

**weather
report****34°**

noon Thursday

Today
•Sunset, 5:01 p.m.
Saturday
•Sunrise, 6:57 a.m.
•Sunset, 5:02 p.m.**Midday Conditions**
•Soil temperature 34 degrees
•Humidity 85 percent
•Sky cloudy
•Winds southeast 22-28 mph.
•Barometer 30.08 inches
and rising
•Record High today 68° (1986)
•Record Low today -16° (1948)**Last 24 Hours***
High Wednesday 52°
Low Wednesday 30°
Precipitation trace
This month .08
Year to date .08
Normal .38**The Topside Forecast**
Today: cloudy with patchy fog
and a 60 percent chance of snow
with an accumulation of around
one inch, high near 33, low near
28, winds 6-11 mph. Saturday:
partly cloudy with a 20 percent
chance of snow showers after
midnight, high around 44, low
around 26, winds south southeast
5-8 mph.**Extended Forecast**
Sunday: 30 percent chance of
snow. Monday: high 48.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.**local
markets****Noon**
Wheat — \$3.02 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.14
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$1.75 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.73
Loan deficiency pmt. — 22¢
Milo — \$6 bushel
Soybeans — \$4.52 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.86
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$6 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$11.70 cwt.
NuSun — \$11.80 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Confection — \$19/\$13 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$25
(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun,
Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century
Bean. These may not be closing figures.)**inside
today**More local
news and
views from
your
Goodland
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Candidate filings cause primary

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

When the closing bell sounded Tuesday there were eight candidates for the city commission, eight for the school board, four for Kanorado mayor and five for the city council.

Sherman County Clerk Janet Rumpel said there will be a primary for the city commission and school board to cut the field down to the top six for each, and the Kanorado mayor to cut the field to two candidates. There will not be a primary for

the Kanorado city council because the number of candidates did not exceed the number of seats open with two people running for each open seat.

Candidates for the three school board seats include Dick Short, who is seeking reelection and is the owner of Short and Son Trucking. The Rev. Chad M. DeJong of the Goodland Bible Church was the first to file for the school board on Monday morning. That afternoon Short and Greg Stover, freelance sports

writer filed their applications.

Before the deadline LeAnn Friedrichs a Sherman County trial clerk, Andrew House a farmer and rancher, Amy Sederstrom a bookkeeper for Truck and Tractor, Jason Showalter a county deputy sheriff and Dr. Gary Smith veterinarian and owner of Prairieland Veterinary Clinic.

Five candidates filed late Monday and Tuesday morning to bring the total to eight for the city commission. Annette Fairbanks of Teeters

Abstract and Title, and Michael Miller of Miller Construction filed Monday afternoon. John Garcia of Garcia's Home Furnishing filed early Tuesday morning, and is the only incumbent commissioner on the ballot. John Golden rancher, farmer and former city commissioner filed Tuesday morning as did Brent Wood financial consultant for AIG.

Joshua Dechant of Bankwest had filed two weeks ago, and Gary Farris of Farris Manufacturing and

David Walker of the Kit Carson County Correctional Center had filed on Friday.

Monday there were three candidates for Kanorado Mayor, but Tuesday before the deadline Gerald Webber added his name to bring it to four. Mayor Robert Helderman filed for reelection on Jan. 13, and Dennis Korbek filed on Jan. 14. The first to file was Bob Handle on Jan. 7.

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Grant Junior High Spelling Bee winner eighth-grader Brad Geist (above right) pulled out a number corresponding to a word for him to spell in the Grant Junior High spelling bee Wednesday. Librarian Marsha Smith (left) read the words as English teacher Toni Becker watched. Kaleb Klemm, (right) eighth grader and runner up in the bee, watched the panel of judges as he was given one of the tough words in the competition.

Photos by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

Spelling bee real sweat

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

M-O-L-E-C-U-L-E was the winning word for eighth grader Brad Geist in the Grant Junior High Qualifying Spelling Bee Wednesday.

Geist almost fell to runner up eighth grader Austin Klemm when he slipped up with acquittal. Neither could spell it, but with one extra "I" tacked on the end, Klemm lost his last chance to beat Geist.

About ten proud parents showed up in the quiet library at 8 a.m. to cheer on their children and mentally check their own spelling.

Almost all fourteen of the contestants remained in the bee until teachers switched to a set of tougher words.

When it was down to four, eighth grader Whitney Shields and then eighth grader Chelsie Gausman both missed their words.

Shields, Gausman, Klemm and Geist will all go on to the district spelling bee at the High School.

