

weather
report

93°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 8:11 p.m.
- Tomorrow
- Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:12 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 74 degrees
- Humidity 18 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds south 33-37 mph
- Barometer 29.83 inches and falling
- Record High 102° (1985)
- Record Low 42° (1984)

Last 24 Hours*

High	100°
Low	62°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, low 60, winds south 15-25 mph. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, high 90s, low 60-65, winds southwest 20-30 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: chance for thunderstorms, high 90-95, low 60-65. Sunday: chance for thunderstorms, high 85-90, low 55-60. Monday: dry, high 90-95, low 55-60.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.29 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.16
Loan deficiency payment — 29¢
Corn — \$1.81 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.78
Loan deficiency payment — 21¢
Milo — \$2.65 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.42 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.53
Loan deficiency payment — 37¢
Millet — \$2.67 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.80 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.05
Confection current — \$13/\$7 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.

Graves starts
drought team

BURLINGTON — Gov. Bill Graves said Wednesday that he plans to activate a statewide drought response team.

Al LeDoux, director of the Kansas Water Office, sent a letter to Graves on Tuesday requesting the action. The team consists of people from various state agencies.

Graves said he will decide when to activate the team after meeting with LeDoux today.

"I don't think there's a great significance to it, because I think all the professionals are already geared up and planning to take the appropriate steps irrespective of that," Graves said.

Graves said he doesn't give much credence to the inclusion of Kansas on a list of 15 states that have no long-term drought plan compiled by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



University of Pittsburgh graduate student Danielle Deemer (above) took notes on where she and another student unearthed a rhinoceros vertebrae in Rawlins County. College students Katy Kinsman and Shawn Kerr (below) put a plaster mold around a rhino rib to preserve it. Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

Fossil dig
gears up
on plains

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily news

A New York paleontologist can tell you what killed a tiny field mouse that scampered millions of years ago across the ground we call northwest Kansas today.

Psychic abilities? No, just science and a fascination with rodent bones.

By looking at a fossil, Dr. Bill Korth, a Buffalo State College geology professor who has been collecting fossils in the Midwest for over 25 years, can determine that another animal, possibly some sort of bird, ate the little mouse.

"You know how an owl will swallow an animal whole, digest the tissue and then regurgitate the hair and bones and other stuff?" said the professor, who spent a month last summer looking for fossils along parts of a 120-mile section of Sappa Creek that spans Decatur and Rawlins counties. "Well, you can see evidence of stomach acid on the bones. Stomach acid had etched the surface of the enamel on a mouse tooth we found."

Dr. Korth and two student assistants unearthed bits and pieces of legs, shells, horns and toes belonging to an-



cient camels, mastodons (elephants), horses, tortoises, antelopes and field mice during their excavations here last summer.

The professor, one of the students and five other assistants have returned to Decatur County this month, hoping to find more buried treasure.

Most paleontologists are looking for remnants of a tyrannosaur or stegosaur, but Dr. Korth, who specializes in rodent fossils, said he'll be satisfied with finding more mice, plus maybe an old rhino or elephant.

Katy Kinsman, the returning assistant, based an honors thesis on the trip last summer, determining how the animals died and how the fossils got to the place where they were found.

"Some were eaten," said Dr. Korth, "some had been trampled on, some had bite marks."

The bones that had been walked on were marked with tiny, parallel scratches, he said. Dr. Korth said the scratches were made when another animal stepped on the bones and the sand on their feet or hooves scraped against the surface.

The animals weren't killed where they were found, he said. The topography of the area and the way the fossils were buried helped Miss Kinsman, a geology major who is graduating this year, determine that water carried them to the area.

"It looks like the bones collected on a flood plain," said Dr. Korth, "and that's why they happened to be laying close to the surface and were all concentrated in one place."

"You could tell it was a flood, because the bones were all laying in one

See DIGGERS, Page 7

Hot, dry days
rush wheat crop
toward harvest

Farmers say yields
will drop this year

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily news

Above-average yields saved many last year, but as this year's wheat crop races toward harvest, area farmers say they won't be as lucky this time.

Prices had hit rock bottom last year, but many farmers managed to make a few bucks thanks to rain at all the right times. This year, rains haven't come.

"All you can do is sit and look at it and watch it deteriorate," said Marvin Duell, who farms three miles north of Ruleton. "It's really what we call a dry-land crop this year."

Drought, bug infestations and disease have taken their toll on much of the wheat in Sherman County, stunting growth, speeding up maturity and shriveling the berries that were plump at this time last year.

One hot, windy day after another is pushing up harvest time, with Sherman County Extension Agent Dana Belshe estimating that combines will start rolling onto fields in the next couple weeks. Some farmers will start test cutting before that. Wheat harvest usually does not begin until around the first of July.

Belshe said farmers will have to adjust their combines to cut the shorter, thinner wheat plants.

And there is no relief in sight for the thirsty plants, say meteorologists at the National Weather Service office here.

