

weather report

41°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 4:27 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:41 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:26 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 41 degrees

• Humidity 33 percent

• Sky partly sunny

• Winds west at 10 mph

• Barometer 30.13 inches and falling

• Record High 74° (1923)

• Record Low 1° (1950)

Last 24 Hours*

High 37°

Low 18°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: clear, low near 20, light southwest winds.

Thursday: sunny, high near 55, southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday: dry, lows near 20, highs near 60.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.07 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.07

Loan deficiency payment — 38¢

Corn — \$1.53 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.63

Loan deficiency pmt. — 36¢

Milo — \$2.15 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$3.89 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.98

Loan deficiency payment — 91¢

Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.80 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.01

Confection current — \$117 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.

FBI arrests man for threats

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — A 21-year-old waiter has been accused of terrifying scores of women at college campuses, including the University of Kansas, by calling them from his upstate home and threatening to rape and kill them, the FBI said Tuesday.

Sean Robert Francis of Middletown was arrested Monday as he arrived for a meeting with his probation officer. He was charged with making more than 75 interstate calls threatening rape or murder, said Lewis Schiliro, who heads the FBI's New York office.

Magistrate Judge Lisa Margaret Smith in White Plains ordered Francis held without bail at the Westchester County Jail in Valhalla.

The arrest calmed fears at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, the University of Kansas in Lawrence, and several other universities across the country.

First graders recreate first feast fun



By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

First graders at West Elementary had a Thanksgiving meal at school on Monday, re-enacting the first Thanksgiving as a climax to their studies about the Pilgrims during November.

Teachers Janet Davis, Marlene Eddleman, Debbie Bantam, Linda Lucas and Pat Thompson had been telling their students about the Pilgrims' journey from England to the United States in order to have religious freedoms. The students learned why they came and what happened on their journey and after their arrival.

The children were dressed as either Indians or pilgrims for the meal. They gathered in two adjoining classrooms with their desks pushed together in rows. A large table with the food that each child brought was set up between them.

The feast included turkey, beef jerky, pumpkin pie, sweet potatoes, popcorn, carrots, celery, muffins, crackers, cheese, cookies, peas, corn, cookies, pumpkin bread and brownies.

Before the children ate, the teachers talked to them about how the pilgrims chose to endure hardships for their freedom. They told the story about the bleak winter when each pilgrim was given only five kernels of corn to eat each day.

At the meal, the students then shared their food with each other, just as the pilgrims and Indians feasted and shared with one another that first Thanksgiving.

Michael Pettibone (left) put vegetables on his plate at the first grader's Thanksgiving meal at West School. David Murray, along with Jaeger Thompson and Stephen Buller (top, from right) ate their food in the classroom on Monday afternoon. Joel Linin (left) ate while Dylan McBride talked to him, during their Thanksgiving meal.

Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Sheriffs treated record requests with suspicion, hostility

By Darrin Stineman
The Garden City Telegram

The clerk at the Finney County sheriff's office was adamant that a visitor couldn't look at crime reports. "Nothing in this office is public record," she said.

And the clerk at the Clay County sheriff's office wasn't about to let a visitor walk out the door with a copy of one. "We can't have those reports circulating out in the public," she said.

Such responses were common among the 105 sheriff's offices visited statewide in late September. They also were clearly contrary to the Kansas Open Records Act, which allows Kansans to freely inspect and copy crime reports and other public records so they can monitor their government's actions.

And because the visitors didn't volunteer who they worked for or say why they wanted the records, many endured hostility, questioning, suspicion and background checks.

One was even held against her will briefly in Harper County.

Unlike public officials at city halls, county courthouses and school districts statewide, most sheriff's personnel asked not only for the visitors' identities and employers, but for their driver's licenses.

At least two had their licenses checked against the Kansas Bureau of Investigation database, which is supposed to be used only for criminal background checks.

Statewide, 60 sheriff's departments granted the requested records, while 16 partly granted them, allowing the visitors to see the records but not copy them, for example. The other 29 denied them.

That compares to only four school districts, two city clerks and no county clerks which denied requested records.

"I think if the sheriff's departments had been approached in a different way, the records might have been given out differently," said Darrell Wilson, executive director of the Kansas Sheriffs Association. "Some of the people asking for records wouldn't even give their names. Just take a look around and see what's happening these days. Sheriffs are kind of edgy."

The visitors, reporters and editors from 19 Kansas newspapers, were instructed not to volunteer who they worked for or why they wanted the records. Such information is not required to obtain a record under the state Open Record Act.

