

weather report

29°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 5:53 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:57 a.m.
• Sunset, 5:54 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 37 degrees
• Humidity 69 percent
• Sky cloudy
• Winds north 10 m.p.h.
• Barometer 30.10 inches and steady
• Record High 82° (1935)
• Record Low 5° (1952)

Last 24 Hours*

High 41°
Low 21°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, low upper teens, winds south 5-10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: partly sunny, high upper 40s, low upper 20s, winds south 10-20 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: mostly sunny high mid 50s. Monday: partly cloudy, chance of snow or rain showers late, high upper 50s, low mid 20s.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.61 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.49
Corn — \$1.87 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.87
Loan deficiency payment — 12¢
Milo — \$1.60 bushel
Soybeans — \$4.09 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.00
Loan deficiency payment — 92¢
Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$9.60 cwt.
NuSun — \$9.75 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 26¢
Confection current — \$16/\$8 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$26

(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.

Transsexual union invalid

TOPEKA — A marriage between a man and a transsexual woman is not valid in Kansas, the state Supreme Court declared today.

The justices ruled in the case of J’Noel Gardiner, whose right to inherit half of her late husband’s \$2.5 million estate has been challenged because she was born a man.

The court unanimously said she could not inherit his property.

Born in Wisconsin, she had sex change surgeries in 1994 and 1995. She married Marshall Gardiner in September 1998 in Oskaloosa. She was 40 and he was 85. They lived in Leavenworth County, but he died the next year of a heart attack without a will.

His son, Joe Gardiner, learned about J’Noel Gardiner’s surgery after his father’s death and challenged the validity of the marriage.

Wheat crop outlook isn’t ‘real rosy’

Warm, dry winter has taken its toll on plants

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

Dana Belshe, Sherman County extension agent, said the wheat crop condition “isn’t real rosy right now,” even with the snow that has fallen recently.

The crop needs moisture, he said, noting some fields in the county are extremely dry and are thinning.

“The crops are still hurting,” Belshe said, “and they’re getting worse. If we don’t get some good, substantial rainfall soon the crop yield is going to be very low.”

The county has received .59 inches of moisture so far this year, said Brooke Taber, meteorologist at the National Weather Service here. He said that is about three-quarters of an inch below normal.

The inch of snow the county got on Friday provided about .01 inches of moisture, he said.

Taber said the weather service is expecting normal precipitation for the rest of the month, but the total for March

will still be below normal.

With warm weather on its way, Belshe said the wheat crop is going to be coming out of dormancy soon. He said the crop will need much more water when the young plants start growing.

Some of the wheat in the county is already green at the base, he said.

Wheat stays dormant in the winter, Belshe said, and starts to grow when the ground gets above 40 degrees and the air temperature is in the 50s and 60s.

Most of the crop has time to recover, Belshe said, but some of it is already so damaged the plants will still have low yields no matter how much moisture falls.

Farmers with no irrigation can’t do anything to help their crops,

Belshe said, adding that even some of the fields with irrigation are having a tough time. It hasn’t warmed up enough for most farmers to use their irrigation sprinklers, he said. If they are used, the sprinklers would ice up and

collapse.

Farmers in the county haven’t had to deal with disease or insects so far, Belshe said. If there had been more moisture, he said, the wheat would be healthy.

The county has fields classified as poor, Belshe said, and some very poor. A few fields are moderately good, he said, noting it’s pretty much the same through out Kansas.

The southwest part of the state has been hit hardest, Jim Shroyer, an extension wheat specialist, told The Associated Press.

“People (there) are going to be making tough decisions on whether to destroy their fields or not,” he said. “I can destroy it, hope it rains, and plant a row crop or — instead of destroying the wheat — I can hope it rains and keep the wheat.”

Farmers won’t have to make that decision until April, he said.

“It is a little early to write (the crop) off,” he added.



Unharvested milo sits in a dry, dusty field south of Goodland. The farmer who owns the land may have decided the crop wasn’t worth picking. Many fields in Sherman County are looking brown after an exceptionally dry winter, and the wheat crop is starting the growing season in a bad position.

Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News



Shown is part of a mural that has decorated the lobby of Goodland’s post office since 1937. Painted by Topeka native Kenneth Adams, it

was part of the U.S. Treasury Department’s Section on Fine Arts project that ran from 1936-1942 to provide work for Depression-era artists.

Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

New deal artwork still found in Kansas

By Carl Manning

Associated Press Writer

SENECA — The bold brush strokes and rich colors on the post office wall illustrate the saga of Kansas wheat farmers working beneath dark storm skies.

It’s a mural that’s been on the wall since 1940, but often unnoticed by those who enter the post office lobby to mail letters or buy stamps.

“A lot of people aren’t aware of it, not aware of its value,” said Postmaster Ken Hiltgen. “They aren’t observ-

ant, I guess.”

Hiltgen said he’s one of the 5-by-12 foot mural’s biggest fans.