Bob Boyle, a forecaster at the office, said temperatures may drop slightly and there is a chance for isolated rain showers this weekend.

"It's not anything that's going to be a drought breaker," he said.

Though clouds aren't forming over Sherman County, farmers may see some silver linings.

An agricultural economist in Colby says that a low-yielding crop will lead to tighter supplies in the U.S. and around the world, which will eventually bring higher prices.

"In the supply-demand balance of things," said Dan O'Brien, northwest area extension agricultural economist, "lower supplies will lead to higher prices, everything else being equal."

Randy Schoenthaler, general manager of the Frontier Equity Exchange grain elevator in Goodland, said some dry land wheat yielded 80 to 90 bushels per acre last harvest. After talking with area farmers, Schoenthaler said this harvest may bring yields as low as 20 or 30 bushels per acre.

Wheat was going for \$2.26 a bushel in Goodland on Wednesday — well below what it costs farmers to produce. O'Brien said lower yields could increase prices by 10 to 15 cents a bushels.

He said, however, that if the drought continues and makes its way through the Corn Belt — including Nebraska and Iowa — and into the Dakotas, commodity prices will continue to rise.

"If it gets dryer in the Corn Belt," he said, "the 10 to 15 cent gain could be a very conservative guess."

Win \$50
for good
guessing

Guess when the first load of wheat will be hauled into a grain elevator in Sherman County, and you could win \$50.

It's part of the Harvest Countdown contest sponsored by area businesses and The Goodland Daily News each year, offering three people with the closest guesses scrip to spend at participating businesses.

This year, the person with the closest guess will get \$50, and people with the second and third closest will win \$35 and \$15 respectively.

Participating businesses include Orscheln Farm and Home, W-R Equipment, Shores Bros., Mueller Grain Co., McB's Corner, Aten Department Store, Frontier Equity Exchange, NAPA Automotive and The Daily News.

It's simple.

Fill out an entry form at any participating business, writing down the day, hour and minute you think the first load of wheat will be accepted at Mueller or Frontier elevators in Goodland and Ruleton or the Kanorado Co-op. And then wait.

There are some rules.

The load will only count if its moisture content is below 14 percent. The entry deadline is Friday, June 16, and you must be 18 to enter. No purchase is required to win.

Schoenthaler said drought, green bugs and diseases like wheat streak mosaic and barley yellow dwarf will not only affect yields, but quality. Those shriveled little berries will weigh less than the plump ones of recent harvests, he said.

"Farmers are going to get a double whammy," he said, "They are not going to have much of a crop and the crop quality will be poor."

Power outage
hits Goodland
in late evening

All of Goodland was shut down for about 20 minutes Wednesday night when two birds flew into the city's substation in Steever Park, putting out the lights.

Many businesses were unable to function without their power. nw-kansas.com Internet service was forced to shut down for 45 minutes.

There was no serious damage to any of the power plant equipment, said Ed Wolak, director of public works.

The short outage hit a busy system. Record-breaking temperatures Wednesday pushed power usage to 10.8 megawatts, said Rod Blake, a power plant employee. That was the peak for the year.

"The power use is going to continue to escalate with the temperature," said Blake.

The National Weather Service measured the high temperature Wednesday at 100, while the old record was 97 degrees set in 1988.

The high today seemed to be headed for three digits, but the record for today is 102 set in 1985.

Goodland man files for 121st District seat

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

Goodland's Harlen Dale House says

he is running for the 121st District seat in the state House of Representatives because he is concerned about water rights and water regulations.

A Republican, he will be running against Jim Morrison, the current representative from this district.

House said that he is concerned about the state Division of Water Resources,

saying there is a large amount of proposed water regulations he feels should be made into laws.

"I see a lot of stuff that needs to be involved in water rights," he said.

In addition to his interest in the water regulations, he said he wants to represent the farmer's view point and the economics of agriculture in the House.

House says that the voice of the farmers is being heard in the House but he would like to see more work on export

of northwest Kansas' agricultural products.

"We need to sell products overseas," said House. "The Legislature needs to work on selling the state and what we produce."

Asked what he would like people to know about him, House replied, "People in Goodland know about me. The majority of them know me."

House's rival, Rep. Morrison, said he thinks people will continue to vote for him because of what he has done in the past and legislation he is working on this year.

"I have been working for eight years now to get the voice of the people heard," said Morrison.

He said that he is an old friend of

House and is not sure why he is running against him, but he doesn't think it is a personal attack.

"It would be difficult to change horses mid stream," said Morrison, explaining that because this is a census year, it is a critical time for the district. He said it would be difficult for everyone concerned to elect someone new at this point.

Morrison believes the people he represents support his decisions and his leadership.

Currently, Morrison said, he is working on getting the Northwest Kansas Technical School declared as a college.

"I expect people to continue to support me," said Morrison. "I have a wide berth of experience and depth."



House



Morrison