

## weather report

52°  
at noon



### Today

• Sunset, 4:44 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:06 a.m.  
• Sunset, 4:45 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 34 degrees  
• Humidity 26 percent  
• Sky sunny  
• Winds northwest 18 mph  
• Barometer 30.03 inches and steady  
• Record High 69° (1986)  
• Record Low -17° (1963)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 58°  
Low 28°  
Precipitation none

### Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, low mid 20s, south winds 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of snow late, high 60, low 30, south winds 15-25 mph.

### Extended Forecast

Saturday: chance of snow, high 35, low 25. Sunday: chance of snow, high 30, low 25. Monday: dry, high mid 30s, low 15-20.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$2.99 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.83  
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢  
Corn — \$1.97 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.01  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Milo — \$3.27 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.33 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.29  
Loan deficiency payment — 61¢  
Millett — \$8.25 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$5.90 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.94  
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.

## Clinton sorry about killings

WASHINGTON — President Clinton said Thursday that “I deeply regret that Korean civilians lost their lives at No Gun Ri,” where American forces fired on an undetermined number of refugees during the early days of the Korean War.

He called the episode a “painful reminder of the tragedies of war.”

The president’s comments were contained in a statement to be released Thursday afternoon.

Clinton’s statement was being issued with the planned release of the Pentagon’s final report on an Army investigation of a July 1950 incident in which American soldiers reportedly killed a significant number of South Korean civilian refugees near the hamlet of No Gun Ri. The South Korean government investigated and was releasing its report Thursday.

# Young farmer wins award and grant

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

A national organization has proclaimed Nathan Emig, who farms southwest of Goodland, a leader among young U.S. wheat growers.

That group and a chemical/seed company is giving Emig \$1,000 and sending him to the annual Wheat Industry Conference and Exposition in Louisiana this month.

This year, Emig, 22, is a winner of the Young Wheat Grower Leadership

Award, worth \$1,000. He received the award from the National Association of Wheat Growers Foundation and the Monsanto Company.

Emig said he will fly out of Kansas City to attend the conference which runs from Monday, Jan. 29 through Saturday, Feb. 3 in New Orleans. The conference is a joint meeting of the National Association of Wheat Growers, U.S. Wheat



Nathan Emig

and the Wheat Foods Council. The theme is “Harvesting New Technology.”

Emig said he is looking forward to the conference.

He graduated in May from Kansas State University with a degree in agribusiness and lives about 12 miles southwest of Goodland. He has been farming with his father, Richard Emig, since May, growing wheat and

corn, with about 500 acres planted to wheat and about 600 acres to corn.

Some years, Emig said, they may plant sunflowers or pinto beans if conditions or prices call for it. He said it’s a family operation and he and his father share equipment and labor.

He said he learned about the grant from his college roommate, Lance Tischhauser of Council Grove. Tischhauser told him that Monsanto was offering a grant to go to the conference. “It sounded like a good opportunity

to be able to go to the conference,” Emig said.

Both men filled out applications and submitted them to the wheat grower association’s office in Manhattan. Tischhauser won the same award, of which 15 to 20 are given out each year. There were about 35 applicants in Kansas.

Emig said the only requirement of the grant was that he be able to attend the

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## Enjoy it while it lasts



Students at West Elementary School enjoyed a warm Thursday morning on the playground without thought of the snow forecast to cover Sherman County this weekend. Photo by Doug Jackson/The Goodland Daily News

# Widow of man murdered by suicidal jumper is from here

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

Traci Gurtner, a Goodland native, was waiting in her home in Salina late Thursday night when her husband’s boss and his wife came knocking at the door.

It was almost midnight, and Traci, who was waiting for her husband to get home from work, knew they weren’t bringing good news.

Lyn Gurtner, her husband of almost six years, was killed about two miles from their home when a 300-pound man jumped off a highway overpass at about 10:30 p.m., crashing into the windshield of the Schwan’s delivery truck Lyn was driving.

Officers say Jim Burkhead, a 33-year-old escaped psychiatric patient who was apparently committing suicide, and Lyn, a 36-year-old father of four, both died quickly.

“That is a visit you never want to get,” said Kindi Bauman, Traci’s older sister who owns KC’s Videos in Goodland with her husband, Chris. Bauman said Traci celebrated her husband’s 37th birthday on Tuesday.

Traci, 31, and Kindi, 34, were born in St. Francis but grew up in Goodland, where Traci lived until she moved in 1987 with their parents, Dale and Carolyn Lundin, to Salina. Bauman stayed behind to get married, but said her sister and parents moved back to Colby a few years later.

Friends introduced Traci and Lyn, who farmed north of Colby, and the couple really hit it off, Bauman said.

“Those two just clicked,” she said. “They were just a perfect pair.”

Lyn had a superstitious side, Bauman said, and insisted on marrying her sister at 7 p.m. on the seventh day of the seventh month, because he said seven was their lucky number.

After they married in 1995, she said, Traci and Lyn moved to Great Bend, where Lyn worked at Biofoam, a com-



A Christmas portrait of Lyn Gurtner and his family weeks before he was murdered by a man committing suicide. His wife Traci, a Goodland native, is shown along with Amanda, 16, Tanner, 11 and Tanzania, 2.

pany that manufactures biodegradable packing materials. The couple packed up again in April 1997 and headed for Salina, where Lyn had a job delivering frozen food for Schwan’s, the company Dale, Traci’s father, works for.

Bauman, who lives two miles west of Goodland, said she went numb when her parents called early Friday morning with the news.

