

## weather report

52°

at noon



### Today

• Sunset, 5:38 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:20 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:38 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 41 degrees
- Humidity 41 percent
- Sky partly sunny
- Winds north 24 mph, gusting to 35 mph
- Barometer 29.90 inches and rising
- Record High 80° (1972)
- Record Low -17° (1960)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 74°  
Low 41°  
Precipitation .03 inches

### Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear; low 25-30; winds north 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny; chance of rain and snow, late; high 60-65; winds southeast 15-25 mph; low 30-35.

### Extended Forecast

Thursday through Saturday. Thursday: rain and snow, likely; high 35-45; low 30-35. Friday and Saturday: dry; high 60; low 30-35.

(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 — \$2.02  
Loan deficiency payment — 43¢  
Corn — \$1.72 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.81  
Loan deficiency payment — 18¢  
Milo — \$2.59 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.21 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.30  
Loan deficiency payment — 59¢  
Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight  
Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.70 cwt.  
Loan deficiency prnt. — \$3.99  
Confection current — \$13/\$8 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$12 (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.

## Wheat jumps into high gear

WICHITA — Warm weather prompted winter wheat to break dormancy throughout most of Kansas, with about 27 percent of the state's crop ranked in poor or very poor condition, Kansas Agriculture Statistics said Monday.

The agency ranked only five percent of the crop as excellent, with 35 percent of the crop rated as good and 33 percent fair.

Unusually dry weather plagued much of the state's crop this winter. Much of the state received either as rain or snow during February, the agency said, leaving some parched areas.

Most of the rain and snow came to south central Kansas, with places like Cowley County receiving 3.32 inches. That compares to western Kansas where most counties received either no moisture or less than one inch in the past month.

# Airlines have no good news for Goodland

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Daily News*

DODGE CITY — Representatives of Great Lakes Aviation did not have any good news for a contingent of Goodland and Sherman County officials and citizens who traveled to Dodge City on Monday for a community air service meeting.

Doug Voss, president of Great Lakes, and Dick Fontaine, senior vice president, talked about changes which will end service to Goodland, Great Bend and Lamar, Colo.

About 40 people representing airports, cities and travel agencies in Kansas attended the meeting at the Dodge City Civic Center. Congressman Jerry Moran was present for part of the morning session with Great Lakes and an afternoon session with Air Midwest.

Moran told the audience he was working with several other House members to introduce a bill to give the Essential Air Service program money to help keep service to towns which might lose it. He said the bill would be introduced in the House this week.

Debbie Pugh, district director from Dodge City, represented Sen. Pat Robert's.

"I was encouraged to have Congressman Moran at the meeting and believe we will be ultimately successful," said Ron Harding, Goodland Chamber of Commerce executive director. "We had a good discussion with the congressman about what can be done, and believe the meeting was fruitful."

Harding said the meeting showed that Great Lakes was trying to pick the cream of the western Kansas air service rather than really supporting the intent of the essential air service to rural communities.

Members of the Goodland contingent included Sherman County Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld, Goodland City Commissioners Curtis Hurd and Rick Billinger, airport manager John Collett, and Evelyn Stout of Goodland and Jean Pettibone of Kanorado.

Fontiane said the purpose of the small regional airlines is to link communities to the national air service network. He said Great Lakes flight times are predicated on making connections in Denver with layovers being between 40 minutes to one hour. He said the early-morning flight is to connect with outbound United flights to the east and the later flight is to connect with the United outbound flights going to the west.

He showed a map of the Kansas airport load factors in 1999 which indicated Garden City is the strongest boarding point in the state. He pointed out that Goodland was only producing about 6 percent of the boardings and that Lamar had provided only 10 percent of the boardings in 1999.

"We believe that the new routes we will implement in April will give us a better load factor and provide the best service at a reasonable cost," Fontiane said. Service from Salina is being rescheduled to stop in Hays rather than Goodland and Great Bend.

