

weather
report

81°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:15 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:30 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:15 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 70 degrees

• Humidity 37 percent

• Sky Mostly sunny

• Windsoutheast at 10 mph with gusts 17-18 mph

• Barometer 30.21 inches

and falling

• Record High 106° (1954)

• Record Low 48° (1922)

Last 24 Hours*

High 80°

Low 61°

Precipitation —

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, low 60 to 65.

South winds at 10 to 20 mph. Tomorrow:

Dry with lows of 60 to 65 and highs in the mid 90s.

Extended Forecast

Tuesday through Friday. Chance of thunderstorms with lows in the 60s and highs of 85 to 90. South winds at 10 to 20 mph.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Despite hail,
'99 harvest
is successful

By Charlie Baker

The Goodland Daily News

In a season of paradox, the wheat harvest is winding down.

Above-average rain, coupled with hot, dry days, should have produced a record crop this year, and would have if it had not been for destructive hail storms, say elevator operators across Sherman County.

"The wheat looks great," said Bernie Stefan, division manager at Frontier Equity Co-op. "We have seen real good yields, above average I would say. With all the storm damage, it's (still) a good harvest."

Stefan said they had anticipated filling the elevator, but that Kyle Railroad has been getting about three cars a day in to be loaded, which has kept them from having to put grain on the ground.

"We were afraid we wouldn't get cars in time," he said. "We are at their mercy, but they have tried to help out as much as they could."

Kyle, which runs the old Rock Island line across northern Kansas, has leased extra cars and six extra engines, said Superintendent Jerry DeWitt.

"Things have been going pretty smooth," he said. "The cool weather has helped, we have had some cars held up down south because of the wet weather, but things are going pretty good."

He said they have had some trouble at interchanges with the big railroads, but that overall, things are moving like they had hoped.

DeWitt said he is a little disappointed with the overall amount of wheat they have been seeing.

"We were preparing for what looked like a lot more grain," he said. "That hail storm hurt us like it did the farmers."



Adam Waters, an employee at Muellers Grain, took a sample to check the moisture content and protein of a load of wheat coming into the firm's

Glen Teels, from Collingwood Grain in Kanorado, said the harvest is about over there.

"There may be a few still cutting in lagoons and small areas," he said, "but it is about 95 percent done. We have seen an average weight of 60.5. Protein levels may be down a little, but overall, it looks real good."

"I think if it would have not been for

the hail, we would have had record yields."

Tom Stewart, manager at Mueller Grain, also said he thought this would have been a record year if it were not for the extensive hail damage.

"Even the wheat that has been damaged is still around 57 to 59 test weight," he said. "The average test weight is over 60, and the protein is

elevator in Goodland. Elevator operators said that the harvest is 95 percent complete in the county. Photo by Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News

higher than normal for grain with such high test weights."

Yield per acre estimates are varied due to the hail damage. Accounts of zero bushels to 82 bushels per acre have been reported.

Stewart said that the harvest is over 90 percent complete.

"Most of what is coming in now is farmers cutting the wheat that was dam-

aged by the hail," he said.

Merwin Jensen, a grain marketer for Frontier Equity, said the overall amount of grain they have seen is about the same as last year. He said Equity did have to put a little grain on the ground in Bird City.

"The railroad is working at it," he said, "but I wish they were a little faster."

Scramble on to fund bridge

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

It was close getting the Sherman County share of the funding for the Caruso bridge project according to County Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld with County Public Works Director Curt Way tracking him down Wednesday on the links at Sugar Hill to sign the check and then catching the Federal Express man as he was leaving the courthouse.

"My understanding is that Mike Irvin, county attorney, found a state statute which cast some doubt on our plan to fund the bridge with a lease-purchase contract with Bankwest," Frankenfeld said this morning. "I also understand Irvin talked to Judy Muller at Kansas Association of Counties who also discouraged using this for funding a bridge."

"Based on Irvin's concerns, each commissioner was contacted and we all individually agreed to find another way to fund the project, but that meant we had to scramble to get a check ready," Frankenfeld said.

Previously the commissioners had

requested proposals from the area banks for a lease-purchase plan. At the June 30 meeting the commissioners had approved a proposal from Bankwest to fund the project, but asked Irvin to review the contract before it was signed.

Sherman County's portion of the replacement project is about \$83,000, and according to County Clerk Janet Rumpel the funds have temporarily been taken out of the General Fund, but she expects the commissioners to find a means of issuing bridge bonds to raise the money.

Bridge bonds for this project will be part of what the commissioners will discuss with Dave Warren of Chapman Securities during their regular meeting tomorrow morning.

Warren was at the June 30 meeting and discussed raising money for the county project to resurface and chip seal County Road 65, (old hwy 24), starting with the eastern portion of the county. He was to check out the possibility of the county issuing "temporary notes" which would allow the commissioners to use the special sales tax to pay

for the project over an estimated four years.

