

weather  
report

75°  
at noon

Today

Sunset, 8:14 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.

Sunset, 8:15 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 69 degrees

• Humidity 22 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds northwest 27-35

• Barometer 30.03 inches and falling

• Record High 105° (1952)

• Record Low 40° (1969)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 83°

Low 53°

Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 50-55, winds 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 80-85, low 50-55, winds 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday and Saturday: chance for thunderstorms, high 70-75, low 50-55. Sunday: dry, high 80-85, low 50.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.36 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.23

Loan deficiency payment — 22¢

Corn — \$1.73 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.65

Loan deficiency payment — 33¢

Milo — \$2.38 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.31 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.52

Loan deficiency payment — 38¢

Millet — \$3.60 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.80 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.96

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.

## Two wildfires burn homes

CONIFER, Colo.—Two Colorado wildfires have forced some 800 people out of their homes and burned nearly 10,000 acres and more than 30 structures, including at least 29 homes, since Monday.

The Knodels are among 400 to 500 people who have fled the fire that began near Bailey and burned 4,500 acres in the parched foothills 35 miles southwest of Denver. Three firefighters have suffered minor burns.

The fire was expected to flare up again Wednesday and officials say the total firefighting force may reach more than 800 soon.

Lightning is suspected as the cause.

Ninety miles away, in the tree-lined canyons east of Rocky Mountain National Park, high winds were fanning a nearly 5,000-acre blaze that has burned at least five structures.

# Wheat harvest coming soon

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County elevator operators can't pinpoint when wheat harvest will start this year, but they agree it should be the earliest that they can remember.

Glen Teels, branch manager for Collingwood Grain in Kanorado, said a few farmers will start test cutting today, and if the wheat is dry enough they will begin harvesting.

Merwin Jensen, grain marketer with Frontier Equity Exchange Co-op, said that most farmers won't fire up their combines until late next week, with harvest shifting into high gear that weekend.

But both say no matter when harvest starts, it will be way early.

"Even if it starts on the 23rd," said Jensen, "that will be the earliest that I can remember, and I have lived here since 1971."

Combines usually start rolling onto fields in northwest Kansas around July 1.

Jensen said Cheyenne County farmers have started test cutting wheat planted on sandy ground near Bird City. Elevator operators in Decatur County say farmers there have already started hauling the crop in, though most of the wheat is too wet and immature to be harvested.

Test weights on the early grain have

been low, reflecting dry weather in the weeks before harvest. Jensen said that the Cheyenne County load had a test weight of 50 pounds per bushel, which is 10 pounds below average.

He predicted that it will be the same story for the first grain brought into elevators here.

"It looks like light test weights to start with," Jensen said, "but there will be some quality wheat as we head into harvest."

Farmers are paid less for lighter wheat, depending on how much less it weighs than average. The price on a bushel of wheat with a 50-pound test weight will be 13 cents less than the going rate, said Shauna Johnson, a grain accountant at Frontier Equity.

Teels said a couple of farmers will start test cutting continuous-crop wheat in fields near Kanorado today. Most elevators will not take wheat that has over 14 percent moisture content, because it won't store well.

"It might be too wet," Teels said, "but they are going to try it, and if it's dry enough, then they'll keep cutting."

Tony Criswell, branch manager of Frontier Equity in Ruleton, said Brewster farmers may start test cutting today, as wheat specialists were assessing a couple of fields on Tuesday.

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Two farmers took a closer look at a variety of wheat at Fred and Jeanie Schields' test plot on Tuesday morning during the annual Sherman County Wheat Tour.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

# Tour shows what seed grows best on plains

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Farmers got up early Tuesday morning to attend the annual Sherman County Wheat Tour.

It was a chance to see varieties of wheat and find out which ones do well in this area, especially in a dry year.

Roger Stockton, an area agronomist for Kansas State Research and Extension, explained the differences in wheat varieties at the plots.

The first plot visited was planted by Jeff Deeds four miles east of Goodland and a mile north, where they saw 28 wheat varieties.

After that, farmers drove to the Fred and Jeanie Schields' test plot 10 miles north of town.

Fred Schields explained that his test plot had been planted Oct. 5 and 6 and with 35 varieties, making it the largest test plot ever for him. He said he planted seven new varieties.

Schields told a story of how to know who is in charge on a farm. He said if the farm buildings are bigger than the house, the husband is in charge. If the house is bigger than the outbuildings, the wife is in charge. And if the buildings and the house are both big, then the bank is in charge.

Dan O'Brian, an area economist with K-State

Extension, talked about wheat marketing, explaining the characteristics of wheat varieties.

Jim Shroyer, another agronomist from K-State, talked about growing white wheat. He said the Trego variety is good for this area.

He said farmers have to keep white wheat separate from red wheat. A problem develops when they get mixed because it causes the wheat to drop a class.

After the tour was done around 9 a.m., the group went to the Sherman County 4-H Building for breakfast, provided by First National Bank. At the breakfast, the 1999 wheat show winners were pre-

sented cash awards donated by county elevators.