She said she drove into town to tell

her grandmother, Denelda Tyrrell, who works at Aten Department Store, and at 2:30 a.m. she and her husband started on the four-hour drive to Salina.

Her brother-in-law died in such a senseless way, she said, that it was hard to believe it happened. Bauman said she ran “what if” questions through her mind. What if the man had jumped a

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# Study suggests schools merge

By John Milburn

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — A 15-month study suggests reorganizing the state’s 304 school districts and cutting the number to as low as 255 through mergers.

Consultants from a Denver firm reported their conclusions Wednesday to a joint meeting of the House and Senate Education committees and the State Board of Education. The Legislature ordered the study in 1999 in response to declining enrollments in many districts.

“I may not agree with everything they said, but certainly it moved us in the right direction,” said House Education Chairman Ralph Tanner, R-Baldwin City.

The study used two approaches to identify districts on which it said lawmakers should focus when discussing boundary changes.

One approach identified districts with low student performance and high per-pupil spending, and the other identified those that are too large or too small to be effective.

“This is not a political question, though we know it will be handled in a political way,” said John Augenblick of the firm Augenblick & Myers.

Twenty-eight districts were identified as low-performing and high-spending.

They are ones the Legislature has an interest in doing something about, Augenblick said.

The second, size-based approach assumed that high schools should serve between 100 and 900 pupils and have a comparable enrollment to support them.

Fifty districts were identified as too small, 24 as too large and two — Wichita and Shawnee Mission — as so large they might need to be broken into smaller districts.

The consultants combined the two approaches and suggested creating 43 new districts and reducing the number to 255 statewide.

Legislators reacted cautiously to the study but said the information is useful because it is data driven.

“It’s the best study I’ve seen in nine years,” said Rep. Jim Morrison, R-Colby and member of the House Education Committee. “This gives us options. It points out the problem.”

Senate Education Chairman Dwayne Umbarger, R-Thayer, said the correlation between money spent and test scores, as well as school groupings, foretold how accountability may figure into changes in school funding.

“We’re not only looking at schools too big, but schools too small,” Umbarger said. “Any time you’re advocating more school funding, you need to be able to argue why.”

He said he knows school mergers or consolidations are controversial, but they should be explored.

“I know there’s going to be a lot more questions,” he said.

# Districts targeted as too small or too big

TOPEKA (AP) — Here are the school districts identified by consultants hired by the State Board of Education as targets for reorganization.

The consultants, Augenblick and Myers, of Denver, suggested two approaches to identifying districts.

### APPROACH ONE (28)

—Districts that have low pupil performance and high per pupil spending, with their student head counts: Belle Plaine, 864; Chase-Raymond, 170; Elkhart, 527; Hanston, 135; Hillcrest, 150; Moscow, 260; Nes Tre La Go, 55; Washington, 370; West Solomon Valley, 74; and Udall 337.

—Districts with higher than expected per pupil spending and lower than average pupil performance for two years: Cedar Vale, 218; Chetopa, 282; Eastern Heights, 183; Elk Valley, 239; Fowler, 172; Herndon, 90; Triplains, 95; and Wathena 424.

—Districts with lower than expected pupil performance in 1998, lower than average performance in 1997 and per pupil spending above the predicted level: Bonner Springs 2,277; Caldwell 338; Kansas City Turner 3,704; Madison-Virgil 285; Mankato 277; Marysville 933; Neodesha 845; Oxford 421; Pleasanton 412 and South Haven 274.

### APPROACH TWO (76)

—Districts that are too small with only one high school.

Ashland, 268; Attica, 135; Bazine, 98; Brewster, 168; Burrton, 269; Cedar Vale, 218; Chase-Raymond, 170; Cheylin, 177; Copeland, 121; Dexter, 205; Eastern Heights, 183; Elk

Valley, 239; Fowler, 172; Golden Plains, 174; Grinnell, 139; Hamilton, 107; Hanston, 135; Haviland, 173; Healy, 125; Herndon, 90; Hillcrest, 150; Jewell, 185; Lewis, 187; Logan, 221.

Midway, 226; Montezuma, 234; Moscow, 260; Mullinville, 93; Nes Tre La Go, 55; North Central, 143; Northern Valley, 188; Palco, 165; Paradise, 158; Pawnee Heights, 168; Prairie Heights, 89; Rolla, 237; Sylvan Grove, 181; Smoky Hill, 141; Triplains, 95; Weskan, 132; West Graham-Morland, 66; West Solomon Valley, 74; West Smith County, 208; Wheatland, 182; White Rock, 164.

—Districts that are too small with more than one high school: Axtell, 363; Barnes, 502; Leroy-Gridley, 344; Rural Vista, 461 and Southern Cloud, 242.

—Districts that are too large relative to the number of the high schools: Auburn Washburn, 5,073; Blue Valley, 17,111; Derby, 6,800; Dodge City, 5,507; Emporia, 4,965; Garden City, 7,864; Geary County, 6,463; Goddard, 3,679; Great Bend, 3,245; Hays, 3,398; Haysville, 4,697; Hutchinson, 4,975.

Kansas City, 21,173; Kansas City Turner, 3,704; Lawrence, 10,459; Leavenworth, 4,338; Liberal, 4,281; Maize, 5,308; Manhattan, 5,724; Newton, 3,524; Olathe, 20,703; Salina, 7,727 and Topeka Seaman, 3,359.

—Districts that are too large: Shawnee Mission, 30,765; and Wichita 48,228.