



Gary Morrell and Tony Liedtke, with Bells Monument Co. in Beloit, helped David Russell (center) place a memorial stone at the Goodland Cemetery on Tuesday. Russell built the memorial to earn his Eagle Scout badge and will hold a dedication ceremony on Saturday.

Photo by Kathy Russell

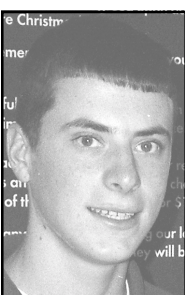
Dedication of monument to be Saturday

Life Scout David Russell plans to hold a dedication ceremony at the Goodland Cemetery on Saturday morning, showing the public a memorial to unborn children that he raised money to build.

Kathy Russell, David's mother, said the project — which features an engraved memorial stone and a granite bench set on a concrete base — will help him earn his Eagle Scout badge, the highest level a Scout can reach.

She said that's not why her son, a member of Goodland Boy Scout Troop 142, is holding the ceremony. She said David, 17, wants to thank the people who supported his project.

"He wants to give a 'Thank You' to those who donated money and labor," she said. The Goodland Knights of Columbus helped raise money for the memorial, Wal-Mart gave \$1,000 and churches and clubs made donations.



David Russell

Kathy Russell said her son also wants to thank those who offered support in the form of words, not money. She said many people had called their home to say they will appreciate the memorial, which will honor all babies who died before they were born.

She said the ceremony isn't necessary for her son to earn the badge, which he should receive after the paperwork is submitted.

The dedication ceremony will begin at 9 a.m., Kathy Russell said, and will last about an hour. The public is invited, she said, encouraging people to bring lawn chairs to sit on. The ceremony

will be held at the memorial, just west of the All Faith Chapel.

Kathy Russell said three ministers and area Scouts will participate and her son will say a few words. Tim Kafka, a high school student, will sing a song, she said, and there will be a wreath laying and a balloon release. The Knights of Columbus will also participate and help park cars.

David Russell started building the project about two weeks ago with help from friends and family. Workers with Bells Monument Co., a Beloit firm which sent the bench and memorial stone, helped David Russell place both this week.

The stone, set on the east end of the memorial, shows a pair of hands holding a baby and reads "They number as the stars. Let not one be forgotten. In Memory Of All Unborn Children." The bench sits across from the stone.

Boy's passion for fireworks leads to booming business

FIREWORKS, from Page 1

a show as possible."

Sometime, though, you don't know what to expect. He recalled a show they did for the Denver Public School when they wanted to celebrate the remodeling of All City Stadium. He said they had notified all those living around the stadium they were going to have the show, but when the salutes started going off it caused a traffic jam on a nearby freeway.

"I like doing the Goodland show because it is home, and there is plenty

of room to put on a great show," Diaz said. "I usually start watching the weather about 10 days before the show to get an idea of how it may be, and I make changes depending on what will be the best."

"I knew how I wanted the finale. It was a combination of a salute barrage with red, white and blue mines and the combination of the silver with crackling and the red with crackling."

"During the finale, there was not any time when there wasn't something breaking in the sky, and sometimes it was filled with breaks."

He will be doing shows for Adams County in suburban Denver next week and the El Paso County Fair near Colorado Springs the last week of July. They will also be doing a Christmas show in Denver for Nov. 28.

Diaz says he can do more shows and has been working with the Colorado Rockies and Denver Broncos about doing some.

He already has all the people doing fireworks stands he can handle, but is always willing to talk about packaging shows for cities and special programs.

Parole decision delayed by holiday

PAROLE, from Page 1

date is March 28, 2003, but Miskell said he can be granted parole before then. He said if Gomez violated the conditions of his parole or release — as Kernal did — he may return to prison for a time determined by the parole board.

Gomez's maximum sentence date is June 28, 2022, or 40 years after the day he was arrested for the murder.

Jackson said when considering parole, the board looks at the crime committed, criminal and disciplinary history and the inmate's parole plan. Seidel said every prisoner is required

to have a plan of where they will live and work if they are granted parole.

While Gomez has earned a General Equivalency Degree and undergone mental health counseling and drug treatment, Miskell said he has had several discipline violations, including theft, fighting, disobeying orders, possessing dangerous contraband, misusing personal property and having relationships with staff.

Miskell said Gomez is now considered a special management inmate, which means he is confined to a cell for 23 hours a day, five days a week and for 24 hours a day, two days a week.

Gomez must be handcuffed when he does leave his cell, Miskell said, and must be escorted by a prison officer at all times. He said special management prisoners are considered a risk to the operation of the facility.

"It's characterized by inmates as isolation or the hole," Miskell said.

Though he didn't know what Gomez did to be put into isolation, Miskell said the inmate, who was transferred from the prison in Hutchinson on March 27, 2001, has been classified as special management since Aug. 29.

Before that, he said, Gomez had moved between medium, maximum and special management security.

Education board focuses on teacher raises

TOPEKA (AP) — The State Board of Education tentatively approved Wednesday a \$343 million plan for increased spending on elementary and secondary education.

Designed to increase teacher salaries and student achievement, the ambitious blueprint represents the board's desire to reach a series of goals by 2005. Of the total spending proposal, \$212 million would be used to raise teacher salaries.

A task force report said the average starting salary for Kansas teachers is \$25,713, compared \$27,889 nation-

ally. The report recommended a 16.7 percent increase in starting salaries.

Dale Dennis, deputy education commissioner, said the board is likely to adjust the plan at its August meeting. The request then goes to Gov. Bill Graves before the start of the 2002 Legislature in January.

"Anything you do will take a tax increase of any consequence, that's all there is to it," Dennis said.

Unlike previous attempts, the board began with its established goals of improving student achievement and teacher retention and re-

cruitment, then calculated what it would cost to reach those goals over three years.

Elements aimed at teachers included rewards for national certification, mentoring programs and a health insurance program shared equally by the state and local districts.

Board member Val DeFever of Independence said the three-year approach to improvement would demonstrate to legislators that the board has a vision for education in Kansas.

"We need to take that approach and take a run at the Legislature," she said.

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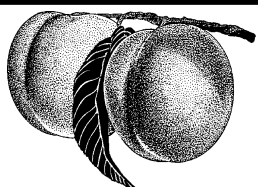
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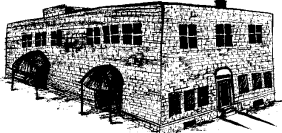
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