

weather report

77°

at noon

Today

Sunset, 7:40 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 6:03 a.m.

Sunset, 7:38 p.m.

Midday Conditions

Soil Temperature 80 degrees

Humidity 53 percent

Sky mostly sunny

Winds northeast at 10 mph

Barometer 30.25 inches and falling

Record High 103° (1934)

Record Low 51° (1960)

Last 24 Hours*

High 91°

Low 62°

Precipitation .02

month 2.89 inches

year 17 inches

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low 55 to 60, light winds.

Thursday: mostly sunny, high 85 to 90, southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday: dry, lows 60 to 65, highs 90 to 95.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.25 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.11

Loan deficiency payment — .34¢

Corn — \$1.65 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.71

Loan deficiency pmt. — .28¢

Milo — \$2.59 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$3.95 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.95

Loan deficiency payment — .94¢

Millet — \$4 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$6.85 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.62

Oil new crop — \$6.75 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.

Quake toll nearing 3,800

ISTANBUL, Turkey — The death toll from Turkey's earthquake rose to nearly 3,800 today and almost 18,000 were reported injured as rescuers searched for survivors under the rubble and a huge refinery fire threatened to ignite a fertilizer plant.

Tens of thousands of people refused to return home as more than 250 aftershocks, several dozen of which were serious, rattled their confidence that the worst was over. Highway medians, parks, empty lots — anyplace open to the sky — were turned into makeshift tent cities across western Turkey.

The fire at the nation's largest oil refinery, in the city of Izmit, burned out of control for a second day — forcing authorities to evacuate a three-mile area today where an untold number of people remained trapped under collapsed buildings.

Elk ranching is family business

By Charlie Baker
The Goodland Daily News

Joe Williams sees his Flatlander Elk Ranch in Edson as not just his retirement plan, but as something his whole family can be part of.

Williams, who works for the Federal Aviation Administration in Denver, plans on retiring in four years. He was born in Goodland, he said, and he wanted to raise his family in a place that promotes traditional values. He also wanted to find something that he could do after he retires.

After moving to Goodland a couple of years ago, the family bought about 15 acres on the east edge of Edson for pasture. It's not big enough for farming or raising cattle, he said, but through an acquaintance, he heard about elk ranching.

He has uncles in Colorado who have cattle ranches, and they had a hard time figuring out what he was doing.

"They say to me, 'Joe, why are you raising elk? Just get you some cattle,'" he said. "The key is that I can raise about five pairs of elk on an acre. If I were raising cattle, I would need five times as much land."

There are four main markets for elk, he said, and he hopes to tap into two of them.

"The main cash crop is the velvet," he said.

Bull elk produce antlers each year. When these have two to three months of growth, they are a combination of skin, hair, cartilage, and bone.

"There is a strong market for the velvet," said Williams. "The Pacific Rim countries use the velvet for traditional medicines."

He said that the velvet is used for a blood thinner, heart medicine, a vanity cream, arthritis reliever and as an aphrodisiac. It can be sold for between \$30 and \$65 a pound.

Bull elk begin to produce antlers at 2 years of age, and continue producing to about age 11 or 12. A 2-year-old bull will produce around six to seven pounds of velvet, while a mature bull can produce up to 40 pounds. At \$65 a pound, that is \$2,600 a year.



Joe Williams and his daughter, Mary, draw their two bull elk close with a bucket of oats. Although the elk are used to Joe, Mary is the only one who can get close enough to the elk to touch them. Williams said he hopes his herd of seven grows into 30 animals in four years. Photo by Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News

Breeding stock is the other market that Williams hopes to be involved in. Elk cows generally produce one calf a year. They have a pregnancy rate over 90 percent, with a 50/50 split between male and female.

"I will sell the male calves," he said, "and the cows I will keep to increase my herd."

He hopes to have about 30 elk by the time he retires.

The other two markets for elk are for

meat and a shooters market for controlled hunting, Williams said.

"The only reason we will slaughter an animal is if it is suffering," he said, "and we decided that we would not sell a bull for some trophy hunter to hang on his wall."

For one thing, Williams said, their elk have become almost like pets.

"They are beautiful, majestic animals," he said. "They are also very smart, cautious animals."

Williams added that the elk are aware of everything going on around them.

"You can't get close to them," he said. "They are not tame animals."

At least most people can't get close to them. Williams youngest daughter, Mary, helps a lot in taking care of the elk. She is 5, going to start first grade this year, and has a bond with the elk that no one else in the family seems to have.

"I feed them when dad is at work," said Mary. "It's really fun. They will come to me. All I have to do is whistle."

The elk are cautious, and don't come right up to her, but with some patience, and some food, she has them eating out of her hand.

"I call the little one General Travis," she said, "the big one is General Lee."



Harvest may not be record, but elevators get ready

By Charlie Baker
The Goodland Daily News

A season that started out with hail and dry, hot weather could produce a good harvest after all. The problem, with low prices and bulging elevators, may be where to put the grain.

"The harvest is coming on good," said Dana Belshe, Sherman County extension agent. "We've got enough acres planted, things are looking pretty good."

Belshe said there is some damage from the hail early in the season, but what was not damaged looks good.

"I don't think it's going to be a record crop," he said, "but I think it will be a very good one."

He said that the rain early this month really helped the dryland corn.

"The beans and sunflowers are looking great," he added.

Ken Ketter, general manager at Kanorado Co-op elevator, said he has

mixed emotions about this year's harvest.

"We had a lot of hail," he said, "especially north of town. We had some chemical damage, too."

"I think it will be a good crop, but not a bumper crop."

Ketttersaid storage is always tight. He said they are just finishing construction on a 300,000-bushel bin that will be ready for harvest.

"We still have a lot of wheat," he said. "The harvests were too close this year. We didn't have to put any grain on the ground last year. We were able to

rent some outside space. Hopefully, this year we will do the same."

At Ruleton, Frontier Equity Co-op is putting wheat in a bunker to make room for the corn harvest.

"We've moved approximately 161,000 bushels into a bunker," said Kevin Kivel, a worker at the elevator. "We're moving it out to store the corn in the bins."

Tom Stewart, manager of the Mueller Grain elevator, said most everything is going pretty well. He said there is dry land corn with some damage, but, overall, the harvest looks



Workers at the Ruleton Frontier Equity Co-op elevator are moving about 500,000 bushels of wheat into a temporary storage bin just north of the elevator to get ready for the upcoming fall harvest. A second auger was brought in Tuesday to help fill the corners. While the corn crop may not be a record, experts believe it will certainly be a large harvest. Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

Word contest won by woman from Oakley

Lynn Maier of Oakley has a talent for words — and a lot of dictionaries.

Using the letters in "confectionary," Maier found 653 words and won the *Goodland Daily News* Sunflower Celebration contest for the second year in a row.

She was the winner of last year's contest, which used the word "sunflower." For finding the most words, she wins a one-year subscription to *The Daily*.

Evelyn Ward of Goodland was close behind with 587 words, and Brooke Vance of Goodland found 503.

There were over 40 entries in the contest, with ages ranging from 13 1/2 to 88. The youngest entrant was 13-year-old Taos Smith of Guymon, Okla., who found 93 words. His grandparents, Lyle and Marsha Smith, live in Goodland.