

weather report

43°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 5:34 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:24 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:35 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 47 degrees
- Humidity 62 percent
- Sky partly sunny
- Winds northwest 20-30 mph
- Barometer 29.43 inches and falling
- Record High 75° (1989)
- Record Low -19° (1960)

Last 24 Hours*

High 70°
Low 33°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy; low 30s; 20 percent chance of precipitation; winds northwest 25-35 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny; high 45-50; winds northwest 25-35 mph; low 25.

Extended Forecast

Sunday through Tuesday. Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday: dry; high 55-60; low 30-35.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.14 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.14
Loan deficiency payment — 31¢
Corn — \$1.67 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.83
Loan deficiency payment — 16¢
Milo — \$2.56 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.17 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.35
Loan deficiency payment — 54¢
Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.65 cwt.
Loan deficiency prmt. — \$3.99
Confection current — \$13/\$8 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$12 (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.

Sheriff turns in badge, gun

TOPEKA — Dave Meneley turned over his badge and gun to his attorney after losing his job as Shawnee County sheriff.

Two judges ordered Meneley's removal from office Thursday, but his attorney planned an appeal, saying Meneley was the victim of a "vicious political witch hunt."

The judges concluded that Meneley had given false testimony in two instances and concealed from investigators the disappearance of drug evidence.

The Shawnee County Commission then fired the No. 2 officer in Meneley's department, Undersheriff William Huffmier, because he was appointed by Meneley.

Left in charge, at least temporarily, was Capt. Dan Bryant.

GOP precinct committee members will choose a replacement to serve out the remaining 10 months of the Republican's term.



Cowboys Rule!

Wrestlers advance eight of nine to second round at state. See Page 8.

Edson group wants to save old school gym

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Edson resident hope to save their old school gymnasium as a community center, now that the expansion of Max Jones Fieldhouse is nearly done and the schools will no longer be using the building.

At a meeting in January, Superintendent Marvin Selby told the Goodland School Board he would like to sell the Edson gym, since it will not be needed by the district.

Jim Cress of Edson says a group of citizens would like to form a non-profit corporation to maintain the building. He said the group would be talking to Selby and had asked to be on the agenda of the regular school board meeting Monday.

Cress said about 15 Edson citizens met Tuesday night to talk about saving the gym. He said the group was considering putting together a non-profit organization to run the building. Cress said the big question is whether the school district would sell the building back to the community as they did in Kanorado. The adjacent school building was sold for private use several years ago.

The group felt it would cost about \$15,000 a year to maintain the gym, he

said, and that it could be done by creating a non-profit group which could receive tax credits.

"We know there needs to be some work done on the roof, and that a new well needs to be drilled, as there is not usable water," Cress said "We will meet with the board and see if they are open to keeping it open, and if they are, they might give our group some time to see if the tax-exempt organization can be created."

The Max Jones expansion is close to done, as the gym floor is being finished, and workers are ready to paint stripes for basketball and volleyball. The board will get a report at the meeting.

Other items on the agenda include:

- Approval of the 2000-2001 school calendar.
 - Discussion of the technology committee bylaws. This was tabled from the last meeting to give time for a review of the proposal.
 - Superintendent Selby will report on a juvenile violence workshop he attended this week.
 - There will be a special presentation of a plaque from Rhoads Construction.
 - The board will schedule a special meeting for Monday, March 6.
- The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the district office, 1104 Main St.

Winner spells out potassium

Seventh grader to get trip to state contest

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

The word was "potassium," and Lane Winter, a seventh grader at Grant Junior High, spelled it correctly to win the Goodland School District spelling bee for this year. The runner-up was Kayla Rasure, an eighth grader.

"Pretty fascinating, pretty cool," Winter said about winning.

He said he was a little nervous, but was pretty sure of the words he had to spell.

Winter said this was his third year to be in the contest, but only his second year to be in the district event. Before district, students compete in spelling bees at their schools. The contest is for fourth through eighth graders.

The fourth graders who competed were Britt Zwegardt, son of Kary Zwegardt, St. Francis, and Sheila Wilkening, Goodland, and Kathryn Craft, daughter of Steve Craft, Edson, and Janet Craft, Goodland.

Fifth grade students were Lea Shores, daughter of Nancy Shores, Goodland; and Caleb Lucas, son of Dan and Debbie Lucas.

