

weather report

88°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:06 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:42 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:05 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 83 degrees
- Humidity 47 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds northwest at 7 mph
- Barometer 30.07 inches and steady

- Record High 106° (1936)
- Record Low 54° (1971)

Last 24 Hours\*

High	100°
Low	67°
Precipitation	.24 of an inch

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly cloudy, 30 percent of rain, possibly heavy at times, low near 65, light winds.

Tomorrow: partly sunny, high near 90, southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: chance of thunderstorms, low near 65, high near 95. Thursday, Friday: dry, low near 70, highs 95 to 100.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.13 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.03  
Loan deficiency payment — .42¢  
Corn — \$1.70 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.70  
Loan deficiency pmt. — .29¢  
Milo — \$2.50 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$3.87 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.02  
Loan deficiency payment — .87¢  
Millet — \$4 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$6.90 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.75  
Oil new crop — \$6.80 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.

Photos show engine leaked

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP)—Photographs taken seconds into space shuttle Columbia's launch suggest that hydrogen escaped from one or more cooling tubes in its right engine, the space agency said.

Such a fuel leak could have caused the shuttle to shut down suddenly if more hydrogen had escaped, forcing the first-ever shuttle emergency landing, either in Florida or West Africa, NASA said.

In spite of the suspected malfunction and an unrelated electrical short five seconds into launch Friday, Columbia and its cargo safely reached orbit under the control of Air Force Col. Eileen Collins.

The suspected problem will not affect the rest of the flight, said Wayne Hale, NASA's mission operations representative, because the three main engines are not used after propelling the shuttle into orbit.

# Grain elevator oversight is inadequate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal safety inspectors had not visited the nation's biggest grain elevator for 15 years when explosions ripped through the half-mile long facility in Kansas last year, killing seven workers.

Now a panel of experts who investigated the accident says more such incidents among the nation's 14,000 elevators may be inevitable unless the federal government tightens its standards for handling grain and does a better job of enforcing existing regulations.

The problem is the fine powder, or dust, produced when kernels of corn, wheat or other grain rub against each other during shipment.

The dust is highly explosive. It long has been known that if the dust is allowed to accumulate inside an elevator, a spark, or an overheated piece of

equipment, can trigger a deadly blast.

The Haysville, Kan., elevator "may not be an exception in the grain industry of America. And there is no known method to identify the thousands of other elevators in equally hazardous condition," according to the panel's one-inch thick report, which The Associated Press recently examined.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which commissioned the study, has declined to release the report.

OSHA imposed safety standards on the industry in the early 1980s that have made elevators much safer than they used to be, according to statistics. The death rate from elevator explosions averaged about 5.5 per year into the 1980s but has been declining since then.

The report said the agency's lack of

oversight in the Kansas case raised questions about the industry as a whole. Several of the panel's six members also served on a National Academy of Sciences commission that studied the industry in the early 1980s.

"The biggest thing OSHA has to do is to be sure they get the inspectors into the places that need inspection," said Robert Hubbard, a retired industry executive who served on both panels.

OSHA conducted 209 elevator inspections from 1994 through 1998 and cited facilities for 520 violations it deemed serious. State safety agencies conducted another 149 inspections during that period.

The investigators blamed last year's explosion on sloppy maintenance by the elevator's owner, DeBruce Grain Inc., and OSHA has proposed fining the company \$1.7 million for 25 safety violations.

The investigators said the explosions erupted when a bearing overheated, igniting thick accumulations of dust.

Company officials deny the findings and are appealing the proposed fine.

A spokesman for OSHA, Bill Wright, declined to comment on the report.

But OSHA started a review of its grain-handling standards before the 1998 accident, and recommendations are due later this year.

The Agriculture Department, meanwhile, has agreed to report to OSHA when its grain inspectors find dangerous dust accumulations.

The Wichita elevator was last inspected in 1983, and even then for reasons unrelated to grain dust, according to the report. OSHA ordinarily does not inspect such facilities unless there is an

accident or a complaint.

