

weather
report

60°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 6:54 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:31 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:52 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 62 degrees
- Humidity 77 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds Southeast 10
- Barometer 30.15 inches and falling

• Record High 99° (1947)

• Record Low 32° (1981)

Last 24 Hours*

High 57°

Low 52°

Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, low near 55, south winds 5 to 15 mph.

Saturday: mostly sunny, high near 85, southwest winds 5 to 15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: chance of thunderstorms, low near 50, high near 75.

Monday: dry, low near 45, high near 80.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Wheat drilling halfway; cool weather slowing oil sunflower harvest

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Wheat drilling began in earnest in Sherman County a little over a week ago, right after Labor Day. Farmers have had good drilling conditions, with good moisture and no weather delays. Sunflower harvest is just getting started, with the rush being delayed seven to 10 days, due to the cooler temperatures.

Dana Belshe, Sherman County extension agent, figures wheat drilling is about 50 to 60 percent complete in the county.

"We've had real good weather and good topsoil moisture," said Belshe.

At Mueller Grain, Tom Stewart, operations manager, said farmers are still getting seed wheat cleaned.

"We're cleaning about six to eight loads a day," said Stewart. "We've been cleaning wheat steadily for about three weeks."

Randy Schoenthaler, general manager at Frontier Equity Exchange, said, "most of the people, I talked to, started drilling on Monday, and will finish up over the weekend or next week."

However, Schoenthaler said their elevator doesn't clean seed wheat, since they don't have seed cleaning facilities.

Instead, they mix dry fertilizer with wheat for farmers. This process has two advantages. First, the fertilizer is readily available to the plant as it starts growing because the fertilizer is right in the row, and second, it saves the farmer from having to do another operation.

Schoenthaler said they have kept busy mixing fertilizer with wheat and that on Tuesday they went through four semi-loads of fertilizer. But he looks for this service to start tapering off today.

Right on the heels of wheat drilling is sunflower harvest.

Lynn Hoelting, manager of Mueller Grain said their elevator has had some sunflower loads come in, but not very much. Hoelting said the cutting has started in the Cheyenne Wells, Colo. area, with the seeds being delivered here.

Primarily, the sunflower crop the elevator has received have been poorer quality, low test weight and low oil content seeds.

Hoelting said some possible reasons were that the sunflowers were either planted early, died prematurely because of heat stress or insect pressure or were prematurely harvested.

"Normally we would have expected to be in full swing, but because of cooler weather, we have been delayed seven

to 10 days," said Hoelting.

The delay in sunflower harvest allows elevators more time to move grain out to make room for sunflowers and to do mechanical maintenance and repair. It also gives them time to prepare the ground for expected ground piles.

Northern Sun, Collingwood Grain and Frontier Equity Exchange are all building extra grain storage bins or bunkers.

"The sunflowers aren't getting worse by standing in the field," Hoelting said.

Where farmers could run into problems would be if excessive winds come up, which can blow plants over or make the heads knock together and knock the seeds out.

Ken Berndt, field agronomist at Northern Sun, said their facility has had a few loads of sunflowers each day this week.

"We're not nearly into the rush," he said.

They expect to pick up next week, after wheat drilling is completed. In addition, Berndt said a lot of sunflowers aren't dried down yet, but they expect that to happen next week.

Northern Sun takes just oil sunflower seeds. They accept Nusun oil type sunflower seeds, which have better quality oil, and the traditional oil type sunflower seeds.

It is truly football weather



Football fans came out to the junior high game against Atwood Thursday despite the cold, wet weather. Fans planning on attending tonight's high school game need to bundle up, temperatures will be in the 50s for the game.

Photo by Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News

City considers funding proposals for water park

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Proposals to fund construction of a new water park and a new ball park will be considered at 5 p.m., Monday at the city commission meeting.

The commissioners have been reviewing three funding proposals to build the proposed water park and a new ball field through a lease/purchase plan.

The three proposals are from First National Bank of Goodland, Bankwest of Goodland and Froggatte and Herndon Capital Corporation of Wichita.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the three proposals are similar in scope and are within the five to six percent interest range. He said the proposals call for the lease to be from 10 to 12 years in length.

Under the proposals the city would lease the facility from the financial institution, and the lease payments would be paid with a combination of money from the General Fund, the Water Fund

and the Electric Fund. Pickman said there would not be any mill levy increase or any increase in water or electric rates.

"The only thing that would affect the funding would if there was an emergency," Pickman said, "and that would be the case no matter how we funded the project. We are looking at a maximum of \$2.4 million for both the water park and the ball park, but we are trying to reduce the cost a bit more."

Pickman said approval has been received from the state and federal level to allow the moving of the ball park from Steever Park to Centennial Park and the building of the water park on the site of the ball park.

Once the commission has selected who will fund the water park project the next step is consideration of hiring Sullivan Palmer Architects to do the engineering and contract supervision for the water park. Sullivan Palmer is the company which was selected by the commission and the pool committee to help in the preliminary design of the

water park.

