

**weather report**

**82°**  
**at noon**

**Today**  
 • Sunset, 7:54 p.m.  
**Tomorrow**  
 • Sunrise, 5:31 a.m.  
 • Sunset, 7:55 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**  
 • Soil Temperature 64 degrees  
 • Humidity 9 percent  
 • Sky partly sunny  
 • Winds southwest 20-40 mph  
 • Barometer 29.32 inches and falling

**Last 24 Hours\***  
 High 72°  
 Low 55°  
 Precipitation none

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 40 percent chance of thunderstorms, low mid 40s, winds northwest 25-35 mph.  
 Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, 50 percent chance of showers, very windy, high mid 50s, low 40, winds north 25-35 mph.

**Extended Forecast**

Friday: dry, high upper 60s lower 70s, low 40s. Saturday: chance of thunderstorms, high upper 70s lower 80s, low 50-55. Sunday: chance of thunderstorms, high 75-85, low 55.  
 (National Weather Service)  
 Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
 \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**

**Noon**  
 Wheat — \$2.29 bushel  
 Posted county price — \$2.24  
 Loan deficiency payment — 21¢  
 Corn — \$1.85 bushel  
 Posted county price — \$1.92  
 Loan deficiency payment — 7¢  
 Milo — \$2.77 hundredweight  
 Soybeans — \$4.62 bushel  
 Posted county price — \$4.65  
 Loan deficiency payment — 24¢  
 Millet — \$3.60 hundredweight  
 Sunflowers  
 Oil current crop — \$5.85 cwt.  
 Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.57  
 Confection current — \$13/\$7 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. Two arrested in '63 bombing**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Two longtime suspects surrendered today to face murder charges in the 1963 Birmingham church bombing that killed four black girls.  
 Thomas E. Blanton Jr. surrendered about 7:30 a.m., said Blanton's attorney, David Luker.  
 Shortly before noon, Bobby Frank Cherry also arrived to be booked. Both are former members of the Ku Klux Klan.  
 Cherry's attorney, Mickey Johnson, said Cherry was charged with eight counts of murder — two counts covering each of the four slain girls. He said one count was for intentional murder and the other involved "universal malice" because the bomb was placed where it could have killed any number of people.  
 The sheriff's office listed the charge against Blanton as murder, but the details were not immediately released.

## Parents discuss multiage classrooms

**By Janet Craft**  
*The Goodland Daily News*  
 Three teachers met with parents of fifth and sixth graders last week at North School to inform them of their educational philosophy supporting multiage classrooms and to determine if there was an interest in trying the idea.

Multiage classrooms would group fifth and sixth grade students together and the plan would be to have three fifth, three sixth, and three multiage classrooms, said North School Principal Steve Raymer in a letter to parents.  
 On Tuesday and Thursday evening, Norma Staker, fifth grade teacher, and

Jona Neufeld and Michael Nelson, sixth grade teachers, told their reasons for the program and gave a slide presentation. Afterwards, they took time to answer questions from parents.  
 Both Neufeld and Staker have taught in this type of classroom before, while Nelson has not. Staker and Neufeld

have similar teaching styles which they felt Nelson wanted to adopt.  
 If the program was started, it would involve having students in their classrooms for two years once the classroom was established. They felt it increased the time for learning because classroom procedures are learned quicker from the

"experienced" members of the class.  
 An important aspect of this teaching method was relationships. They called it the fourth "R," and said relationships must be in place before the other "R's"—reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic work.  
 As for the curriculum, the teachers said it is very similar for fifth and sixth grades.

Neufeld said from her experience of teaching a combined first and second grade class, the advantages were that she got to keep her students for two years and bond with them, and have two years to do the curriculum, instead of one.  
 Staker said she has always been a multiage teacher and that she takes a student from where they are to as far as they can go.  
 "Multiage offers more flexibility," she said.

Nelson talked about the importance of relationships. He said parents, students and teachers need to have a good relationship.  
 "Bonding is the main thing that builds that trust," he said.  
 The teachers said they were asking parents to choose a style of teaching that would fit their child.  
 "We want what's best for the kids," Neufeld said.

Both the teachers and Principal Raymer said they didn't believe the single age, single grade classrooms would ever be done away with.  
 "This is an alternative, that is not for every student," Raymer said.  
 Raymer said the biggest concern of parents was the curriculum. He said parents wanted to make sure their child wouldn't miss out on anything. Another concern was that their child would be isolated from the rest of their fifth or sixth grade peers. But Raymer assured parents that each grade would still have lunch and physical education with their classmates.

If enough interest is shown to go ahead with this type of classroom, parents would then be asked at pre-enrollment time to make a decision concerning the placement of their child.  
 Raymer said he was very pleased with the turnout at both meetings. He thought the questions asked were excellent. He said anytime you get a group of people together to think and talk about things it is beneficial for everyone.

He said on the surveys handed out to parents, there were 19 yes responses, 17 no responses, and 19 responses that needed more information.  
 Raymer said he needs to contact those parents who want more information and will then share information with School Superintendent Marvin Selby about the matter.  
 "No decision has been made yet," Raymer said.

