s.

(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 — \$2.06

Loan deficiency payment — 39¢

Corn — \$1.53 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.62

Loan deficiency prmt. — 37¢

Milo — \$2.22 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$3.93 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.81

Loan deficiency payment — 1.08¢

Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.75 cwt.

Loan deficiency prmt. — \$3.79

Oil new crop — \$5.75 cwt.

Confection current — \$9 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.

Gore, Bradley debate tonight

HANOVER, N.H. — Vice President Al Gore is getting one of the debates he's been demanding against Democratic rival Bill Bradley. But Gore's ranking supporter in the leadoff primary state said it wasn't likely to change many minds.

"You don't usually find a smoking gun in a debate," Gov. Jeanne Shaheen said in an interview Tuesday. "Not very often are they the thing that changes somebody's mind ... particularly this early."

Gore and Bradley meet for an hour tonight at Dartmouth College in something short of the head-on debates the vice president wants weekly. This one is a televised town hall forum, with the candidates answering questions from an audience.

Although Gore said in advance that the format takes the edge off, he didn't scrimp on preparation.

House leader hopes for wise decisions in upcoming session

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

With the next session less than 75 days away, House Majority Leader Kent Glasscock was in northwest Kansas to see what local officials think the Kansas Legislature should discuss.

He said a special session to handle the budget problem is not a good idea, but he expects the budget to be a big part of what the 2000 session will focus on beginning in January.



Glasscock

Gov. Bill Graves has ordered state agencies to trim 1 percent from their requests, but there have been complaints about a waiting list for home care for the elderly. Schools, universities and teacher groups are pushing for more money, not less.

"I hope we take the time to make wise decisions," the Manhattan Republican said during an interview Thursday. "I think we can find the money to meet the elderly needs, and am sure we will not raise taxes."

"We need to look at the whole budget situation and not over react."

Glasscock, often mentioned as a candidate for governor when Graves steps down two years from now, agreed that education will probably be hardest hit in the budget crunch. That's because education gets about two-thirds of the state budget, he said, and it's possible the legislature will be unable to pay a promised increase of \$50 per student that was approved in the last session. The increase would cost \$30 million, he

said.

Glasscock said he thinks the school system needs to review its emphasis in the early years.

"Studies show that one-third of the Kansas students don't have the basic skills when they leave third grade," he said. "We need to emphasize reading, writing and math so the students can be prepared to exist in the new knowledge and technology based economy."

"This is the best opportunity to prepare our people for the new economy. The schools are doing well, but the state needs to look the goals."

"We need to position Kansas to prosper. We are first in the number of computers in the classroom, but 32nd in connecting to the Internet."

Glasscock thinks there will be a "digital divide" in the future, between those who have access to the information economy and those who don't. Those who do will prosper.

"As important as being able to read and understand computers is today, it will be vital in the future," he said. "We will need to retrain much of today's work force, and there will be a growing need for people to get new training to handle their jobs."

He said the local officials want the Legislature to look at more money for public works. He said they need to be responsible in raising taxes since the state tax lid has been removed.

"I assured them that if it seems to be getting out of hand, I would be the first to sponsor a bill to re-introduce a tax lid," Glasscock said.

It's a sticky job, but worth it



Digging the seeds out of the pumpkin with hands and a large spoon was the joint effort of Katie Davis, 12, (left), Nicole Titus, 13, (center), and Morgan Titus, 11. The three were enjoying the sunny weather Saturday at 418 S. Main as they prepared to carve the pumpkin into a special vision for Halloween. Davis was in charge of the design and said it was to resemble a Veggie Tale, a cartoon character. Halloween is fast approaching, and this weekend there will be several costume contests on Saturday, followed by the traditional "trick or treating" on Sunday evening.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

Farm wife says helping with harvest is fun

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

At 74, Lucille Nemecek can look back over two-thirds of a century of harvests on her family's farms.

She's still running to town for parts, fixing big meals for the crew and shuttling trucks from one field to another.

"It's just kind of fun to be involved," Nemecek said. "I do enjoy it."

One of Nemecek's sons, Melvin, has been farming his mother's ground for 15 years. He also farms some of his own, as well as some for others. He and his friends, Brian and Rod Kling of rural Goodland, work together to harvest each other's crops with help from Melvin's hired hands, Aaron Denning and Duane Hanke, both of Goodland.

Lucille Nemecek doesn't have an outside job, so she is available to help the men with harvest. She has a two-way radio in her house, and if they need something, they can call her.

If there is a breakdown, she can go get parts while the men are taking the machine apart. She also moves vehicles from one field to another.

