

weather
report

70°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 6:00 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:04 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:58 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 53 degrees

• Humidity 15 percent

• Sky Mostly sunny

• Winds North at 20 mph

• Barometer 30.20 inches
and falling

• Record High 90° (1921)

• Record Low 18° (1976)

Last 24 Hours*

High 70°

Low 33°

Precipitation —

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, low 30-35,
winds NW 5-15. Tomorrow: Partly
sunny, high 65-70, winds NW 5-15.

Extended Forecast

Saturday through Sunday. Dry
both days. High Saturday in the 60s,
lows 30-35. Sunday high 70-75, low
35-40.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.08 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.05

Loan deficiency payment — 40¢

Corn — \$1.50 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.57

Loan deficiency pmt. — 42¢

Milo — \$2.17 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.03 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.99

Loan deficiency payment — 90¢

Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.85 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.52

NUSUN oil crop — \$6.45 cwt.

Confection current — \$9 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$15 (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.

Jose weakens,
moves north

THE VALLEY, Anguilla—Hurricane Jose battered Antigua, ripped up trees and utility poles on St. Barts and Anguilla, then weakened into a tropical storm as it veered north out of the Caribbean today.

By 9 a.m., the storm was 20 miles north of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands with winds of 65 mph, down from 100 mph on Wednesday. Its once-fearsome core had begun to break up, forecasters said.

Earlier the storm uprooted trees, tore down electrical and telephone lines and flung debris on roads in Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands, emergency officials said.

"It could have been worse for us," said Sandra Ward, a spokeswoman in the British Virgin Islands.

The airport and seaports were closed and most houses were boarded up. There were no reports of flooding, though Jose drenched the islands with heavy rains.

Seat belt safety message from 'cricket'

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Dressed in a dark green shirt and pants and wearing red high-top tennis shoes, Kansas Insurance Commissioner Kathleen Sebelius talked to second graders at West School on Tuesday morning about seat belt safety.

She presented the Kansas Insurance Department's Click-it Cricket program, which encourages school-aged children to get in the habit of wearing safety belts.

For Sebelius, this is a prime safety issue, as a recent survey showed that 58 percent of children aged 4-13 use safety belts. But it is also an economic and insurance issue. The Kansas Safety Belt Education office estimates that average hospital costs for an unbuckled victim of a traffic accident are 50 percent higher than the costs for a buckled victim.

Sebelius emphasized three main points to the students. To wear your safety belt every time you ride in a car; fasten your safety belt snugly over your lap and shoulder; and sit in the back seat, because it's safer there.

Using John Dinkel, a student from the audience, to demonstrate her points, she had him pretend to be a driver, while she was a passenger in the back seat. She asked the other students questions about the difference between what could happen in an accident, if a passenger was riding in the front seat versus riding in the back seat.

She told how her oldest son, Ned, was recently in an accident, but because he was wearing his safety belt, he was not seriously hurt.

Sebelius had a

safety pledge form, which she asked the students to consider signing and when asked, a girl from the audience came up to sign one. The commissioner showed the students a Click-it Cricket coloring sheet and sticker, which they would receive, along with posters which she would give to the teachers to display around the school.

As the students were leaving the presentation, many of them came up to give hugs to Sebelius.

Afterwards, Sebelius went to Anthony's Restaurant for a reception and to answer questions and visit with local residents. About 20 people came out to see her. Coffee and snacks were provided.

Sebelius, the first woman insurance commissioner, is serving her second term. She was accompanied on her trip by Nicole Basso, Kansas Insurance Department assistant director of public information, and Iryna Konovalova of Kharkov, Ukraine, who is working with Sebelius to learn more about insurance.



Insurance commissioner of Kansas, Kathleen Sebelius showed off her tennis shoes, part of the outfit she wears when presenting the Click-it Cricket safety belt program throughout the state.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News



Kathleen Sebelius, Kansas insurance commissioner, hugged one of the second graders at West School after her presentation of the Click-it Cricket program to them on Tuesday.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Farm bailout will save few in Kansas

WICHITA (AP) — Kansas farmers have run up astronomical credit card bills these past few months as they struggle to finance their farm operation, pay hospital bills and cover basic family needs, lenders say.

For many of these households, the farm aid bailout passed last week isn't enough to allow their farms to survive, said Forrest Buhler, an attorney for the Kansas Agriculture Mediation Service. "When you have something like that, a payment may help some in reducing some of that, but it is not really going to affect the long-term survivability of that particular operation," Buhler said Wednesday.

Buhler said the unusually high credit card debt taken on by farm families is one of the changes he has seen in the cases coming to the credit mediation service.

For the 12-month period that ended Sept. 30, the number of financially troubled farmers coming to the agency for help more than doubled. The agency received 123 requests for credit mediation in that fiscal year compared with 55 a year earlier.

And requests from legal assistance totaled 119 in that period compared with 64 the previous year, he said.

The \$8.7 billion emergency spending bill includes \$400 million in assistance to Kansas farmers.

"Any infusion of cash into most operations will be a benefit — whether it will save the overall operation, that remains to be seen," Buhler said.

On a per bushel basis, those payments mean roughly 64 cents per bushel for wheat, 36 cents for corn, 43 cents for grain sorghum and 16 cents for soybeans.

Those payments mean the typical Kansas wheat farmer will get a total payment of \$3.50 a bushel, said Duane Hund, a farmer and a farm analyst who helps financially troubled farm families.

Two pinned in rollover on I-70



Phyllis Stang 65, driver, of Rockville, Md. and Marjorie Smith, 72, passenger, of Annapolis, Md., were injured in an accident about 2 p.m. Wednesday when Stang lost control of her 1999 Land Rover on I-70 near mile marker 2. The vehicle was eastbound, lost control, went into the median and rolled at least once coming to rest on its wheels.

The rescue unit of the Goodland Fire Department was called, and had to use the jaws of life to get the occupants out of the vehicle. Both

occupants were wearing their seat belts.

Both women were transported to Goodland Regional Medical Center. Stang was admitted overnight for observation and was being dismissed today. Smith was transferred to St. Anthony's Hospital in Denver yesterday afternoon with a fractured neck and facial trauma.

Photo by Charlie Baker / The Goodland Daily News