### Dinner and good music ...



The community had an opportunity to eat a meal and listen to music Tuesday night as junior high and high school band students from Goodland performed at Gulick Park. The Goodland High School band directed by Tom Miles (top) performed while a young concert attendee

ate. Erinn Hardy, Nick Parker, Marney Davis and Lindsay Custer (left, clockwise) played a clarinet piece for the audience. Parents of band students served food to people during the concert.  
 Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

## Merger with Kirk bank caps decade of growth

**By Steve Haynes**  
*The Goodland Daily News*  
 Integration of the Kirk State Bank across the state line caps a decade of regional growth for the 104-year-old First National Bank in Goodland.

The Colorado bank became the sixth branch of the Goodland-based firm when it merged last month, adding to more than a century of history and extending the bank's range out of Kansas for the first time.  
 First National says it is now the largest primarily agricultural bank based in Kansas, by volume of farm loans, and the 98th largest in the U.S.

Peoples State Bank of Sharon Spring in 1987 and merging it in 1991. The bank then merged the Cheyenne County State Bank in St. Francis in 1994 and opened a branch in Colby in 1995. First National Bank of Quinter joined the group in 1998, and the Kirk bank this year.  
 Directors from each town have added to the bank's strength, McCants said, and loan officers across the system can share expertise with one another.

Founded in 1896 as Goodland City Bank, the bank changed to a national charter in 1901 and survived the banking crisis of the 1930s, absorbing the First National Bank of Kanorado along the way.  
 McCants became president in 1983 and his group assumed ownership in May 1983. Since then, an employee

stock ownership trust has made the bank's employees the majority owners.  
 The president says the bank will continue to expand when the opportunity arises, sticking to the agricultural business, but also doing whatever else makes sense.  
 "We're doing more leasing and municipal financing," he said. "With the size of the farm out here, we've had to grow."  
 Assets have grown from about \$49 million in 1983 to \$293 million today, including \$135 million in Goodland, \$33 million in St. Francis, \$36 million in Colby, \$21 million in Sharon Springs, \$19 million in Kirk and \$49 million in Quinter. That makes the bank 20th in size in Kansas.  
 "We've quietly become one of the largest banks in the state," McCants says, "and we're having fun."

"We want to stay in the Tri-State area," McCants said. "We're an ag bank. If we get away from that, we lose our expertise."  
 The Kirk merger adds another strong agricultural component to the bank, he said. Tom Keller of St. Francis, a veteran loan officer and St. Francis graduate, has been named as branch manager.  
 Having merged with a Colorado bank, First National now is authorized to branch anywhere within that state, but McCants said, there are no definite plans now to expand.  
 The bank has been taking on a new town every couple of years, taking over

WASHINGTON (AP)—The rate at which women were attacked or threatened with violence by husbands and boyfriends declined 21 percent during the mid-1990s, and the number of men murdered by wives or girlfriends plunged 60 percent from 1976 through 1998, the Justice Department reported today.  
 In a report on "Intimate Partner Violence," the department's Bureau of Justice Statistics described a widespread decline, with a few exceptions, in both lethal and nonlethal violence among husbands and wives, boyfriends and girlfriends that mirrors the general decline in serious crimes nationwide since 1992.  
 For murder by spouses, the decline began even earlier — in the 1970s.  
 "We have made significant increases in providing shelters, hot lines

and restraining orders to protect battered spouses and mandatory arrest for domestic violence incidents," said Professor James Alan Fox of Northeastern University in Boston. "And the largest beneficiaries have been men. The biggest drop is in women killing husbands."  
 "We've given wives alternatives to feeling like they have to pick up a loaded gun to kill their loaded husbands," Fox said. "Divorce is easier."  
 The number of intimate partner homicides has declined substantially since 1976 for every race and gender group except white women, the bureau said, citing FBI data on homicides. Intimate partners committed fewer murders each year during 1996, 1997 and 1998 than in any other year since 1976.  
 In 1998, 1,320 women were murdered by intimates, but only 510 men.

Violence from husbands, boyfriends declines  
 In 1976, women had accounted for just over half of the 3,000 men and women killed by intimates.  
 For black men, intimate murders declined by 74 percent from 1976 through 1998. For black women, the number of murders was down 45 percent. For white men, it declined 44 percent.  
 "White females represent the only category of victims for whom intimate partner homicide has not decreased substantially since 1976," the bureau said. Between 1976 and 1993, the number of white women killed by intimate partners was fairly stable, usually rising slightly, but such murders declined by 23 percent between 1993 and 1997. Then in 1998, they shot up 8 percent, leaving the total 3 percent above the 1976 figure.  
 But, citing interviews with crime

victims, the bureau said black women were far more likely to report such violence to police than white women — 67 percent of the time for black women, compared with 50 percent for white women.  
 Overall, the percentage of women who reported intimate violence to police rose from 48 percent in 1993 to 59 percent in 1998. Among men, 46 percent reported intimate violence to the police, with next-to-no difference between races.  
 Counting both deadly and lesser violence and threats of violence, attacks on women by intimate partners fell from 1.1 million in 1993 to 876,340 in 1998. This decline sent the rate of violent victimization for women by partners down from 9.8 attacks per 1,000 women per year to 7.7 attacks.