

weather report

23°
at noon



Today
 • Sunset, 4:48 p.m.
Tomorrow
 • Sunrise, 6:14 a.m.
 • Sunset, 4:47 p.m.
Midday Conditions
 • Soil Temperature 37.9 degrees
 • Humidity 81 percent
 • Sky Cloudy
 • Winds northwest - 16 mph
 • Barometer 30.25 inches and falling
 • Record High 91° (1950)
 • Record Low 7° (1993)
Last 24 Hours*
 High 44°
 Low 24°
 Precipitation .59

Northwest Kansas Forecast
 Tonight: Cloudy, 30 percent chance of snow, lows near 20, light east wind. Tomorrow: Cloudy, continued cold, highs 25-30, southeast wind around 10 mph, 30 percent chance of snow, lows 20-25.

Extended Forecast
 Friday: Partly sunny, continued cold, high 30-35, lows 15-20. Saturday: Partly cloudy and warmer, high upper 40s. Sunday: Mostly clear, low mid 20s, highs mid 50s.
 (National Weather Service)
 Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
 * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon
 Wheat — \$4.35 bushel
 Posted county price — \$4.32
 Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
 Corn — \$2.61 bushel
 Posted county price — \$2.35
 Loan deficiency payment — 0.00¢
 Milo — \$2.28 hundredweight
 Soybeans — \$5.03 bushel
 Posted county price — \$4.98
 Loan deficiency payment — 0.00¢
 Millet — \$14 hundredweight
 Sunflowers
 Oil current crop — \$11.90 cwt.
 Loan deficiency pmt. — \$0.00
 Confection current — \$17/\$7 cwt.
 Pinto beans — \$18 (new crop)
 (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.
New charges add to debate

GREENBELT, Md. — New federal weapons and extortion charges against sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad added to the debate over which jurisdiction will be the first to prosecute him and his alleged partner in the attacks.
 Muhammad, 41, and John Lee Malvo, 17, already are charged with murder in Maryland and Virginia in the attacks that left 10 people dead and three others critically wounded. They are also charged with an Alabama slaying last month and are suspected in a February killing in Washington state.
 Both have been in federal custody since shortly after their arrest.
 A senior Justice Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity, rejected any notion that Muhammad or Malvo appeared ready to confess.

Snow, rain good, but still too little

By Rachel Hixson
The Goodland Daily News
 Goodland has received almost 2 inches of snow and about .59 of an inch of rain since Tuesday morning, and while the moisture is good for the recently-planted wheat crop it's not enough to pull this area out of a drought designation.
 Mike Lammers, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Goodland, said most northwest Kansas counties have received between 1 and 2 inches of snow and one-third to two-thirds of an inch of rain since Tuesday. He

said eastern Colorado got more, with some counties receiving up to 7 inches of snow and one-quarter of an inch of rain.
 With the snow and rain that fell on Goodland last week, Lammers said this area has received over an inch of rain in two weeks. He said that's good news for the wheat crop, but moisture will have to keep falling through the winter to make up for the drought this summer.
 "We're still way behind because of the drought," Lammers said, noting that Goodland is still 8.66 inches below the normal moisture level

for this time of year.
 This area is still considered to be in a drought, he said, but the situation isn't as critical.
 "It's getting better," he said.
 Lammers said this area usually doesn't get much precipitation through the winter. He said the big snow and rain storms usually show up around mid-January and last into the spring.
 The weather during the past two weeks has been wetter and colder than normal, Lammers said, adding that the high temperature for this time of year is normally in the 50s.

He said the temperature probably won't rise above 30 degrees today.
 The early winter weather has been caused by a strong high pressure system in Canada moving south instead of east, Lammers said. This weekend the flow is expected to turn west, he said, which means warmer, drier weather.
 Until then, Lammers said, Goodland could be seeing more of the white stuff, as there is a 30 percent chance of snow for Thursday night. He said long-range forecasts predict this winter could be colder and wetter in northwest Kansas.

District may not sell gym

By Rachel Hixson
The Goodland Daily News
 The Goodland School Board decided on Monday that the district will pay no more than \$50 a day to rent the Edson gym for sports practices or it will not sell the facility to two Goodland businessmen.
 Board members accepted a \$20,000 offer on the gym from Jay Herl, who runs Herl Chevrolet, and Chuck Wilkens, owner of Wilkens Truck and Trailer, at their previous meeting, but stipulated they wouldn't sell the facility unless they could rent it back at a fair price. The bid from Wilkens and Herl said they would rent the gym to the district, but it didn't name a price.
 The district uses the gym, which is about 10 miles east of Goodland, about 32 days a year for junior high sports practices and one or two games. The board paid about \$5,500 last year for heat and light in the gym.
 The board gave Superintendent Marvin Selby permission to negotiate with Herl and Wilkens on a rent price.
 Selby said at Monday's meeting that he met with the men and they proposed the district pay \$6,000 a year to rent the gym. The superintendent said the men felt they would need that amount to pay for maintenance of the facility. Herl and Wilkens were both out of town and couldn't make the meeting.
 "It didn't take me long to figure out we won't pay \$6,000 to use our own building," Selby said.
 Board members decided they would be willing to pay \$50 a day for practices, which last about two hours, and \$150 for a game day, which could take longer. They discussed signing a 3-to-5-year lease with Herl and Wilkens and including that the district will stop renting the gym if it isn't maintained well.
 Selby said he would take the counterproposal back to the men. If they don't accept it, the board agreed they probably won't sell the gym.
 It wouldn't be the first time the board has rejected all bids on the gym.
 They first took bids earlier this year but rejected all of them in March, including the high bid of \$15,000 from TNT Auction.
 Member Ben Duell brought up the subject again this summer, saying he thought the board should have sold to TNT, which planned to hold auctions in the gym and rent it back to the district. The board had the building appraised and took bids again.
 This time, TNT bid \$10,000 and Herl and Wilkens \$20,000. Wilkens said he and Herl, who are both involved with the Mid-America Youth Basketball organization, will allow people to practice basketball and other sports in the gym.
 The well that supplies water to the gym isn't working and Selby said it will cost about \$2,500 to fix it.



