

weather
report

71°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:37 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:25 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:36 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 51 degrees
• Humidity 18 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds southwest at 16 mph
• Barometer 30.15 inches
and falling
• Record High 87° (1927)
• Record Low 1° (1950)

Last 24 Hours*

High 76°
Low 36°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: clear, low near 35, south winds 5 to 15 mph.

Thursday: sunny, high near 80, southwest winds, 5 to 15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday: dry, low near 35, high near 80.

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

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.09 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.12
Loan deficiency payment — 33¢
Corn — \$1.47 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.64
Loan deficiency pmt. — 35¢
Milo — \$2.13 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.82 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.02
Loan deficiency payment — 87¢
Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.70 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.95
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.

Suspect led
law to a body

OSKALOOSA — A murder suspect called the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department before leading authorities to the body of a girl he is accused of killing.

Undersheriff Jeff Herrig declined to say what Thomas Bledsoe told sheriff's officers that led them to consider him a suspect.

Bledsoe, 25, of Oskaloosa, was charged Tuesday with first-degree murder in the death of a 14-year-old girl who disappeared after being let off a school bus at her home last week. Early Monday, he led authorities to the body of Zetta Camilla Arfmann.

Arfmann, of rural Oskaloosa, was last seen Friday afternoon at 4:20 p.m. after she was let off the bus outside her family's mobile home. Her body was discovered about 2:30 a.m. Monday in a ditch three miles northwest of Oskaloosa, covered with dirt and trash.

Hunter invasion expected by Friday

By Charlie Baker

The Goodland Daily News

Kansas is about to be invaded with thousands of gun-toting guys. No, not the militia or an army, just hunters coming to the best bird hunting in the land.

The Kansas Department of Parks and Wildlife is expecting from 30,000 to 45,000 non-resident hunters to be in Kansas for opening day of pheasant and quail seasons this weekend.

Mike Miller, publications editor for the Department of Parks and Wildlife, said that the department has been busy preparing for the season.

"This is the first year we have offered non-resident licenses over the Internet," he said. "It has grown faster than I or anyone thought it would."

Miller said since Sept. 1, the department has had over \$80,000 in electronic sales.

A hunter can log onto the department's internet site, fill out the form, pay with a credit card, print out the license themselves. There are, Miller said, no lines, no waiting.

Another rush the department has experienced is increasing the walk-in hunter access. There were 330,000 acres in 1997, 480,000 in 1998, and this year, the land has been increased to 630,000.

"Our biologists have been busy getting everything arranged with landowners," he said.

Miller said they are expecting a good to very good season in west and northwest Kansas.

"The moisture this spring, and the late wheat harvest should make for good conditions for the birds," Miller said.

Conditions for opening day could be better, though.

"The forecast for Saturday is 79 degrees," he said, "that will be tough on the dogs. Not very good bird weather, either."

Another concern the department has is the dry

conditions.

Miller said whenever there are that many people out in dry conditions like there are now, the fire danger is high.

"I would advise that no one drive in the grass at all," he said. "If that grass comes into contact with the catalytic converter, it can ignite."

Miller also advises that all hunters wear orange clothing. It is not required by law for bird hunters, but it does make a hunter safer, Miller said.

"The most common accident we see is a hunter

See SEASON, Page 4

County requires burning permits, OK by fire chief

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

With weeds and range land tinder dry, Sherman County residents now need a written permit and permission from the fire chief for open burning. Commissioners hope the rest of us will be real careful.

With the humidity in the low 30 percent range and the temperatures staying in the 60s and 70s, the fire danger is extremely high in northwest Kansas.

Sherman County commissioners approved a measure Tuesday requiring anyone who wants to burn in the county to first obtain a written burn permit from the county and then oral approval of the rural fire chiefs.

"I think what we have in place is enough to control the open burning in the county if the citizens obtain the proper permission," said Rural Fire Chief Kenny Griffith. "Most people are following the requirement to call central dispatch and get permission for a control burn."

"I am concerned about the upcoming opening of pheasant season this weekend with the out of area hunters. We have been very lucky so far with only one fire for as dry as it is, and we want people to be conscious of the high fire danger."

Griffith said he had some forms which had been used previously and he would try to establish a cellular phone number for people to be able to contact him directly about burning permission. He said the other rural fire chiefs would be the contacts in their districts, and he would see that they also had the forms or they would be available through a central location.

John Sheldon, Kanorado fire chief, he said people can contact him at 399-2402.

"I think this is a good idea," he said. "As long as the weather stays this warm there is a very real danger for rangeland fires."

The Kanorado fire district covers everything west of County Road 10.

Tom Aschenbrenner, rural fire chief in Brewster, and he said people can call him at 694-2213. The Brewster fire district covers everything east of County Road 29.

Kenny Griffith, Goodland rural fire chief, can be reached by leaving a message at the county shop at 899-4866 until a separate phone number is available.

Mary Messamore, head of central dispatch, said her office gets a teletype each morning with the rangeland fire danger forecast from the weather service and when people call in about

burning, her office has a set of criteria which Griffith created, based on the state law, to allow the dispatcher to determine whether permission can be granted without the need for further contact with the fire chiefs.

Messamore said when the fire danger is high, very high or extremely high, her people tell the person they must get permission from the chief where they live. If the chief grants permission, he notifies dispatch and they then make the announcement about a controlled burn being scheduled.

