

weather report

49°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 5:22 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:38 a.m.
• Sunset, 5:23 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 22 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds northwest 15 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.26 inches and falling
- Record High 68° (1947)
- Record Low -8° (1936)

Last 24 Hours*

High 51°
Low 25°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: clear, low 20-25, wind northwest 10-20 shifting to west. Tomorrow: sunny, high upper 50s, low upper 20s, light and variable winds.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly sunny, high near 60. Monday: partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers during the day, then slight chance of snow during the night, low near 30, high lower 50s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.58 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.56
- Corn — \$1.90 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.84
Loan deficiency payment — 15¢
- Milo — \$1.62 bushel
- Soybeans — \$3.77 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.73
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.19
- Millet — \$3.50 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$9.20 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 56¢
- Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$25

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

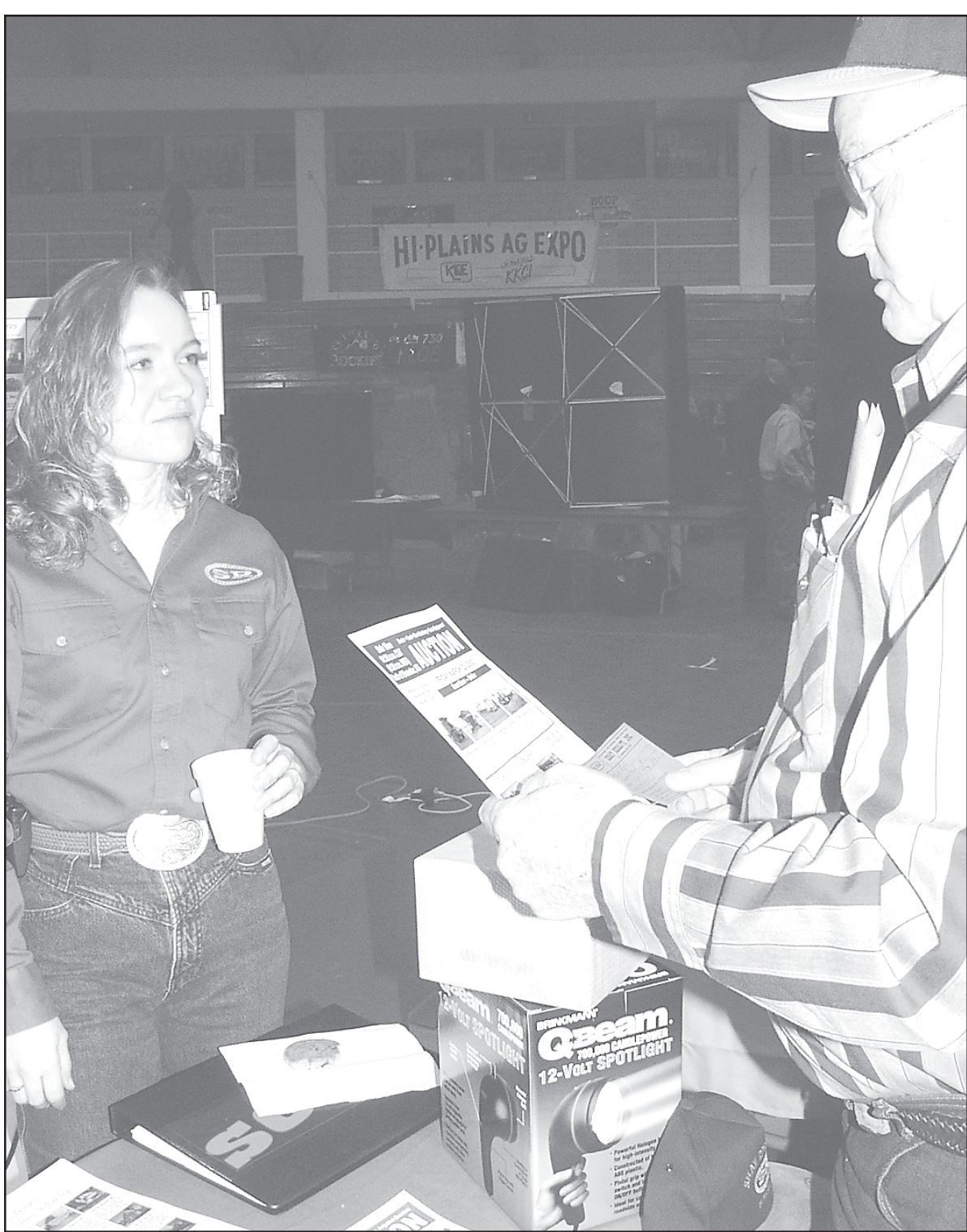
Late news from the Associated Press
1 p.m.

Lawyer taking testimony

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — The Wyandotte County district attorney began taking deposition-style testimony Thursday from people involved in the Piper High School plagiarism controversy.

District Attorney Nick Tomasic issued subpoenas last week for members of the Piper school board, district administrators and Christine Pelton, the teacher involved in the case.