When the round was down to just two, Geist and Klemm spelled "fluidity," "amateur," "obnoxious," "exasperate," "decency," "bilingual," "pageantry," "acquittal,"

"physicist" and "molecule." Both misspelled "thoracic," "apostrophe," and "acquittal." Klemm missed conqueror then Geist got it right and moved on to the winning word.

The top fourteen who participated in the bee were Gausman; Geist; Klemm; Shields; Kaleb Keith, seventh grade; Rory Kling, eighth; Josh Lamb, eighth; Zach Lohr, eighth; Devin Mangus, eighth; Eduardo Martinez, seventh; Colton Nelson, seventh; Linsey Owens, eighth; Keegan Smith, eighth; and Michelle Smith, eighth.

Laptops would bring school into computer age

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland School District heard a plan Monday to provide a laptop computer for each high school student, and decided to form a group to study the proposal.

Administrators said the computers could allow teachers to do more and let students absorb information in new ways, but at least one board member warned that the idea was way too expensive for the cash-strapped district.

Karla Murray, technology coordinator for the district, and High School Principal Harvey Swager proposed what they are calling a "one-to-one initiative," one computer for one student.

Do we move forward into new technology and give our kids the

High school kids speak against technology plan

Two students, sophomore Michael Smith and senior Craig Mason, spoke out Monday against a proposal to buy a computer for each Goodland High School student.

Smith said the personal data assistants given to junior high students haven't been a success.

"I don't see any students using them," he said. Not all students, he said, are interested in multiple types of media. Smith said he wants to focus on only one thing at a time in his classes.

"I don't want music in the background," he said. "I love technology, but I don't think it needs to be incorporated in everything. It's a good aid, but it's not necessary."

Smith said he dislikes iTunes, a program on Apple computers that plays music. He said students could easily buy a clear-string headphone and listen to music on the iTunes, ignoring the lessons.

"I could be listening to rap music," he said.

The school currently allows cell phone use and, Smith said, although they can not turn them on, students text message all the time anyway.

"Students in the classroom are not obeying the rules right now," he said.

Smith argued the computer labs are always open to students and normally not occupied. He said if students use the computers at school, they

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advantages of a digital age? they asked, or do we continue to teach the same way and save the school district the cost and trouble of an unnecessary upgrade?

The two went to see how the plan

would work early last month at a school in Omaha. Each student in a video shown at the meeting was assigned a computer that they could use at school and home. The laptops came in canvas cases and were used

at every desk.

Swager said the computers would make the playing field more level for all students, especially ones with families that can't afford a new computer.

"It's for everybody," he said. "It's an equity tool. Not everyone has access to a computer when they leave this building"

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Judge sets April hearing for Kanorado meth lab case

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

More than two years since a Kanorado man was arrested for allegedly having a methamphetamine lab at his business, lawyers for both sides brought the case before District Judge Jack Burr who bound the case over on all counts at a preliminary hearing Wednesday.

Scott Baumfalk, 38, was taken into custody in St. Francis Thursday, Dec. 19, 2002, after members of the Quad County Drug Task Force, Sherman County Sheriff's Depart-

ment and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation executed a warrant to search Scotty's Motors Co., 209 Main, Kanorado.

Wednesday Baumfalk pled not guilty and was held over on the original bond of \$100,000.

Baumfalk spent time in the Bastille after investigators found what they said was an alleged meth lab. He was charged with manufacturing meth, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of amphetamine and possession of ammo-

nition. On the same weekend, Baumfalk's wife, Crystal, 29, was arrested and charged with manufacturing methamphetamines.

The drug charges on both were dismissed and refiled in November, and Scott didn't have his first appearance until Wednesday. Crystal had a first appearance after the charges were refiled and she waived the preliminary hearing. The two are being tried separately.

Wednesday morning bureau agents testified about the warrant and what they found inside the

Kanorado business.

The examination began with Sherman County Attorney Bonnie Selby asking Doug Murphy, coordinator for the drug task force, about the 15-month investigation of the Baumfalk residence.

Although upon cross examination by the defendant's attorney Michael S. Holland, Russell, Murphy revealed he hadn't made any logs or video tapes of the surveillance, he told the court he regularly visited the business and home of the Baumfalks.

Murphy testified he wasn't present for the execution of the search warrant because he was in St. Francis awaiting word to go ahead with the arrest.

Baumfalk was on trial with Rell Zimbelman in St. Francis for two misdemeanor charges. While he was in court, officers raided his business.

After arresting and taking Baumfalk to the Bastille, Murphy visited the motor shop. He said of-

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