Zach Lohr, Tad Davis and Bryan Lee (left to right) sang the lyrics they wrote with Ann Zimmerman who played the song on the keyboard Tuesday.
 Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

Salinan shares love of melodies

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Daily News
 Fifth and sixth graders at North Elementary School tested their creativity writing new song lyrics for well-known melodies Monday and Tuesday at song-writing workshops conducted by Salina Native Ann Zimmerman.
 Zimmerman asked students in Linda McKee's sixth grade class to think of events people often sing for, and the students came up with singing because they're happy, sad, bored or just because they feel like it.
 "What about birthdays?" Zimmerman asked. "Do people sing for birthdays?"
 She wrote the words to the "Happy Birthday" song on the sheet for the overhead projector and asked the students questions to get them to analyze the song.
 That lines one, two and four have the same words and that the line has six syllables but only five beats were among the things she helped the students to see.
 After singing the song and analyzing it, Zimmerman asked the students to come up with words to replace lines one, two and four. A student suggested, "P.E. is real fun."
 Then Zimmerman asked the students to come up with a related line to replace line three of the birthday song. After several students suggested lines with too few syllables and too many syllables, the class worked up the line, "Mr. Scheopner wears Nikes."
 The students and Zimmerman agreed the line had nothing to do with "P.E. is real fun," so the students worked on a line that says why P.E. is fun. Finally, the song was completed with "because we play dodge ball."
 Next, Zimmerman put the words to "Home on the Range" up and asked



Jessica Bauman (left) and Hannah Blake (front) and Danielle Pettibone, BreAnna Nemecek and Natashia Cecil (left to right in the back) cooked up new lyrics to a song.

The students were on such a roll, Goodwin said, that some who had workshops on Monday, approached Zimmerman on Tuesday to tell her they had written more verses to the song.
 Representing the Goodland Arts Council, Goodwin contacted Zimmerman and the schools to set up a schedule for her to perform at the elementary schools and hold the workshops.
 At the same time, Goodwin said, the Western Plains Arts Association contacted Zimmerman to schedule her performance in St. Francis on Sunday, Oct. 27.
 "It was nice to have two organizations share one artist," Goodwin said. "She worked with all of us to schedule."
 Zimmerman is with a Kansas Arts Commission touring program, Goodwin said, which allows organizations to apply for a grant to pay for 40 percent of the artist's fee for her visit. For the visit to Goodland schools and a performance Monday at Wheat Ridge Acres, she said, Bankwest paid the other 60 percent of the fee from a community grant fund.
 Zimmerman has two CD's, "Canned Goods" and "Love & Weather," which are available on her web site at www.annzimmerman.com.
 She grew up in Salina, singing folksongs with her family to the strums of her mother's autoharp. She has been an elementary teacher, a bank clerk, a plumbing catalog editor, an agricultural intern, a student and graduate of Harvard Law School, president of a Kansas environmental organization and a long-time legal aid lawyer.
 She lives near Salina on a horse-breeding farm and divides her time between legal mediation and music.

Under fire himself, Kline puts heat on Democrat opponent

By John Hanna
AP Political Writer
 TOPEKA — He's faced the criticism of being unqualified, but Republican Phill Kline has still managed to put Democrat Chris Biggs on the defensive at times in their race for attorney general.
 Kline's campaign has raised questions about how Biggs, as Geary County prosecutor, handled a 1998 murder case in which all charges were

eventually dropped. Kline has also made an issue of Biggs' testimony last year on behalf of a family friend who is a convicted sex offender.
 Democrats had hoped to recapture the attorney general's office after 28 years because Kline never has been a prosecutor and, for brief periods over the past 15 years, let his law license lapse.
 But with the weight of the GOP's traditional political advantages behind

him in the final days before the Nov. 5 general election, Kline appears likely to win. Some ardent critics seem resigned to it.
 "He'll do fine," said Sen. David Adkins, of Leawood, who lost the GOP primary to Kline. "Most of those offices are big enough that they can survive any one person who gets elected."
 Kline, 42, served eight years in the state House, a leader of Republicans who fought for large tax cuts and tried

to forge conservative social policy. Two years ago, he ran for the 3rd Congressional District seat, losing narrowly to incumbent Democrat Dennis Moore.
 Biggs, 43, of Junction City, has been a prosecutor since 1988. He received statewide attention in 1998 for winning a second-degree murder conviction against a woman whose Rottweilers fatally mauled an 11-year-old boy. The conviction was upheld by the Kansas Supreme Court.

Recently, Kline, of Shawnee, pointed to two cases as examples of what he maintains is Biggs abusing his office.
 The first case involved a former state trooper, Lee J. Booher, charged by a grand jury with first-degree murder in the death of Sukran Caldwell, of Junction City, a longtime friend. An alternate charge was assisting a suicide.