

## weather report

44°  
at noon



### Today

• Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:00 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 31 degrees

• Humidity 41 percent

• Sky mostly cloudy

• Winds northwest 10 mph

• Barometer 29.68 inches  
and falling

• Record High 66° (1946)

• Record Low -9° (1951)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 46°

Low 16°

Precipitation none

### Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy, wind advisory, possible flurries, low 10-15, west winds 15-25 mph. Tomorrow: Cloudy, high 20-25, low 10-15, northwest winds 25-35 mph.

### Extended Forecast

Sunday: dry, high 40-45, low 10-15. Monday: chance of snow, high 25-30, low 15-20. Tuesday: dry, high 30-40, low 5-15 mph.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$2.68 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.55

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$1.92 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.87

Loan deficiency pmt. — 12¢

Milo — \$3.05 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.45 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.35

Loan deficiency payment — 55¢

Millet — \$9.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.95 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.86

Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$15

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Frontier

Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean.

These may not be closing figures.)

## afternoon wire

Late news  
from the  
Associated  
Press



1 p.m.

## Bush may fill cabinet spot

AUSTIN, Texas — President-elect Bush worked on assembling a new government Friday, reaching out to Democratic moderate Sen. John Breaux of Louisiana for a possible Cabinet spot. Bush also selected a justice on the Texas Supreme Court, Al Gonzales, to be his White House counsel, officials close to the process said.

Bush's meeting with Breaux was his first official duty as president-elect and aides said it underscored his desire to reach across party lines.

Breaux has expressed reluctance to leave the closely divided Senate, but isn't ruling it out.

Just hours before the meeting, the No. 2 Senate Democrat, Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, suggested he wasn't overly concerned that Breaux would jump to a Bush cabinet and push Democrats back.

# Four killed in shooting

## *It's second multiple murder for Wichita in last eight days*

WICHITA — Four people — including a high school science teacher — were killed and another critically wounded in a shooting early Friday in northeast Wichita. It was the city's second multiple homicide in eight days.

The victims were abducted from a home, and police believe they were taken to a bank ATM machine and then to a field about 100 yards from the Greenwich Road exit on Kansas 96, where they were shot.

"We don't believe they voluntarily came out here," Police Capt. Robert Lee said.

One suspect in the shooting was in custody, Lee said. Three victims were found dead about 2:30 a.m. near a car in the field. A fourth was taken from the scene to a Wichita hospital more than three hours later but died at the hospital. Lee declined to explain the delay in transporting the victim, saying emergency medics made the determination.

By the time dawn broke, police had isolated numerous crime scenes throughout the city: the house from where the victims were abducted, a Wichita bank, the remote field where the bodies were found, a house near the murder scene where one of the victims ran for help, and an apartment complex near Wichita State University where the suspects' truck was located.

At a 10 a.m. briefing, police said the dead included three men and a woman, all in their 20s. Another woman, 25, survived the shooting, Lee said. Police said the surviving victim apparently escaped and ran to the nearest house about a quarter-mile away to call for help. She was in critical condition at Wesley Medical Center.

The aunt of one of the victims told

The Pratt Tribune that Jason Befort, an Augusta High School science teacher and athletics coach, was among the dead. Superintendent James T. Markos also confirmed the identity. Crisis counselors were on hand, but the school would stay open, Markos said.

Lee said although it was too early to speculate on a motive, he did not believe the deaths were related to those of four people found shot to death Dec. 7 in a Wichita home, also in the northeast part of the city but about five miles from Friday's shooting.

Raeshawnda Wheaton, 18; Quincy Williams, 17; Odessa Laquita Ford, 17; and Jermaine Levy, 20, were found dead last week when a friend went to the house. Williams and Ford were cousins. Ford was renting the house. On Thursday, a third man was charged in the case.

Earl W. Bell, 20, will face capital murder charges in the deaths, District Attorney Nola Foulston said. He was arrested hours after the four bodies were discovered, but had not been formally charged until Thursday. Bell's first court appearance Thursday was on the same day as Levy's funeral.