In other business the commissioners will consider bids for repair work to be done on the modular home at the fairgrounds, and County Treasurer Shelby Miller will present bids she has gathered on a fax machine.

As this is the final week for Irvin as county attorney, the commissioners will also consider the salary for Bonnie Selby who is to be the assistant county attorney, and will likely be the candidate to replace Irvin as county attorney. Irvin's last day is to be Friday, and he is moving to St. Mary to become the city manager.

Commissioners will also consider a concern about prairie dogs in the county, and what could be done to encourage neighbors to join in efforts to control them.

Commission meetings begin at 8 a.m. in the commission room on the first floor of the Sherman County courthouse, and there is open public forum for the first 15 minutes. The next regular meeting will be 8 a.m., Tuesday, July 20.

Still no cause for fire

The source of the blaze that caused considerable damage to the former Mosburg IGA is still not resolved, but, still under investigation an official of the Kansas State Fire Marshall's office said Monday morning.

The fire, which was reported to the Goodland Fire Department shortly after 5 p.m. on April 30, was considered suspicious at the time, and is still being investigated as such.

The Kansas Bureau of Investiga-

tion has the collected evidence in their lab, but, are weeks behind because of a serious case overload.

"We have no new information," said Bill Harper, director of investigators division in Topeka. "This is still under investigation. I can't say how much longer it may take. At this point we do not know."

"Looking at a fire is only one percent science and 99 percent iceberg. You just don't know when it may strike you."

Income tax payments
rescued by workers

TOPEKA (AP) — Untrained workers at a Department of Revenue document storage warehouse routinely rescued income tax payments mistakenly destined for storage or shredding, a former clerk claims.

Daniel Copp, who lost his job after showing hand-written documents complied at the Topeka warehouse to his wife, said warehouse workers rescued more than \$52,000 worth of individual income tax payments over six months.

He also said the clerks saved a \$53,000 corporate income tax payment from Boeing Co., the aircraft maker that is the state's largest manufacturing firm.

The warehouse workers used a \$1.50 steno pad to record the individual income tax payments that were misdirected in processing by the department's \$50 million computer system.

Copp provided a copy of the steno pad records to the Lawrence Journal-World, which published a story about him Sunday.

The Legislative Post Audit Committee already had scheduled a meeting to discuss the Department of Revenue's problems this year in processing income tax returns. Revenue Secretary Karla Pierce was to testify.

The Journal-World story said Copp suggested that some income tax payments may have been destroyed inadvertently.

But department spokeswoman Angela Goering said, "If there has been any, we don't know about it."

She also said a warehouse supervisor instituted the recording of misdirected income tax payments on a steno pad at the warehouse in June or July 1997. She said some system has been in place for 20 years.

The Department of Revenue's tax processing came under increased scrutiny this year because of delays in processing paper returns and problems with its taxpayer assistance telephone hot line.

Pierce acknowledged last week that the department took an average of two weeks longer this year — five weeks compared to three weeks in 1998 — to process paper returns. She also admitted the department answered only 3 percent of the calls to its telephone line, for which taxpayers regularly received a busy signal.

The department collected more than \$940.6 million in individual income taxes from December 1998 through May, the period for which Copp said employees recorded misdirected checks.

The records show the checks were worth \$52,579, and Copp estimates employees saved about \$16,000 in payments before that. The checks were turned over to a supervisor, who in turn forwarded them to the Department of Revenue.

Copp's allegations — and his willingness to go public with the handwritten warehouse records — have given the department's legislative critics more reason to push for an audit.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.01 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.91
Loan deficiency payment — 54¢
Corn — \$1.43 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.52
Loan deficiency pmt. — 47¢
Milo — \$1.92 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.54 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.50
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.39
Millett — \$4.00 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.95 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.36
Oil new crop — \$7.00 cwt.
Confection current — \$17/10 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$13 (new crop)
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon
wire

Late news
from the
Associated
Press

1 p.m.

Heat forcing
cattle sales

Faced with intense heat and little rainfall, many farmers in central and eastern Kentucky are selling their cattle because they can't feed them.

"There isn't a bit of moisture," said Darrell Arrington, a Lawrence County farmer, who with his father, Kenneth, sold nearly 40 head of cattle because there was no water or pasture land for the animals.

To combat the problem, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture established a toll-free hay hotline last week.

"The hotline is to hook up people who do have hay with the ones who don't," said Sally Wilson, a department spokeswoman. "If people need it they can call, or if people have it then they can call in also and we'll keep track."

Rainfall since April 1 has been four to six inches below normal in much of eastern Kentucky.

Final preparation



Maintenance supervisor Chuck Lutters (right) pulls helper Justin Lohr as they rake the playground at Central Elementary. They were smoothing out the playground where the trenches were cut to install a sprinkler system. Photo by Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News