

## Leaving on a jet plane



Staff Sgt. David Jermark of the 170th Maintenance Company (above) kissed his granddaughters goodbye at a departure ceremony Sunday in Salina. The unit, headquartered in Norton and composed of guardsmen from around northwest Kansas, is deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Unit members stood at attention during the ceremony (below), included speeches by Sen. Jerry Moran and Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer. Photos courtesy of the Salina Journal

## Local Guard members say goodbye to families at ceremony on Sunday

By Gary Demuth

Salina Journal

The grandchildren of Staff Sgt. David Jermark know why grandpa is going away for a year, and they're all right with it.

"They know grandpa has to go serve his country," said Jermark, who has five children and seven grandchildren. "They've handled it well. They know I'm always going to be there for them."

Jermark, a Green resident in Clay County, is a member of the Kansas National Guard 170th Maintenance Company, a subordinate unit of the 287th Special Troop Battalion of Hays.

Headquartered in Norton, with a subordinate unit in Colby, the 170th is preparing to send about 80 men and women to Kuwait on a

base security mission for Operation Enduring Freedom. Those deploying include Pfc. Matthew Bryce and Spc. Donald Lucas of Goodland.

It's the second time Jermark has been deployed overseas. In 2008, he was sent on a security mission to Iraq.

"That was an eye-opening experience, and it taught me how an entire brigade can come together to make a mission successful," he said. "I'm very glad to see the troops in Iraq come back home to their families. But we still have to keep our guard up and be continually aware of our surroundings."

Jermark's unit will depart for Kuwait in April for nine months after first completing about two

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## Brewster fire contract under review

By Christina Beringer

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Thomas County commissioners met Feb. 6 with volunteers from the Rural Fire District No. 5, which covers parts of Sherman and Thomas counties around Brewster.

Since December, the commissioners have been aware that Sherman County wants out of a long-standing agreement with the district and Thomas County. The issue needs to be resolved by June 14, said fire district volunteers Willard Crumrine and Rex Jamison of Brewster.

Crumrine and Jamison told commissioners that the Brewster department operates under a complex system of shared resources involving the district, the city of Brewster and Sherman County.

Sherman County owns about

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## Show choir holds Valentines Day dinner



Members of the audience clapped along with the X-Pressos, the Goodland High School show choir, at their Valentines Day dinner on Saturday. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News.

By Pat Schiefen

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After feeding 150 people lasagna, salad and dessert the X-Pressos entertained the audience with singing and dancing on Saturday night at the Goodland Methodist Fellowship Hall. The Valentine dinner is an annual fund raising event for the show choir.

The performance included several duets, choreographed pieces and an all-time favorite either the X-Presso men or women singing a Valentine to a member of the audience.

The choir is directed by Randy Berls.

Members of the choir are Ace Arteaga, Ian Bonsall, Chantel Coates, Hope Cochran, Caleb Fugleberg, Tim Fugleberg, Chloe Goodwin, Jed Gray, Nicole Hendrich, Abigail Jolly, Jessica Klemm, Joel Linin, Brooks Lockhart, Carly McCracken, Shayley Miller, Zach Miller, Garrett Nemechek, Bracelyn Redlin, Parker Sieck and Holton Witman.

**weather report**

**29°**  
10:30 a.m.  
Monday

**Today**  
• Sunset, 5:21 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
• Sunrise, 6:41 a.m.  
• Sunset, 5:22 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**  
• Soil temperature 32 degrees  
• Humidity 78 percent  
• Sky partly sunny  
• Winds northwest 20-25 mph  
• Barometer 29.68 inches and rising  
• Record High today 77° (1954)  
• Record Low today -11° (1948)

**Last 24 Hours\***  
High Sunday 35°  
Low Sunday 16°  
Precipitation .04  
This month .38  
Year to date .47  
Below Normal .10 inches

**The Topside Forecast**  
Today: Mostly sunny with a 40 percent chance of rain and snow before 11 p.m. and then rain and freezing rain, a high near 42, winds out of the west at 5 switching to the southeast and a low around 25. Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain and snow, a high near 36, winds breezy out of the north at 10 to 30 mph and a low around 20.

**Extended Forecast**  
Thursday: Mostly sunny with a high near 40 and a low around 21.  
Friday: Sunny with a high near 44 and a low around 26.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

**local markets**

**10:30 a.m.**  
Wheat — \$6.36 bushel  
Posted county price — \$6.34  
Corn — \$6.21 bushel  
Posted county price — \$6.22  
Milo — \$5.93 bushel  
Soybeans — \$11.11 bushel  
Posted county price — \$11.52  
Millet — \$11.50 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$25.35 cwt.  
Confection — no bid  
Pinto beans — \$28  
(Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

**inside today**

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News

**Cowboys take fourth**

The Goodland High School wrestling team took fourth place at the GWAC tournament this weekend.  
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