Pelton, a biology teacher in the eastern Kansas school district, resigned in December after the board overruled her decision to give zeros to 28 sophomores she accused of plagiarizing a botany project from the Internet. Tomasic said Pelton would be the first to testify Thursday, followed by board members and administrators on Friday. He said he was investigating whether the board violated the Kansas Open Meetings Act.



People spend and learn at annual expo

Diana Argabright (above) showed a poster of one of the properties she has for sale to a visitor at the Shay Realty booth at the Hi-Plains Ag Expo in Goodland on Thursday. Troy Pool of Gray County Wind Farm gave a speech and slide presentation on wind power at the expo.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Daily News



Fifth grader 'heckles' way to top spot in bee

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

North School held its annual spelling bee Wednesday, and 16 students competed to be the school's top speller.

Brad Geist won the spelling showdown, beating runner-up Aaron Deeds by correctly spelling "receipt," which Deeds missed, and "heckle."

The four finalists, Geist, Cameron Morris and Chelsie Gausman, all fifth graders, and Deeds, a sixth grader, will go on to compete in the district spelling bee at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Goodland High School auditorium.

Central Elementary will be represented by Chance Davis and Elaine Reiter, fourth graders, and Grant Junior High will send Chelsea Gray, Cory Yarbrough, Emily Boster and Brandon Zelfer, all eighth graders.

Winners from the district bee will go to state finals April 6 in Topeka.

At North, the contest started easily enough with teacher Pam Hardy pronouncing a practice round. With the likes of "risk," "drink," and "blast," nobody missed a word.

Then things started to get a little tougher. Eight students were knocked out in the first round with parsley (p-a-r-c-l-e-y), marathon (m-a-r-t-h-o-n), dabble (d-a-b-l-e), meal (m-e-l-e), afresh (a-f-r-e-s-h), meddle (m-e-d-d-l-e), beset (b-e-a-s-e-t), and effort (e-f-f-e-r-t). Only one failed in the second

round, misspelling ogle (o-g-o-l).

The seven remaining contestants lasted through the next two rounds. Among the words they correctly spelled: narrative, decent, affixed and patient.

One boy fell out in the fifth round, unable to spell membrane (m-e-m-b-r-a-i-n-e). The next to fall out of the competition came in the seventh round, with sector (s-e-c-t-o-r).

"Maize," (m-a-z-e) proved too hard in the eighth, and "beige," (b-e-i-s-e) stumped Gausman in the ninth, leaving only three. The tenth round ended when Morris missed annex (a-n-e-x).

When the contest came down to the last two contestants, Geist and Aaron, the rules changed and a student was not expelled for one wrong spelling. To win, a contestant had to spell his opponent's misspelled word and one of his own.

Both Deeds and Geist missed annual (a-n-u-l-l and a-n-o-a-l) and abrasive (a-b-r-a-i-s-i-v-e and a-b-b-r-a-i-s-s-i-v-e). After they fielded "falcon," "kettle," "byway," "dazzle" and "memorial," Geist drew "sausage" and spelled it with a noticeable hesitation before adding the "e." The judges had to make a decision, and allowed Geist the spell. Deeds drew "receipt" next and forgot the "p." Geist spelled it right, and went on to correctly spell "heckle" to win the bee.

Ice skaters get gold after all

U.S. ties medal record of 13

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Four days after the fact, Canadians Jamie Sale and David Pelletier are gold medalists after all.

The International Skating Union and International Olympic Committee tried clearing up the pairs mess that has lingered over the games like a dark cloud by announcing today the second-place finishers in Monday night's event could trade in their silver for gold.

The Russian duo of Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze get to keep their golds, too, and the French judge behind the scandal was suspended for misconduct.

"It was resolved fast in the best possible way," IOC president Jacques Rogge said. "I'm happy for the resolution. This is definitely now a closed matter. I believe the attention will go back to the athletes from this point on."

The big news from competition early today was the United States matching its record for medals at a Winter Olympics with 13 by snagging two medals in the luge doubles.

Mark Grimmette and Brian Martin took silver and teammates Chris Thorpe and Clay Ives got bronze. The gold went to Patric-Fritz Leitner and Alexander Resch of Germany. This makes seven straight days with medals for the U.S. team. On Thursday night, figure skater Timothy Goebel kept the streak going with a bronze. It was the first by an American male in his sport since 1992. Russians Alexei Yagudin and Evgeni Plushenko finished 1-2.

Also today, Russia's Larissa Lazutina finished 0.2 seconds behind teammate Olga Danilova in the classical style portion of the women's cross country pursuit.

Legislators plan visits next week

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Have questions about what Congress is doing? There's a good chance you'll get them answered next week.

Sen. Sam Brownback will be in Goodland on Monday, Sen. Pat Roberts is coming on Tuesday and Rep. Jerry Moran will be here Wednesday, all while Congress is taking a week off for President's Day.

Sen. Brownback will fly into Goodland around 7:30 a.m. on Monday. Though he will not hold a meeting here, he has set aside about 20 minutes to talk with reporters.

He then plans to drive to Sharon Springs, where he will lead a town hall-style meeting from 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. at the Wallace County Senior Center, 223 N. Main. Brownback will also be visiting Tribune, Syracuse, Leoti and Lakin that day. For meeting times, call Ian Spurgeon, Brownback's deputy press secretary, at (202) 224-8950.

