

## weather report

85°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 7:02 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:26 a.m.  
• Sunset, 7:00 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 70 degrees  
• Humidity 21 percent  
• Sky mostly sunny  
• Winds southwest 15 mph  
• Barometer 30.15 inches and steady  
• Record High 100° (1931)  
• Record Low 36° (1974)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 85°  
Low 49°  
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, low 50-55, south winds 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, high 90, low 50-55, south winds 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday through Saturday: dry, high 85-90, low 50-55.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.59 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.37  
Loan deficiency payment — 8¢  
Corn — \$1.59 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.54  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 45¢  
Milo — \$2.39 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.36 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.30  
Loan deficiency payment — 60¢  
Millet — \$8.00 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$5.35 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.26  
Confection current — \$15/\$6 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.

## Agency seeks power on tires

WASHINGTON — Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater on Tuesday urged Congress to give federal safety inspectors broad new powers because of the Firestone tire case, including access to overseas product data, manufacturer warranty claims and insurance claim information. "We must look to the future and guard against any repetition of tragedy caused by defective vehicles or equipment," said Slater, whose agency includes the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Meanwhile, in another sign of the deteriorating relationship between Ford and Firestone, Ford CEO Jac Nasser ripped Bridgestone/Firestone officials who he said withheld data from Ford indicating the tires had safety problems.

# Corn crop is dry but not a lost cause

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

This year's parched corn crop will probably not match last year's yields, but farmers are saying that things aren't as bad as some people have anticipated with the weather being so dry this year.

It is hard to gage how the corn is doing because harvest hasn't begun, but yields will probably not be as high as in past years, and elevators expect lower test weights this year.

Last year, Sherman County saw record yields, so this year's harvest probably won't measure up,

elevator manager say.

With the extremely dry weather, said Lynn Hoelting, general manager of Mueller Grain Co., the corn has a potential for a lower test weight and yields could be off 30 to 40 bushels from the average on both dry and irrigated crops.

"The weather was so dry that it didn't matter if the crop was irrigated," said Hoelting, "since mother nature didn't help it out any."

He said that the farmers anticipated this year's low yields and a lower test weight because of the dry weather, so it isn't a shock to anyone.

A hail storm that passed over Goodland in July

damaged some fields on the west side of town, Hoelting said.

In Oakley, the harvest has already started to trickle in, said Steve Badger of Collingwood Grain Co..

He said that the corn is coming in dry and averaging a test weight of 52 to 58, while a good weight would be 56 for corn.

He said that he couldn't make too many predictions on yield, but he is sure it will be dry enough to store.

"Overall, the corn is respectable," he said.

Most of the corn in Goodland is still in the

ground, and Hoelting said that the condition varies in different places.

"There is some very good corn, some poor, and some average," he said.

Hoelting said that most of the corn will probably be held on the farmer's property, and the reduced wheat harvest this year opened up even more elevator space for corn storage.

While some limited harvest activity has been seen in this area, this weekend should kick off a majority of the harvest, he said, and by Sept. 20 most of the area farms should have the corn and sunflower harvest underway.



Trooper Rich Hageman and Sherman County firemen rushed to direct traffic and put out a camper that was on fire on eastbound I-70 west of Goodland Monday afternoon. Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

## Camper bursts into flames on highway

Flames spread to south ditch burning grass

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

A Washington couple's 24-foot camper burst into flames alongside I-70 west of Goodland Monday afternoon after a driver from Utah saw flames and told the couple to pull over.

Before Sherman County firemen got to the scene, the blaze had spread to the highway's south ditch, blackening about an acre of grass before it was put out.

Sheriff's Deputy Robert Lamb said dispatch got a report at 2:19 p.m. that a trailer was on fire at milepost 15 on eastbound I-70. He said firefighters, sheriff's deputies and

Trooper Rich Hageman responded.

Lamb said they don't know what started the fire, but firemen weren't able to save Gerald and Linda Greer's 1987 Avalo camper, which is now at a junkyard in Goodland.