Brett Myer, executive vice president of the Kansas Association of Wheat Producers, talked about white wheat.

Lynn Hoelting, general manager of Mueller Grain and a member of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association, gave his thoughts on white wheat and what elevators thought about white wheat as a commodity.

At 5 p.m., a final wheat tour was held at the farms of David Leonard and Bill Gattshall. Their sons, Michael Leonard and Matthew Gattshall, have a 4-H wheat project.

# Dummies tell drivers, 'Buckle up'

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

A police officer, his wife and two drama students dressed as the "crash test dummies," stuffed themselves into a recreational vehicle this summer to visit 85 cities across Kansas in 21 days.

They are on a mission to save 35 lives a year.

After being on the road for 12 days, the group stopped at the Wal-Mart parking lot in Goodland on Monday afternoon. For two hours, they shook hands, posed for the crowd and tried to spread the message that seat belts are important.

Gordon Smith, a police officer from Hutchinson and leader of the crew, had to stop and think where he was.

"What county are we in again?" Smith asked as he was listing statistics of fatal accidents across the state.

Last year in Sherman County, he said, there were six fatal car accidents where the victims weren't belted in.

Those are the type of statistics that brought the group together this summer. They are trying to get a "primary" seat belt law passed in Kansas, allowing officers to stop and ticket a driver for not wearing a seat belt, or having a passenger who is not belted in.

Officers can now ticket drivers for not wearing a seat belt, but only if they have stopped them for another reason.

Vince and Larry, the crash test dummies, are actually two high school students who are filming a documentary of their performance for drama class. Drew Mendoza and Michael Warren did not seem that disoriented, but then, they couldn't talk because of their costumes.

They may have been a little tired af-



Crash test dummies Vince and Larry, signed autographs and greeted customers Monday in an effort to get people to use their seat belts.

Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

ter the traveling, but the group was focused on their objective, which is to get as many people as they can to sign a petition that will be given to the state Legislature in February.

Smith said that Kansas is currently sixth from the bottom on a list of seat belt usage in America. After researching statistics from other states that have a primary seat belt law, he says making it a law here would save 35 lives a year and \$1 billion in medical costs.

"The main argument people have against the law is the intrusion into their privacy," he said, "but all laws are an invasion of privacy, and think about what a lawless society would be like."

He said that laws are made to make

people do what they don't want to do, adding that pulling someone over for a broken tail light is more of an intrusion, and it's certainly less important.

"Having a busted tail light won't kill you," Mr. Smith said, "but not wearing your seat belt will."

"People who say that making you wear your seat belt is an invasion of your privacy are selfish people who don't care about anyone else."

The biggest reason, Mr. Smith said, for passing the primary seat belt law is that 70 percent of children will not wear their seat belt if the adults don't.

"Too many children and teen-agers are dying from not wearing their seat belts, and that needs to stop," he said.

# State drilling to find pollution at landfill

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Two more monitoring wells should be drilled to pin down the source of contamination north of the old county landfill, state officials told Sherman County commissioners Tuesday.

Betty Gamber and Bob Jurgens from the Department of Health and Environment met with commissioners to discuss the contamination at the old landfill, northeast of town, which might be coming from outside the site.

Curt Way, county public works director, asked if two more wells would be enough to determine the location and boundaries of the underground contamination. Including the two, the county will have drilled 11 monitoring wells around the old landfill.

Jurgens said he believes the two additional wells will be sufficient to determine if the contamination found in the wells drilled on the north edge of the landfill is limited to that area or coming from somewhere outside the landfill. He said that if the two new wells show more contamination, it will be an indication to him that there was a different source and he would turn the matter over to another unit for investigation.

Commissioner Kenneth Davis asked what recourse there was if the landowner did not want to allow the wells to be drilled on his property.

Jurgens said that if the request to drill meets opposition, he would meet with the landowner to explain the procedure and to assure him that the state is not seeking to investigate any of the pesticides that may have

been sprayed on the land. He said the drilling could be done without permission if necessary, but so far the department has not had to resort to such measures.

"The real reason for these wells is to help explain why the hottest contamination seems to be coming from the area away from the landfill site," Jurgens said, "and to see if there are geological reasons for this or something which does not relate to the landfill. The PC contamination being found doesn't make a lot of sense, and the additional wells should give us an answer."

There is a possibility that if the contamination moves to the northwest rather than to the east and southeast as anticipated, Jurgens said, and that could effect one of the city's water wells nearby.

Davis asked if the monitoring wells could be a source of contamination in the future, and if that happened, would the state be responsible?

Jurgens said it would be unlikely the wells, if capped properly, would become a source of trouble, but agreed it was not impossible. In such an event, he said, the county would be responsible. He also complimented the county's engineering firm, Terranext.

"We have been pleased with the reports coming in from your engineering firm," Jurgens said. "They are some of the best we have seen."

Gamber also complimented the county on the way the grounds of the old landfill were being maintained.

Way said Lakewood, Colo., engi-

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