Sen. Roberts will give a legislative report and answer questions during a breakfast buffet at 7:30 a.m. on Tues-

day at the Safari Steakhouse in the Goodland Elks Lodge, 1523 Arcade.

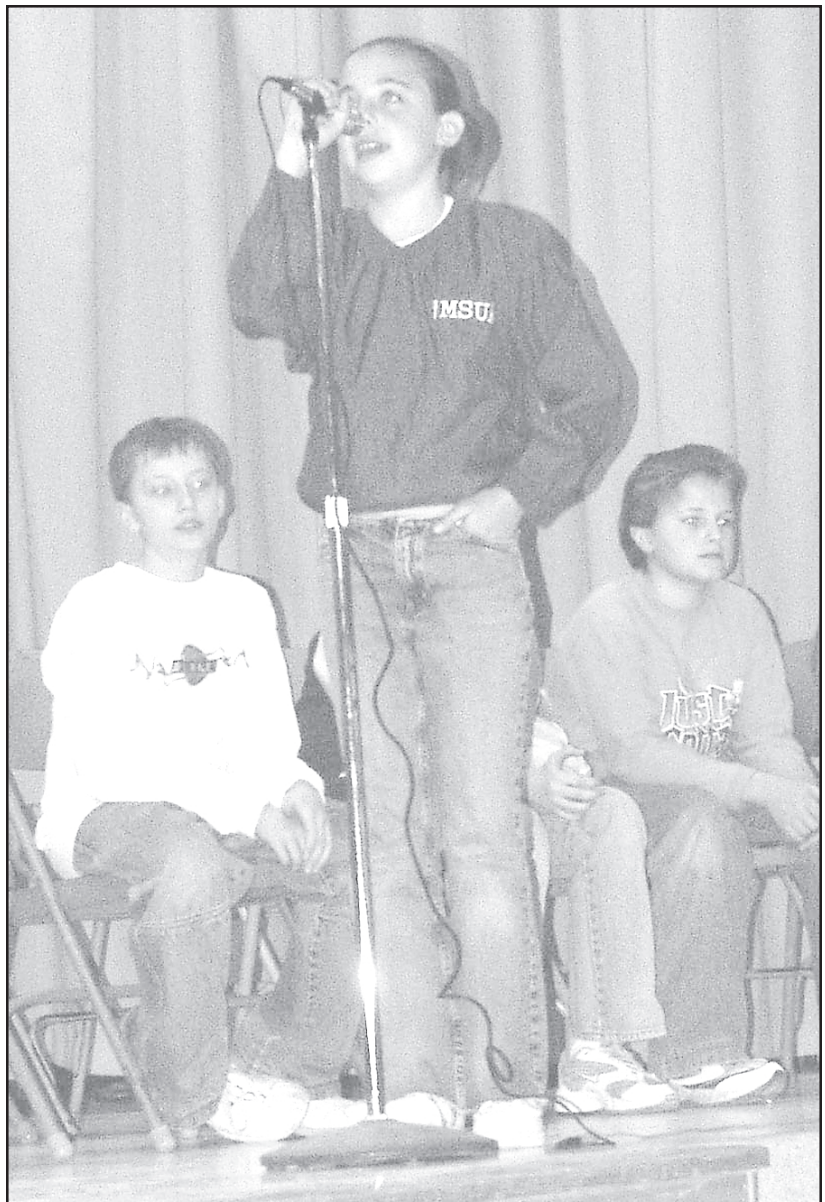
Tickets, at \$7 a person, are available at the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce, 104 W. 11th. For information, call (785) 899-7130.

If you can't make the breakfast, Sen. Roberts will be holding town hall-style meetings at 9 a.m. at the Wallace County Senior Center and at 11 a.m. at the community building on Main Street in Leoti.

Rep. Moran will be stopping by Goodland on Wednesday on his annual 66-county "Big First Listening Tour." The 5,000-mile tour began in Almena in early February and will end in Zurich on April 6.

Moran will talk about legislative issues and answer questions from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Elks Lodge. He will be at Van Allen Implement in Wheeler, at the junction of U.S. 36 and K-27, from 8 to 9 a.m.

The congressman will visit Morland, Hoxie, Oberlin and Atwood on Tuesday. For information, call his office at (202) 225-2715.



A student at North Elementary tried her luck at the annual spelling bee on Wednesday.
Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Officials take off Monday

The Goodland City commissioners will meet Tuesday so the commissioners and city workers can celebrate President's Day on Monday.

The commissioner usually hold regular meetings on Monday. When they get back from the weekend, they will discuss repairing water well No. 7 and closing down wells 2 and 4.

They will vote to appoint someone to the Recreation Board and discuss a grant request from the Goodland Arts Center.

They will have a resolution designating depositories for the city's money, and discuss an ordinance eliminating a utility easement.

The commissioners will vote on requesting payment by the state Department of Transportation for the brick intersection project on Main.

City Manager Ron Pickman will read a letter from the department regarding the railroad crossing at Cattletrail, and the commission will set a time for the annual utility review workshop.