The sixth graders were Brett Lalicker, son of Dewayne Lalicker and Mary Callahan, both of Goodland; and Janelle Wolak, daughter of Ed and Kathy Wolak.



Janelle Wolak spelled a word in the Goodland district spelling bee Wednesday at the high school auditorium. Kayla Rasure (left) and Lane Winter watched. Wolak, a sixth grader at North School, was one of the finalists.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

From the junior high, it was Winter, son of Terry and Angie Winter, Kanorado; and the eighth grade students were Megan McCall, daughter of Steve and Susan McCall, Goodland; Cristabel Moya, daughter of Ramon and Julie Moya, Goodland; and Rasure, daughter of Kevin and Christie Rasure, Goodland.

The competition was held Wednesday at the Goodland High School auditorium. Students sat in chairs on the stage. The announcer, Dale Schields of Goodland Regional Medical Center, stood at a podium, and the three judges, Gerald Franklin, Janet Warren, and Dick Liess, sat at a table.

As each student had a turn, they

would pick a number from a red apple bowl and hand it to Schields, who then said the word which corresponded with that number. The student then spelled the word, while the judges checked their lists to see if the word was spelled correctly. The list of words was provided by the *Topeka Capital Journal*.

Winter will compete at the state contest on Saturday, April 1, in Topeka. If for some reason he can't go, then the runner-up will go instead. The school district will pay for transportation, motel room and meals for Winter and his parents to go to Topeka.

He will also have his name put on a plaque, which will then be kept at the junior high.

Sleet and snow tried their worst



A fast-moving snowstorm pasted Goodland Friday morning, covering everything with wet snow, which was heavy at times. The snow even stuck to Jason Artzer, who was delivering mail on Main Street during the storm.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Daily News

Gov. Bush steps aside as Texas woman dies

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — As Gov. George W. Bush forges ahead with his presidential campaign, he leaves behind what death penalty opponents are calling a missed opportunity to demonstrate his "compassionate conservatism."

Others said compassion had little to do with the execution of a cold-blooded husband killer.

Capital punishment opponents and organizations that deal with domestic violence victims had urged Bush to delay the execution of Betty Lou Beets, inundating his office with more than 2,000 calls and letters.

But the governor, following what has become standard practice, denied a last-minute reprieve. Beets, 62, who killed at least two husbands and shot another, was executed by injection Thursday night for murdering her fifth husband nearly 17 years ago.

"It is an act of which we should be deeply ashamed," said Joseph Margulies, Beets' lawyer, who watched his client die. "It is not an act of compassion."

Beets is the fourth woman to be executed since the U.S. Supreme Court allowed the death penalty to resume in 1976 and the second in Texas.

"I am confident that the courts, both

state and federal, have thoroughly reviewed all the issues raised by the defendant," Bush said in a statement shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected Beets' final appeal.

Less than an hour later, she was strapped to the death chamber gurney. She declined to make a final statement and made no eye contact with the victim's family. She smiled at her attorney and a spiritual adviser watching through a window, and continued smiling as she slipped into unconsciousness.

She was convicted of fatally shooting Jimmy Don Beets in 1983 and burying his body under a flower garden. Beets and her lawyers insisted the former bartender-waitress was a victim of years of domestic abuse, a subject that was not a factor at trial.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson wrote to Bush, saying a reprieve "would demonstrate your compassionate conservatism and that you are willing to do what is right even in the face of potential criticism from your constituents."

During Bush's 5 1/2 years as governor, 121 convicted killers have been executed in Texas. The Republican has said he is certain all of them were guilty.

See DEATH, Page 4

Internet system expansion adds lines, causes problem

The *nwkansas.com* Internet system in Goodland has added more modems and telephone lines to improve customer access at busy times, but routing problems related to the change have caused some major disruptions.

Tom Betz, director of Internet services, said the system was taken down about 4 p.m. Thursday to switch to a new, larger range of Internet (IP) numbers. The change was completed in about an hour, he said, but when the system came back up, there were some

routing problems. Those continued on Friday.

The system had been prevented from expanding for about a month by the lack of IP numbers. There are enough available now to last several years.

Betz said Internet suppliers in Topeka and Southwestern Bell technicians were working on the routing problem and hoped to have it fixed today. In the meantime, he said, users may experience problems at some times or getting to some sites.