There has been a delay in the approval of the K-27 project from Broadcast Plaza to about a block south of the intersection with old why 24. Pickman said the cost projection for the project was set at \$1.3 million with the city planning to pickup 20 percent for about \$270,000. However, recent information from the Kansas Department of Transportation are indicating the cost has risen by about \$400,000, and Pickman said under the agreement the city would have to fund the additional cost.

"I think if the figures the state is sending today are that high the project may be in jeopardy," Pickman said this morning. "We have about \$270,000 in the 2000 budget for this project and I do not know whether we could find an additional \$400,000."

Such an obstacle would mean the project would have to be restructured or renegotiated, and Pickman agreed that could lead to additional delay and again more engineering costs.

In other business the commission will consider

• Approval of the annual pay plan for full time city employees. The plan sets a one percent base raise for city full time employees next year, and allows a merit

raise of up to four percent on an individual basis. The raises would be effective in January for those hired before 1996, and on the employees anniversary date for those hired after 1996.

• Adoption of the 1999 version of the standard traffic ordinances for Kansas Cities.

• Adopting the 1997 Uniform Housing Code. The city currently uses the 1982 edition.

• Home occupation permits for Daycare from Kyra Timm, 222 East 10th Street and Mary Vinar, 228 Walnut Avenue.

• A rezoning request from J.B. McClure, 901 West Ninth Street from single family to two family.

• Reschedule the Oct. 4, meeting because of the Kansas Municipal League convention. The meeting would be rescheduled to Monday, Oct. 11.

• Discuss traffic complaints about excessive speed on 15th Street between Arcade and Eustis on the south edge of the Northwest Kansas Technical School.

The Goodland City Commission regularly meets at 5 p.m. on the First and Third Monday of the month in the commission room on the second floor of the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th.

Letters show killer's ramblings

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Before he went on a shooting rampage at a Baptist church, Larry Gene Ashbrook, 47, did what many people do when they have something to say. He wrote a letter to the editor.

In fact, he wrote two, both to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. The rambling missives sent this summer refer to encounters with the CIA, psychological warfare, assaults by co-workers, being drugged by police and being suspected of murders committed by a Texas serial killer.

At one point, Ashbrook refers to a lack of due process in a purported police investigation of himself — "a serious injustice against me."

In the last several weeks, he contacted an alternative weekly newspaper and visited the Star-Telegram's office to meet with city editor Stephen Kaye.

"There were outlandish things in these letters," Kaye said Thursday. The first letter "rambled. It was hard to follow. It didn't seem very plausible. My immediate reaction was that there was not much we could do for him."

The letters, along with other writings found at Ashbrook's home, are being looked at by authorities trying to determine a motive for Ashbrook's deadly shootings Wednesday night.

Three adults and four teen-agers were killed when Ashbrook — shout-

ing anti-Baptist rhetoric — opened fire in Wedgwood Baptist Church during a Christian music concert. Seven others were wounded before he killed himself.

Ashbrook, armed with two handguns, fired three clips and had stuffed six more in his pockets. He also set off a homemade pipe bomb but it did not harm anyone.

Investigators found bomb-making tools, including files, pipes, fuses and gunpowder, inside Ashbrook's modest wood-frame home Thursday. They also found various writings, like his letters to the Star-Telegram, in which he blamed bosses for his inability to keep jobs and get along with others.

The first letter was dated July 31 — 11 days after his father's death — and spoke of bizarre encounters with strangers that led him to believe he was a suspected serial killer.

The second letter, dated Aug. 10, was written after he came to believe "it is obvious that you are uninterested in my story."

Sometime after the second letter, Ashbrook visited Kaye at the newspaper's downtown office.

"He was very cordial. He was very apologetic for bothering me," Kaye said. "I kept saying: 'You're not a bother; I just can't do anything for you. These are hard things to do that are in your letter.'"

local
markets

Wheat — \$2.23 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.16
Loan deficiency payment — .29¢
Corn — \$1.60 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.60
Loan deficiency pmt. — .39¢
Milo — \$2.24 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.03 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.27
Loan deficiency payment — .62¢
Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.30 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.85
Oil new crop — \$6.30 cwt.
Confection current — ask
Pinto beans — \$18 (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.

Floyd pelts New England

SANDWICH, Mass. — Tropical Storm Floyd spun into New England today, pelting the region with heavy rain as it delivered a final blow from its whirlwind race up the East Coast. In its wake, floodwaters caused havoc in a New Jersey town and travelers continued to face problems.

The storm packing winds of 60 mph was falling apart after flooding states from South Carolina to New Jersey.

Left behind are millions of dollars in damage and at least 17 deaths, including 12 from traffic accidents in the Carolinas, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Massachusetts. Two girls in Delaware drowned after they were swept into a sewage pipe, a woman in Virginia and a man in Pennsylvania were both killed by falling trees.

Three people were missing in Darby, Pa., where a foot of rain forced people out of their homes.

Crane arrives at Caruso



Arrival of the crane is the first sign work is about to begin on the Caruso bridge replacement project. The contractor is expected to close old hwy 24 this weekend to begin demolition of the old bridge. Drivers will have to use Eighth Street west to County Road 14 as a bypass while the bridge is replaced.

Photo by Charlie Baker / The Goodland Daily News