The fire danger forecast received today from the National Weather Service was very high for Northwest and Southwest Kansas and high for everywhere else in the state except the southeast, where it was listed a moderate. The forecast for northwest Kansas was for temperatures in the low 70s, humidity in the 20 percent range and wind speeds of five to 10 miles per hour.

Earlier this year a procedure was established for open burning of conservation reserve land which allows for the rural fire departments to assist in these burns, and sets up a procedure for recovering costs if the fire gets out of control. The procedure also established a fee if there is an uncontrolled burn which the fire department is called out to control.

Griffith said since the new procedure was established there have been a couple of fires where the person failed to follow the system and the county attorney has sent the responsible party a letter requesting payment. He said one which happened in the last few months was for \$330.

The law which Ken Smith of the state fire marshal's office sent include a specific statute which prohibits "the open burning of any wastes, structures, vegetation or any other materials on any premises..." However, the statute also refers to exceptions which are covered in two additional sections.

In the section which details the exceptions to prohibition on open burning there are four exceptions including burning on a residential premises with five or less dwelling units ... unless prohibited by any local authority with jurisdiction; open burning is allowed for cooking or ceremonial purposes, on public or private land regularly used for recreational purposes; open burning for crop, range, pasture, wildlife or watershed management as set forth in another statute; and open burning for any other purpose as approved by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. For these, a special permit must be obtained from the department.



Susan Bittel (above), director of the Fort Hays State University Small Business Development Center, talked to business owners at a workshop last Wednesday. A few of the business owners (below) took notes while Bittel talked about customer satisfaction.

Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Businesses get advice on work

Retailers study needs of successful marketing

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Keeping customers satisfied, controlling costs and inventory, training employees and bookkeeping tips are all things that a business owner needs to know about.

In addition, advertising, displaying merchandise, accounting, budgeting your ordering, and taking care of legal planning are some areas of business that an owner has to deal with.

"Survival Strategies for Small Retailers," a workshop for small business owners, taught all these principles, last Wednesday and Thursday night at the Murray Center of the Northwest Kansas Technical School.

The workshop was taught by Susan Bittel and Sheryl Davis from the Fort Hays State University Small Business Development Center, which serves 21



counties in northwest Kansas. Bittel, who specializes in marketing, is the director and Davis, a certified public accountant, is the assistant director.

The center works with small business owners to help them compete and grow in today's market, the women said. It provides management counseling, education programs and practical information. Any small business owner or anyone interested in starting a business can receive assistance from the center. There is no charge for one-on-one counseling and only a small charge for training courses.

On the first night of the Goodland workshop, participants learned about customers and marketing, merchan-

dising and store operations. The second night's topics were management, human resources and finance.

Two Goodland business women who attended the workshop had slightly differing views about how it helped them.

Luci Thomas, who owns Luci's Aquarium, 1012 Main, said for her it was a repeat of things she already knew. Except for about nine years when she had a health problem, she has been a small business owner since 1966.

"A nice refresher course for me," she said about the workshop.

But she said it was still good for her to hear some of the things that were

See BUSINESS, Page 4

Banks, offices close for a day

Veterans Day is Thursday, and all government offices, federal, state and county, will be closed. The post office will be closed and mail will not be delivered.

Banks also will also be closed, but schools will be open.

There will be a service at 11 a.m. led by Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and Disabled American Veterans at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 824 Main.

The Daily News will publish a paper, and the office will be open.

Merchants, paper sponsoring big cash drawing

Goodland merchants are gearing up for their second annual Christmas on Us cash giveaway, which will begin Monday and climax with a grand prize drawing for \$3,000 on Saturday, Dec. 18.

In its second year, the contest again will offer a \$2,000 grand prize to some lucky area family, with a \$400 second prize, \$200 third prize and eight instant winners of \$50 each.

Beginning Monday, sponsoring Goodland area businesses will be giving out tickets for the promotion with each purchase. Shoppers will get one ticket for each \$10 in merchandise or services purchased.

(No purchase is required to enter the contest; anyone can get one free ticket per week at The Daily News office or the Goodland Chamber office.)

All tickets will be entered in the grand prize drawing, which is planned for downtown Goodland on the Saturday afternoon before Christmas. A crowd is expected for the drawing, since winners must be present to claim their prizes.

"We were overwhelmed by the response to the event last year," said Steve Haynes, president of The Daily News. "Because of the weather, we had the drawing at Central School, and the place was packed. Estimates were we

had 1,000 to 1,200 people there. They filled the gym, jammed the halls and hung out the doors.

"With the success of the promotion last year, we had several merchants asking us to do it again. We expect to have a similar enthusiastic response from consumers this year."

There is no limit to the number of tickets anyone can collect for the contest, but there is a maximum of 250.

Instant winner numbers will appear in random ads in the Christmas on Us section of The Daily News. Leftover instant prizes and the three big prizes will be drawn in downtown Goodland.

Complete rules for the contest appear

in a full-page ad in today's paper. Mr. Haynes said the advertising staff is still talking with potential sponsors and there are a few spaces left for the kick-off ad on Monday.

Sponsors so far include: Rasure Lumber Do-It Center, Elliott's Furniture, Knott Just Books, Collage Ltd., Fixsen Electronics, Wane's Carpet, Aten Department Store, Jan's Hallmark, Mann's Jewelry Store, Bowladium Lanes, NAPA Auto Parts, the Corner Garage, Gambino's Pizza, First National Bank, Shores Bros. Auto Supply, Frontier Equity Co-op, Latino's Mexican Restaurant and Dan Brenner Ford.