“There’s hardly a day that goes by that I don’t look up and admire it. It’s a great piece of work,” he said.

Titled “Men and Wheat,” the mural by Joe Jones was part of the U.S. Treasury Department’s Section on Fine Arts project that ran from 1936-1942 to provide work for Depression-era artists.

At least 26 Kansas post offices received such artwork and 22 still func-

tion with the artwork intact.

A mural titled “Rural Free Delivery” has decorated the lobby of Goodland’s post office since 1937 and shows a rural farm family gathering around a mail man sitting in a buggy pulled by a horse. It was painted by Kenneth Adams, a Topeka native born in 1897, and was restored in July 1989.

Nationally, more than 1,300 post-office commissions were awarded.

“They collectively occupy a distinctive position in our cultural history with the unprecedented outlay of pub-

lic funding for decorative art projects,” said Charles Eldredge, University of Kansas professor of art history and American studies.

“I don’t know if the idea was so much on posterity as it was the immediate crisis. The effort was to keep cultural workers alive and productive,” he said.

Of the 22 active post offices, all but one — Fort Scott — are listed on the National Register of Historic Places

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Family begs jury for life

Child killer called good mom by friends

By Pam Easton

Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Calling the woman who drowned her five children in the bathtub a wonderful mother, tearful relatives begged a jury not to impose the death sentence.

“I’m here pleading for her life,” Andrea Yates’ 73-year-old mother, Jutta Karin Kennedy, told jurors as she cried.

“I’ve lost seven people in one year,” said Kennedy, referring to the slaying of her five grandchildren, the death of her husband and the conviction of her daughter in the children’s deaths.

Defense attorneys called Yates’ family, friends and a psychiatrist to testify Thursday in an attempt to save her life.

Prosecutors offered no witnesses or evidence. All of the evidence was admitted during the trial, assistant district attorney Joe Owmsby said.

Yates, 37, was convicted Tuesday of two capital murder charges for killing three of the children. She is now in the penalty phase of her trial and could be sentenced to life in prison or death by injection.

District Judge Belinda Hill said deliberations would begin Friday after closing arguments.

Jurors began hearing evidence Thursday about whether Yates is a future danger and if there is mitigating evidence to keep her from being executed, the two questions they must answer under Texas law in the punishment phase.

The decision by prosecutors not to offer additional evidence was in line with their strategy, legal experts said.

“Their strategy in this case has been just to hammer away at the enormity of

See CHILDREN, Page 4

School board may accept \$15,000 offer for Edson gym

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

After putting off a decision at the first meeting of the month, the Goodland School Board on Monday will discuss accepting a \$15,000 bid for the Edson gymnasium from an auctioneer.

Members will also discuss a grant writer program the board agreed to form with the city and county commissions, evaluate the district’s five principals and decide whether to give money for a summer art program. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at the administration building on Main.

The board decided to sell the Edson gym earlier this year in the face of money problems caused partially by dropping enrollment and budget troubles at the state level.

Members opened three bids at their last meeting and it was no contest — the top bid from Tom

Harrison, co-owner of TNT Auction, was triple the second-highest offer. Harrison, branch broker for Homeland Real Estate in Goodland, said TNT wants to hold auctions in the gym and will spend about \$3,000 for a removable floor covering.

He said his main goal is preserving the gym for the Edson community, which at one time was considering buying the gym. Harrison said community members will be able to use the facility.

In the bid, Harrison said he would charge the district, which used the facility about 30 days last year and paid about \$14,000 for utilities, \$325 a day to hold sports practices or games in the gym. That means the district could pay \$10,000 a year for the gym, but Harrison said he would be willing to negotiate the rent price.

Although board members said they felt it is the best offer they’ll get and that it would be nice to

have a business in the vacant building, they put off a decision. The main reason was that Dick Short, board president, and member Mike Campbell were not at the meeting and members wanted their input.

In other business, Superintendent Marvin Selby will discuss the terms and bylaws of a new grant writer program with the board. Earlier this year, members voted to pay \$12,000 to hire someone to secure grants for the school district, city and county.

The city and county also agreed to pitch in \$12,000 each for the program, which will be reviewed at the end of one year. Schyler Goodwin, president of the Goodland Development Corp., proposed the idea and is a member of the board formed to run the program. A grant writer has not been hired yet.

Members will go behind closed doors to do annual principal evaluations. The board is legally allowed to talk about personnel in private.

They will also consider giving money to the Goodland Arts Council for an annual summer arts program. Selby said he thinks the board paid \$1,000 for the program last year.

The board will discuss granting S&T Communications in Brewster an easement on district-owned land near the high school track so the company can build a 12 feet by 12 feet communications building. S&T plans to install fiber optic lines to provide telephone, long distance, Internet and cable television service in Goodland.

Members will hear reports from Superintendent Selby, the principals and Campbell, who represents the district on the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center board in Oakley.