Voss said a part of the problem the airline had faced in the past couple of years was the loss of 68 pilots in 45 days, which caused them to cut service by 14 percent.

He said the cost of providing air service had increased from 14 cents a mile in 1994 to 24 cents a mile today. Part of that increase he said was due to tougher safety regulations and overall cost increases.

Another reason for the problems in the Essential Air Service program, Voss said, was the federal budget cuts.

"The Department of Transportation saw this coming in October and November and began making the hard decisions in December," Voss said. "The officials have to get the spending level below \$50 million this fiscal year...."

"We are also experiencing a tremendous increase in fuel costs which will make the problem even worse," he said.

"Our figures show that the fuel costs will increase our costs by over \$4 million, and there is no budget in Washington to help cover the fuel costs.

"The Department of Transportation faces big problems the rest of this fiscal year and in the future."

Moran said he felt that Congress could address the fuel cost issues, and asked how much would be needed nationally.

Voss said he thought \$12 to \$16 million would be required. He said Great Lakes fuel costs were running at 14 percent of total costs and now they are up to 20 percent.

"There is a sensitivity of the consumer market," Voss said. "Over the weekend there was a drop in bookings because of the announcement of the increase costs through a fuel surcharge."

Voss said that last year, Great Lakes had turned over handling of the seats on the planes to United,

"United gave away the store last summer with lots of low-cost seats," he said. "While the numbers were up, we were losing \$25-30 per ticket and while running full, we were not making money."

"We are motivated on the basis of cost and return on investment, while the Federal Aviation Administration is more interested in enplanements. This puts us at a conflict of interest where we need to balance the costs with the product we are delivering."

"This is in direct conflict with the intent of the essential air service," Harding said. "The direction you are going would have United driving the Essential Air Service, not providing the service to rural communities."

"Most major carriers don't want to be part of the Essential Air Service," Voss said. "That includes Delta, American and Northwest. You lose money in the Essential Air Service system despite the guarantee from the feds that you won't.

"Today the consumer is in control of the system. That is why it is our fundamental business determination that it won't work with one-stop and we have to go to non-stop service."

He said each stop reduces the revenue, and that currently with the marketing in place, they don't have much choice.

"If we can't break even in Salina with this, we will have to get out," Fontaine said.

"We can't wait for the government to fix it," Voss said. "Market forces are causing the problems. This is not an isolated problem and like the Department of Transportation, we have to face the music."

"It looks like the intent of the Essential Air Service is being lost in the marketing machine of the larger airlines," said Commissioner Frankenfeld.

Voss agreed that the major carriers are in charge, and that the change in regulations has shut the door on others getting into the business.

"I think we need to work with our representatives and senators to help resolve the funding problem," Commissioner Billinger said of the meeting, "and we need to find a way to keep the service while we find an airline that wants to handle our needs. It was obvious that Great Lakes doesn't want to be in Goodland."

## Youth charged in killing of boy, 13, in eastern Kansas

OSKALOOSA (AP)—For the second time in less than four months, this northeast Kansas town of 1,100 has lost one of its teen-agers to a fatal shooting.

Dakota "Cody" Back, 13, an eighth-grader at Oskaloosa Middle School, was shot to death during the weekend. On Monday Joshua L. Stark, 15, was charged with second-degree murder.

The complaint in Jefferson County District Court said Back was shot just before 3 a.m. Sunday at his home.

He was in his room with Stark and two other boys while his mother slept in another room, Sheriff Roy Dunnaway said. Kansas Bureau of Investigation agent Scott Teeselink said dispatchers received a 911 call at 2:55 a.m.



The Sherman County Conservation District held their annual awards presentation Monday night. Andra Townsend (above left), daughter of Bankers Award winners Alan and Lynda Townsend, sang. Jim McKee shook hands with Colleen Rall, who with her husband, Albert, won the Windbreak Award. Shirley and Gerald Anderson, Goodyear Award winners (below), looked at their plaque afterward. They were joined by their grandson, Jordan Anderson, and son, Jay Anderson.

Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

# Conservation dinner honors award winners, area students

By Janet Craft

*The Goodland Daily News*

It was an evening to honor people who have worked to conserve the land and to recognize those students who have promoted conservation of natural resources, but it was also an evening of good food, fellowship and fun, which residents of Sherman County were welcome to attend.

The Sherman County Conservation District's annual meeting, held Monday night at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, showcased the annual conservation awards and poster, limerick and essay awards to students.

District Chairman Lonnie Whiteker welcomed everyone to the event. The meal of chili and chicken noodle soup, relishes and homemade cinnamon rolls was prepared and served by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

Bill Selby, district vice chairman, introduced the program. Entertainment was provided by 4-H members Andra Townsend and Darin Richardson, who each sang two country songs. They were followed by Megan Stefan and Kali Reitcheck with a dance routine.

District Manager Sandy Rodgers presented the Educator of the Year Award to Myron Tedford. He is a fifth-grade teacher at North School who teaches conservation in his classroom.

She also presented a special award to Lois Cossman for being the district's representative to Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development agency in Colby for three years.

Rodgers gave out awards to students who were winners in the poster, limerick and essay contest, while Dick Fletcher, district conservationist, announced the names.

The winners for posters in third and fourth grade were Jance McKee, first; Andrew Taylor, second; Courtney Sheldon, third; and BreAnna Nemechek, Alexis Schields, Heather West, and Adam Duell, honorable mention.

In the poster contest for fifth through eighth graders, the winners were Megan Stefan, first; Chelsea Gray, sec-

ond; Jordan Frazier, third; and Kali Reitcheck, Jared Hall, Jillian Parker, and Josh Cech, honorable mention. The winners for limericks in third and fourth grade were Andrew Philbrick, first; Kiera Musil, second; Charli Lawson, third; and Lacy Ayers, Britt Zwegyardt, and Hannah Blake, honorable mention.

For the essay contest, the winners were Julie Leiker, first; Katrina Cotter, second; Juan Coyote, third; and Megan Rubio, honorable mention.

Last year's poster winners, Megan Stefan and Darrick Ihrig, who went on to state competition, were honored.

Larry McCants, president of First National Bank, gave the Windbreak



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In the limerick contest for fifth through eighth graders, the winners were Jordan Frazier, first; May Davis, second; Frances Perez, third; and Alex Weis, Sammie Lamb, and Daniel Schields, honorable mention.

For the essay contest, the winners were Julie Leiker, first; Katrina Cotter, second; Juan Coyote, third; and Megan Rubio, honorable mention.

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Larry McCants, president of First National Bank, gave the Windbreak

Award to Albert and Colleen Rall and the Bankers Award to Alan and Lynda Townsend.

"Every year, it's the hardest decision to pick who should win," McCants said. He said the Ralls were good stewards of the land.

"I truly enjoy going on these tours, more than anything else I do during the year," said McCants.

McCants said the Townsends were very deserving of the Bankers Award.

McCants said in answer to the question proposed in Richardson's song, "What Do You Do With a Cowboy?" "I think the wrestlers proved that," he said. "You lose."

Farmer Lynn Ihrig introduced the Goodyear Award winners, Gerald and Shirley Anderson, and gave a brief history of their farming experience.

Voting for two new district supervisors was held afterwards, with results to be announced later.

of Back, described by principal Jon Pfau as a social, friendly and above-average student.

A psychologist, social workers and counselors were available to students.

Last November another Oskaloosa teen-ager, Zetta "Camille" Arfmann, 14, was found was found dead in a garbage ditch near the city, buried under dirt, trash and pieces of plywood. She had been shot at least three times, once in the back of the head.

Her brother-in-law, Floyd Bledsoe, 23, has been charged with first-degree murder, aggravated kidnapping and indecent liberties with a child.