Nemecek fixes a hot lunch, with dessert, at noon to take to the field, serving it on the tailgate of a pickup. In the evening, it's usually just sandwiches as the men push to get a few more acres done.

Nemecek, who still lives on the family farm five miles northeast of Goodland, has been working harvest since she got married in 1946. She and her husband, Carl, who died 14 years ago, moved to the place she still lives in 1947. The couple raised 11 children.



Lucille Nemecek served a piece of pie to Brian Kling for lunch on Tuesday, in a milo field east of Goodland, where she took the crew a hot meal.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

She grew up on a farm and recalled that during World War II, when most of the men were gone, she and her sisters helped her father with harvest. She drove a truck loaded with wheat to be dumped in the farm bins.

Back when the children were small, she didn't help much with harvest. She fixed lunches for her husband to take to the field. But things were different then: they didn't have as much ground and the equipment didn't have lights, so her husband had to quit when it got dark.

In the 1970s, when their children were older, she drove a truck hauling wheat, their main crop, to town. Now in addition to wheat, she has sunflowers, corn and milo.

When the crew is cutting on her's or Melvin's ground, she takes the meals. But when the men are cutting on Klings' or are south of Goodland, then either Rochelle, Brian's wife, or Roxann, Rod's wife, takes meals.

A woman's involvement in harvest varies from family to family, farm wives say. If a wife has young children or works outside the home, then her involvement will be less. But women whose children are older may fix meals, or drive a combine, truck or tractor pulling a grain cart.

The woman's responsibilities usually don't end there. She still has other jobs to do, such as cleaning house, doing laundry or yardwork, and buying groceries. However, their help with harvest saves the men time and keeps them going in the field.

Nemecek said her son appreciates her help because he doesn't ever forget to thank her for what she does.

"There are little things that I can do and I'm glad to do them," said Nemecek.

Gunmen kill six in Armenia, holding dozens as hostages

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — Gunmen assassinated Armenia's prime minister and four other top officials today, spraying Parliament with automatic weapons fire during a debate and saying they were staging a coup.

Hours after they burst into the chamber and shot Prime Minister Vazgen Sarkisian, the attackers remained in control of the building and were holding dozens of hostages, police said. Hundreds of police and soldiers ringed the building in central Yerevan as officials negotiated with the assailants.

One of the attackers approached Sarkisian and said "Enough of drinking our blood," according to reporters in the chamber at the time of the attack. The premier calmly responded, "Everything is being done for you and the future of

your children."

The attacker — identified by reporters as Nairi Unanian, an extreme nationalist and former journalist — opened fire.

In addition to Sarkisian, the gunmen killed parliament speaker Karen Demirchian, deputy speaker Yuri Bakhshian, Energy Minister Leonard Petrosian and senior economic official Mikhail Kotanian, according to Ararat Zurabian, a city spokesman.

At least six other lawmakers were wounded in the attack, Health Minister Ike Nikogosian said.

Armenia, which became an independent republic following the Soviet collapse in 1991, has endured years of political and economic turmoil. Sarkisian was No. 2 in the government, behind President Robert Kocharian.

Kocharian was personally directing the security forces around the building.

The full Cabinet was attending a question-and-answer session in the parliament chamber at the time of the shooting. Frightened lawmakers ran from the building, in the center of Yerevan.

Armenian television, broadcasting footage of the attack, showed at least two men in long coats firing automatic weapons in the chamber. Some lawmakers dove under their desks.

"They said it was a coup and called on the journalists to inform people about it. They said they were going to punish the authorities for what they did to the nation," said one reporter who was in the chamber.

The gunmen demanded to speak on national television, and a mobile televi-

sion studio was brought to the parliament building in the evening, officials said. The gunmen were also demanding a helicopter.

Sarkisian, a 40-year-old former athletic instructor and Soviet propaganda official, was appointed premier by Kocharian last June.

Sarkisian was an ally of Demirchian, who was Armenia's Soviet-era leader. The two headed the hard-line Unity party.

Sarkisian's political movement forced the resignation of President Levon Ter-Petrosian in February 1998. It accused him of pursuing "defeatist" policies on the issue of independence for the Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh by agreeing to discuss returning territory to Azerbaijan.

Sarkisian previously headed a nationalist group representing war veterans who fought in Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenia and Azerbaijan, a largely Muslim former Soviet republic, fought a major war over the predominantly Christian Armenian enclave in the early 1990s.

The premier's party was closely tied to a militia group known as the Yerkrapah Battalion, which Western human rights groups have accused of harassing religious organizations, especially those that discourage military service.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Stroble Talbott, who had been in Yerevan for talks on Nagorno-Karabakh, traveled late this afternoon to Ankara, Turkey. He was not in Yerevan at the time of the shooting.