


weather report

78°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:34 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:55 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:35 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 59 degrees

• Humidity 19 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds northeast 15-20 mph

• Barometer 30.11 inches and rising

• Record High 89° (1921)

• Record Low 23° (1953)

Last 24 Hours*

High 77°

Low 37°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Clean, low 45, northeast wind 10 mph. Tomorrow: Sunny, high 85, low 45-50, east wind 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: chance of afternoon and evening thunderstorms, high 85-90.


Sunday: dry, high 80s, low 50s. Monday: chance for thunderstorms, high 80s, low 40s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.92 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.79

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$1.83 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.67

Loan deficiency payment — 32

Milo — \$2.92 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$3.75 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.61

Loan deficiency payment — \$1.29

Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$6.55 cwt.


Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.14

Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$14 (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.

Director quits athletic job

LAWRENCE — Embattled Kansas athletic director Bob Frederick announced his resignation today, saying he was stepping down to teach full-time at the university's School of Education.

Frederick, athletic director since 1987, said he had accepted a full-time position in the education school, which he said was "ranked among the finest in the nation."

"I will tremendously miss the people in the athletic department, the coaches, the administration, the support staff and, of course, the student athletes," Frederick said.

"I've marveled at how hard these people work."

Frederick has come under fire from many critics, particularly regarding the decision in January to drop men's tennis and swimming.

Frederick, 61, is widely respected in college athletics around the country.

State honors pilot

Lawmakers recognize gallantry

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

Kansas lawmakers and Gov. Bill Graves commended Lt. j.g. Jeff Vignery for his gallantry today, presenting the Navy pilot from Goodland with a resolution immortalizing him in state records.

"It's nice to have a hero from the area," said Rep. Jim Morrison, a Colby Republican. "He's someone to look up to. We want to show him that we appreciate him."

After learning Vignery, one of 24 Naval officers held in China for 11 days this month, would be in Kansas this week, Rep. Morrison said he requested the House resolution Monday.

He said the resolution — which the House passed this morning before it was presented to the pilot at the Statehouse — will put the 27-year-old



Standoff U.S.-China
Goodland prepares to welcome pilot back to hometown.



among the ranks of distinguished state officials and other outstanding Kansans. Morrison said it's a great honor.

"It's a big deal," he said, "It's the highest honor we legislators can bestow. We can't do any better than this."

Jeff's parents, Ron and Judi Vignery of Goodland, were in Topeka this morning with their son and other family members.

Rep. Morrison said lawmakers presented the resolution to the family just after 9 a.m. Mountain Time. He said Gov. Graves planned to be at the presentation, along with state and national news and television reporters.

Judi Vignery said Wednesday that Jeff and his wife Julie, who live at the Naval Air Station in Whidbey Island, Wash., were in Kansas City visiting friends, but came to meet her and Ron in Topeka.

She said her son — who has been in the public eye since a mid-air military plane collision and an emergency landing in China escalated into a crisis — plans to come to Goodland next week. Classmates, friends and community leaders will welcome Jeff with a homecoming celebration next weekend, on Saturday, May 5, and are asking people to decorate the town with yellow ribbons.

Rep. Morrison said Jeff, a 1992 Goodland High School graduate, deserves to be memorialized.

"It's to congratulate him for the way he conducted himself," Morrison said. "He was in the wrong place at the wrong time. He behaved well and he represented Kansas well."

Jeff planned to leave Topeka by 1:30 p.m., Morrison said, and head for Lawrence and the University of Kansas, where he graduated in 1997. Vignery was in the Navy Reserve

See VIGNERY, Page 7

Hero's return will be cause for celebration

Navy pilot Jeff Vignery, whose parents brought him to Goodland when he was 3 months old, will get a big welcome when he returns to his hometown next week.

Friends and civic leaders are organizing a big party, inviting state and federal lawmakers, Gov. Graves and anyone else who wants to see their hero.

The event will start at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 5, at Max Jones Fieldhouse, with Dale Schields, Goodland Medical Center's human resources director, introducing the Vignery family.

The planning group plans to have the X-Pressos, the premier Goodland High School singing group, which Jeff was a member of, perform "God Bless America" and have the high school band play the national anthem. They have invited Jason Showalter, a high school senior, to read his award-winning speech, "What Price Freedom."

The group has asked the Rev. Loren Strait, pastor of the First Christian Church, to speak, and will invite area veterans to participate in the ceremony. Elementary students have agreed to perform a patriotic skit for Vignery and his family, and the Goodland American Legion Post will present the pilot with an honorary membership.

Travis Daise, a classmate who now lives in Salina, will speak on behalf of the class of 1992, and the committee has asked Mike Johnson, a former Goodland Cowboy football coach who moved to Nebraska, to talk. Vignery was a member of the football, basketball and golf teams in high school.

City officials will present Jeff with a key to the city, and the pilot, his wife and family members may talk.

The group plans to decorate Goodland and I-70 with welcome posters, banners and Navy blue and yellow balloons.

They are asking business owners and residents to help by decorating yards and shop windows.

Free show coming this week

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

Goodland's annual Home and Garden Show will be the biggest it's ever been this year, organizers say, with more than 60 exhibitors from Kansas and Colorado selling anything you could ever want for your home or garden.

Marty Melia, owner of KLOE/KKCI/KWGB Radio, who organizes the free show, said coordinators had to start a waiting list for exhibitors this year, but will try to squeeze all of the interested businesses into the Max Jones Fieldhouse on Saturday and Sunday.

He said exhibitors will have booths set up on the main gymnasium floor and on the street and parking lot in front of the fieldhouse. The show will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

"It's the biggest amount of exhibitors ever," Melia said, noting that planners may have to find more space next year.

He said each year the show attracts about 5,000 people looking for gardening tips and tools, home improvement ideas or just something fun to do. Melia said the show has been running for about 25 years, and features new businesses each year.

Exhibitors will be selling hot tubs, furniture, vacuum cleaners, cell phones, trees, plants, bicycles, windows, awnings, desks and other products for the home.

Melia said two cooking shows will be set up in the fieldhouse, rattlesnake handlers from Wallace County will have a display and non-profit organizations will be handing out information.

He said the Nu Phi Mu sorority will run the concessions stand, serving drinks, hamburgers, hot dogs and other snacks. Also, he said, the committee planning a homecoming celebration for Lt. Jeff Vignery, the Navy pilot held in China for 11 days this month, will have a giant card for people to sign.

Melia said the master gardeners, who graduated from a Kansas State University program, will have a display, and Khristie Rasure, a master gardener, will decorate the gym's front entrance.

"It's a good place to come get a lot of good ideas before starting in the garden," he said.

The show will also entertain children, Melia said, noting that exhibitors will be selling bikes and skateboards and there will be live fish and rattlesnakes.

And you could walk away with free stuff.

Melia said there will be a big prize giveaway on Sunday. Sign up at the front desk.



Students wash cars for money

Justin Thompson (above) and Bobbi Brantley, Northwest Kansas Technical College engineering students, helped fellow students wash cars and trucks Tuesday in the Wal-Mart parking lot. The students also sold grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, raising over \$220 dollars for the department to promote students and for scholarships. Wal-Mart provided space, water and hoses.

Photos by Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News