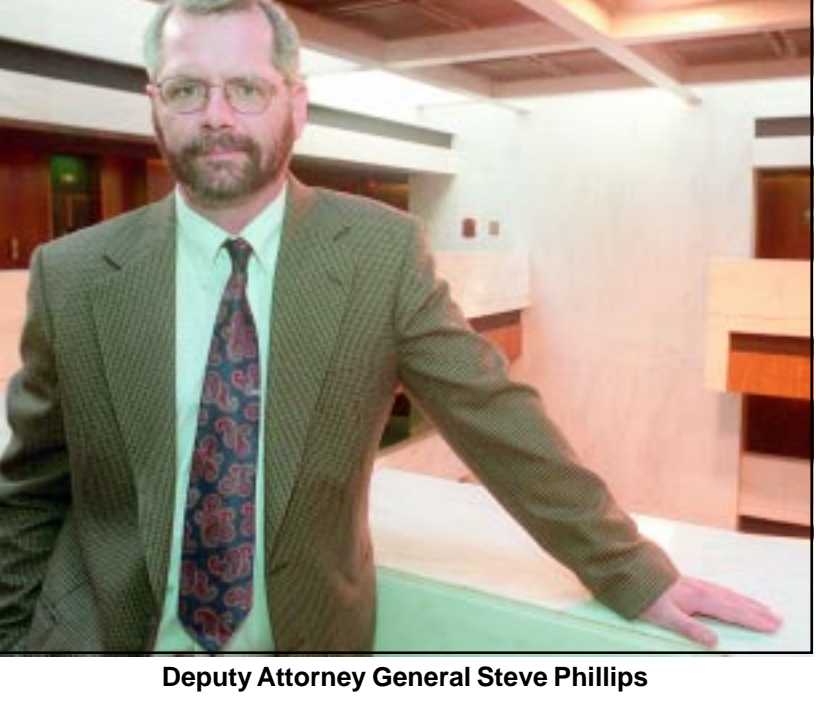
If asked for such information as their occupation, they were advised to ask questions of their own, such as: "Does it matter? Isn't it a public record?"

Standard offense reports contain the time, date and place of the crime, the nature of the offense, information about victims, including names and addresses, and a description of any property loss.

Why is it important that people know about crimes that occur in their neighborhoods?

"I think that's obvious," said University of Kansas journalism professor Ted Frederickson, who has studied the history of the state's open records law. "They care about their safety and they care about their kids' safety."

Nancy Monson, executive director of the National Freedom of Information



Deputy Attorney General Steve Phillips

Coalition in Dallas, said she was alarmed to hear that officials refused to provide public records to people who declined to say why they wanted them. "When they start asking 'Why?' they can come up with a lot of excuses why they don't want to give it to you," Monson said. In Texas, she added, the law prohibits records keepers from even asking the question.

In Harper County, *Wichita Eagle* reporter Deb Gruver not only was refused the reports, but was held for questioning by Undersheriff Richard Happ.

After Gruver had left the sheriff's office, Happ came to her car and asked for her identification, saying he had heard she was "making demands at offices across town."

When she said she wasn't doing anything illegal, he replied, "It's your attitude."

When Gruver asked to talk to sheriff's employees who Happ said had complained about her, he took her to his office and refused to let her leave.

When asked why she couldn't go, Happ told her, "This is a small town and we look out for each other."

She was eventually released after a call to her editor.

Harper County Sheriff Dan Eslinger, who was away at the time, and County Attorney Elaine Esparza later said they were unaware that Gruver had been held against her will.

Esparza and Eslinger said the Sheriff's Department received calls from two other agencies complaining that a woman had requested records and had been rude. Asked if being rude was a crime, Eslinger responded: "It raises a red flag to us."

The failure of some sheriff's offices to comply with the open records law isn't for lack of available training, Assistant Attorney General Steve Phillips said.

"We've done a lot of training," he said. "I've made presentations three or four times a year at various conventions at the county counselors' associations, the Kansas Association of Counties, the association of county clerks. Whether people attend these meetings or not, I guess that's a different story."

turned, and Ray entered the intersection, police said.

Hall told officers he did not realize he had struck the girl. He was at Max Jones Fieldhouse when police tracked him down.

Ray was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center, where she was treated for minor injuries and released.

High School Principal Harvey Swager said he is just thankful that no one was hurt more seriously.

"I hope this sends a message for people to be more careful," he said. "When school lets out, kids just scatter out the doors."

Swager said he was proud of the way kids helped in the situation.

"All the kids at the scene did a really good job," he said.

He said Adam Waters quickly called 911, and everyone else comforted Ray until the ambulance got there.

There were no charges filed, but police said the county attorney will review that case.

After hearing preliminary results of the open records survey, Attorney General Carla Stovall sent letters to the three statewide law enforcement organizations, reminding them of the requirements of the Open Records Act and offering to provide training.

The first such session was held Oct. 28 at a Kansas Sheriffs Association meeting in Salina. Ed Pavey, director of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center, said that as a result of the project, he planned to include an open records session in the state's two-week sheriff's orientation school, which is held after every sheriffs' elections.

In a few Kansas counties, the attorney general's training was evident. Barber County Sheriff Tom Thompson, for example, cheerfully leafed through his records when asked for the previous weekend's offense reports. "Cattle out...cattle out...lightning strike...," he said, finding none from the weekend. He was asked for the latest available report, and readily provided one — a burglary — from Aug. 26.

Such encounters were rare, however. The Chautauqua County Sheriff's Office granted the requested record, but only after questioning Cory Teubner of the *Winfield Daily Courier* about a drinking party the previous weekend.

Sheriff Frank Green said his office staff has no problem releasing public records, but he was suspicious of Teubner's vagueness and wondered if he was trying to find out who turned in the host of the party, which included

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No charges filed in accident at high school

By Charlie Baker
The Goodland Daily News

Police had to track down a Goodland High School student Tuesday after his truck apparently struck another student at the intersection of 12th Street and Cherry Avenue as school was letting out.

Police said Kellie Ray, a senior, was struck by a pickup driven by Mathew Hall, a freshman.

After stopping at the intersection about 3:25 p.m., Hall, in a pickup,