In this case, the workers did not seem to know what danger they were in, said Vern Grose, a former National Transportation Safety Board member who served on the OSHA panel. "It's a sleeping giant waiting to go and they just don't know it," he said.

The accident is certain to be the subject of debate in the industry, which is constantly looking for ways to improve its safety, said David Krecji, executive vice president of the Grain Elevator and Processing Society, a professional organization for elevator managers.

"Considering the millions of tons of grain handled every day at thousands of facilities ... and considering the nature of the hazard everyone is doing a pretty good job," he said. "But when something like the DeBruce explosion occurs it's an attention-getter."

## Chip sealing underway



A crew from B & H Paving chipsealed Aspen Road between 1st and 2nd streets this morning. The crew will seal over 30 miles of city streets. The hope to finish their work early next week. The contractor will be moving south and east as the streets are completed. Most of the streets to be sealed this year are in the western portion of the city. When the contractor is in a specific area the local citizens are asked to keep their cars off the street until the work is completed.

Photo by Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News

## Woodstock '99 ends on sour note with fires

ROME, N.Y. (AP) — What began with scattered bonfires near the close of Woodstock '99 — just as peace candles were being handed out — ended in a destructive melee that was finally quieted early this morning.

Tents and booths were destroyed, concert light stands and a speaker tower were toppled and a mob tried to destroy a radio station truck over several chaotic hours beginning late Sunday.

"This is not the real Woodstock," said a disgusted Mike Long, 31, of Detroit, as police moved in. "They messed up. They messed up the name of Woodstock."

Seven people were arrested on charges ranging from rioting to criminal mischief, State Police Superintendent James McMahon said today.

Five concertgoers were injured, one seriously, when a trailer was toppled on them, he said. Two troopers were injured. McMahon estimated 200 to 500 youths took part in the rioting, although thousands more watched and cheered.

"It's a great shame this happened because in so many ways it was so uplifting," promoter John Scher said. "It puts a blemish on what happened here. I think the kids made a mistake."

The violence — after almost three days of peace and love at Woodstock '99 — came as the Red Hot Chili Peppers were in the midst of their festival-closing set and a group named Pax was handing out candles to the audience.

Scher said the show was stopped when the first fire was set near the East Stage, but fire officials decided it was a controllable ground fire and the band played on.

About a quarter-mile from the stage, several concertgoers then set fire to a dozen parked vendors' trailers and pulled cases of soda and merchandise from the trucks, feeding the flames with debris.

To some, it seemed like a reaction to the high food and beverage prices.

"When it first started, there was something to it," 18-year-old Spencer Parker said. "It has a little bit of meaning when you pay \$4 for a pretzel."

Fire and police units did not respond immediately and seemed to be caught off guard.

"Where are the police? Where are the firemen? Where are the people in control?" asked Ruth Mahorn, 36, of Binghamton, N.Y., as she walked quickly away from the disturbance.

Scher said the 1,250-person internal security force was not activated because they were not trained to handle a riot. More than an hour after the melee began, state troopers in riot gear moved in, dodging lemons and oranges thrown by the crowd. They had moved most of the remaining 150,000 concertgoers into the camping area by 2 a.m. today.

By early today, flames inside the venue had been extinguished and the situation was stabilized. The effect, though, was not likely to go away anytime soon.



Interstate 70 traffic headed westbound was moved onto the newly completed concrete westbound lanes over the weekend, and today the eastbound traffic was to be moved onto the westbound lanes to allow Koss Construction to begin work on the second half of the project between Goodland and Edson. The old highway will be removed and new concrete poured. Getting this four miles done should make next year's cone zone much shorter and easier for the traffic. Donna Binning of The Kansas Department of Transportation office in Colby said the work will continue until the end of October. At that time the new westbound lanes should be completed and the four miles of eastbound will also be done. For the winter all four lanes will be open.

Photo by Charlie Baker / The Goodland Daily News