Cornelius Devon Oliver, 28, was charged Monday with one count of first-degree murder and three counts of capital murder. His bond was set at \$4 million.

Also charged Monday was Troy L. Bell, 32. He was charged with one count of aiding a felony for allegedly helping Oliver avoid arrest. His bond was set at \$50,000.

Earl and Troy Bell are brothers.

Authorities have said they are investigating a fourth man, but have declined to discuss motive or other details.

## *Feeding hunger*



Whitney Archer helped dozens of other volunteers fill gift-wrapped boxes with food on Thursday night at the Goodland United Methodist Church. Volunteers filled 103 boxes for the Genesis Food Bank, which received most of the food during drives this month. Families will pick up the packages on Saturday.

Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

# Officials to discuss development, advertising city

The Goodland City Commission will get an update on economic development activities during its regular meeting Monday.

Ron Harding and Stephen West, representing the Chamber of Commerce economic development committee, will meet with the commission at 5 p.m.

"The commission budgeted \$30,000 in 2000 to give to economic development and in exchange the members

asked to hear from the committee on a regular basis," said City Manager Ron Pickman. The commission set aside \$50,000 in the 2001 budget for the development program.

Harding, executive director at the Chamber, was at the last meeting to ask if the commission could approve an incentive program for new businesses which would discount their utilities bill depending on how many new jobs the

business would bring.

The commission talked about the idea, but no motion was made to approve it. While it wasn't exactly put off, commissioners left the door open for future consideration.

Pickman said he wasn't sure if Harding and West would be talking about the incentive proposal again.

The commission will also hear from Doug Jackson, with the *Goodland*

*Daily News*, on the Sherman County Visitors Guide. The guide is being done by the Chamber and the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the city has been asked to advertise in it.

Also on the agenda for Monday is 2001 beer license renewal for 13 businesses. Members will consider renewing the solid waste agreement with Kevin Butts for Wal-Mart and look at renewing a contract for the city provid-

ing drivers for the Sixty Plus Club.

In addition, the commission will:

- Look at a home occupation and special use permit for Kathy Collins for a home baking business at 1405 Caldwell Avenue.

- Consider appointing someone to the airport board and approving a fixed base operator's agreement.

- Hear a report from Pickman on city activities for the year.

# Merchants to give out \$2,050 on Saturday

By Janet Craft

*The Goodland Daily News*

Saturday afternoon will bring the finale of Goodland merchants' "Christmas on Us" contest, which has been going on for about a month, with the grand prize drawing to be held in downtown Goodland.

Someone will win the \$1,500 grand prize in the contest, sponsored by merchants and *The Goodland Daily News*. The action starts at 1:30 p.m.

Four tickets for \$50 certificates were drawn on Monday night for the final week of the contest. Two winners came into the *Daily News* office to claim their prize money, leaving one \$50 prize to give away Saturday.

Curtis Becker of Goodland claimed his prize on Wednesday. Becker said he was surprised when he found his number in the paper. His ticket came from Garcia's Home Furnishings, and Becker said he thought owner John Garcia would be pleased that he had another winner.

Becker said he bought a stove for his house at Garcia's and got a whole lot of tickets. He plans to spend his prize money at Garcia's, as he is trying to get some things that he needs for his home.

Kim Roeder of Goodland came to the

newspaper office on Thursday evening with a winning ticket.

She said her winner came from Miller's Electronics, where her husband, Rod, had bought some lumber for remodeling their home.

She was surprised about winning even though she and her husband have played the contest since it first started.

"This is the first time after all these years that we have collected tickets that we have won," she said.

The money will be spent on Christmas, she added.

Thursday was the last day to collect tickets from sponsoring businesses.

The grand prize drawing is to begin at 1:30 p.m. in front of the Goodland

See CONTEST, Page 3

## *Blood drivers*



Steve Evert got into the holiday spirit Thursday afternoon when he went to donate blood, donning a Santa hat. He and Duane Hanke filled out the paperwork before giving blood at the American Red Cross blood drive, held at the Catholic church.

Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News