The couple, from Eatonville, Wash., said they didn't notice anything unusual when they stopped at the west interchange in Burlington.

A man from Nibley, Utah, flagged the couple down when he saw flames coming out the back of the camper, Lamb said. He didn't know who owns the land that the fire spread onto.

Lamb said the couple was pulling the camper with a 2000 Chevrolet truck which was not damaged.



## Principal reports on reading skills

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Only about 20 percent of the second, fourth and sixth graders in Goodland who were tested on their reading skills last year were below their grade level, while the rest were reading at or above it.

Sharon Gregory, Central Elementary principal, told the Goodland School Board on Monday that on average 22 percent of the second, fourth and sixth graders at Central and West Elementary schools last spring had reading skills below the average of other students in their grade across the country.

A handout she gave the board showed an average of 78 percent of the students, who are now third, fifth and seventh graders, were reading at or above their grade level compared to the national average.

"This points out to us something we might want to take a look at," Gregory told board members.

The principal also reported on the schools' mentoring program, called Helping One Student To Succeed, or HOSTS, designed to help students im-

prove reading skills and reach other educational goals.

She said of the 89 Central and West students who were in the program last year, 72 improved their grades, though none improved enough to go out of the program.

Board members thanked Gregory for the report but didn't discuss it or make any decisions since Ben Duell, Mike Campbell and Kathy Russell were not at the meeting.

In other business, the board:

- Heard from Superintendent Marvin Selby, who asked members to consider placing advertisements in only one Sherman County newspaper to save money. Selby said the district spent about \$3,000 to place back-to-school advertisements in *The Goodland Daily News* and *The Sherman County Star*, paying about \$500 more for *The Daily Ad*. He said later that both are considered the district's official newspapers and the board wants to treat them equally.
- Selby said the district spent \$524 on food for its annual tailgate party before the Goodland Cowboys' first home

game Friday. He said they fed 500 people and the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. donated drinks.

The superintendent said painters with McPherson Painting expect to finish painting Cowboy Stadium today. He said he will ask them to paint a bright-colored stripe across the front edge of the steps because older people have complained that the new paint job makes it hard to distinguish steps.

• Heard reports from principals, who talked about activities, new students and open house night. Jerry Burkett, West Elementary principal, said teachers are focusing activities around the Olympic Games. Sharon Gregory, Central Elementary principal, talked about activities students have done to celebrate the school's 50th birthday on Friday.

Jim Mull, from Grant Junior High, said about 90 percent of students will be rewarded with good behavior this semester, though he didn't know what the reward would be. Harvey Swager, high school principal, said some teach-

## Flatlander festival features sunflower bake-off contest

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

This year's Flatlander Fall Festival, set for Friday, Sept. 29, through Sunday, Oct. 1, in Goodland, will include something new — a sunflower bake-off contest.

This contest will be for youths ages 15 and under and adults ages 16 and over in the Tri-State area.

Every entry will get \$1 and a ribbon and each baker will get a gift bag of sunflower products. Class entries include breads (one loaf), candy (six pieces), cookies (six pieces), flavored seeds (4 oz. bag), cereal/trail mix (4 oz. bag), miscellaneous (one pie or six pieces), and gift basket exhibit.

Items need to be entered between 10 a.m. and noon Saturday at the old Schneider building, 1101 Main.

All first-place entries will go into the Best of Show contest, which will

be judged at 3 p.m. Judges for the contest are Sarah Short and Ron Barkley of Goodland and Mila Bandel of St. Francis, the Cheyenne County extension agent.

Prizes for the Best of Show contest are \$50 for first plus a sunflower wreath (\$70 value) provided by the National Sunflower Association; \$25 for second prize plus a sunflower watch (\$25 value) donated by the association, and \$10 for third prize plus a gift basket (\$25 value) provided by Lady in Red at St. Francis.

Entries and gifts can be picked up between 3 and 4 p.m. after the judging is over.

Goodland merchants will have sales and discounts each day of the festival. The street festival will be held Saturday in downtown Goodland with crafts, food concessions,

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