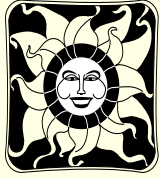


weather report

80°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 6:34 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 6:42 a.m.
- Sunset, 6:33 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil Temperature 64 degrees
- Humidity 23 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds calm
- Barometer 29.99 inches and steady

- Record High 94° (1942)
- Record Low 25° (1985)

Last 24 Hours*

- High 84°
- Low 41°
- Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 20 percent chance of rain, low 50-55, south winds 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Sunny, high 90, low 50s, north winds 10-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: dry, high 85-90, low 50s. Monday and Tuesday: dry, high 80s, low 40s-50s.

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

Yields on corn are low

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

Yields for the corn crop in the first few weeks of harvest in Sherman County have not been as good as hoped. And expectations weren't very high.

"We were expecting low yields," said Dana Belshe the Sherman County extension agent, "but some fields are even less than expected."

He said that it had been a dry year though, and yields were about as good as could be expected, but some fields looked better than they actually turned out to be.

All crops have reduced yields this year, said Lynn Hoelting, general manager of Mueller Grain in Goodland.

He said that the corn yields are off because of the hot, dry weather during the critical pollination period. When it gets too hot, pollen won't stick and there are fewer kernels on the ears.

"Less kernels means less bushels per acre," said Hoelting.

He said that there are some horror stories out there. Some farmers are getting less than 10 bushels per acre and some are getting as high as 70 bushels on non-irrigated corn.

"On average, yields have been between 45 to 70 bushels per acre on dry land corn," said Hoelting.

He said that from what has been seen so far, the irrigated crop is also off a little. Even though the crop is irrigated enough to grow, the conditions make it hard for the plant to pollinate.

"The irrigated corn will probably be down about 20 to 30 percent from last year," he added.

Hoelting said that yields are down from the past couple of years, but that the yields have been unusually high in the past couple of years so he isn't sure what that means.

The sunflower crop will have slightly low yields also, he said, and the harvest has a little lighter test weight. He said the farmers are seeing smaller seeds and a somewhat reduced oil content.

"The season isn't a total disaster for the area overall," he said, "but there is a reduced crop."

The cold front that came into the county last week, followed by the small snow flurry on Saturday, didn't have much effect on the crop, Belshe said, but it did provide a little shot of much-needed moisture.

See HARVEST, Page 3



Susan McCall, a second grade teacher at West Elementary School, showed her students one of the Internet web sites for the U.S. volleyball team on a classroom computer this morning. Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Class talks with Olympian over e-mail

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Susan McCall, second grade teacher at West Elementary, and her students have been corresponding with a member of the U.S. volleyball team at the Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

McCall said she became interested in the team when she and her husband, Steve, and daughters Megan and Jenna went to the Olympic Training Center at Colorado Springs in July to watch a game between the United States and Germany.

The McCalls went to the training center about 5:30 p.m. for the 7 p.m. game so they could get a good seat, Susan said. While waiting, they met Rosemary Bown, mother of U. S. Olympic Volleyball team player Heather Bown, who had flown in from California with her parents for the game. Rosemary, who McCall said is "very friendly," struck up a conversation with the McCall family.

Later, the McCalls met Heather and Megan and Jenna got to have a picture taken with her. Susan told Rosemary that she was a teacher and asked if the volleyball team would like some pen pals, and the two women traded e-mail addresses. During the summer, Rosemary sent all the web sites to Susan so she could follow Heather and the other team members. From the site, Susan knew the team spent August in Asia at the World Grand Prix. She said they played in Macau, Malaysia, China and the Philippines. The class received their first e-mail message from Heather on Aug. 31. She told them that the team was back in Colorado Springs making preparations for the Olympics. She said that Cuba had won the Grand Prix, that their team was very talented and athletic, and was favored to win the gold medal at the Olympics. McCall's students didn't respond back to Heather until Sept. 14, but in the meantime, they each wrote a letter to Heather and then one to a specific team member.

taken with her.

There are 14 girls on the volleyball team, so each child in McCall's class got someone to write to.

McCall said Lynnette McLean's first-grade students at West, who are across the hall from her class, made a big poster for the team and De Burkett's fifth-grade class at North wrote letters. McCall sent all of these things to Rosemary in California, who took them to the team in Sydney when she flew there for the opening ceremonies of the Olympics.

When the class wrote Heather on Sept. 14, they told her how exciting school had been since they were following the volleyball team. Mrs. McCall taped some of the games, as did two of her students, Cory Millam and Michael Pettibone, which they watched in the classroom. Susan said Cory's mom said he watched one tape three times. She said some of the kids were disappointed when their pen pal wasn't playing. They didn't understand that only seven players were starters and the others were a practice team.

The opening ceremonies for the Olympics were held on Sept. 14 and the games started the next day. Susan said the classes held their own Olympic festivities that day. Each class at West made a class flag and participated in a parade around the gym. The preschool-aged class lit the torch.

Heather wrote back and said that their first game would be against China on Sept. 15. Rosemary sent an e-mail from Australia on Sept. 18 to thank the class and tell them about what was going on.

"The girls are all so touched by your mail," she said, "but the drawings really touched the girls as much as the words."

Heather wrote back two days later and thanked the class for the letters. "Not only were the notes great, but the pictures were worth a thousand words," Heather said. "I loved all of them, even the ones for the other girls."

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local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.72 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.52
 - Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
 - Corn — \$1.63 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.55
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 44¢
 - Milo — \$2.64 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$4.31 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.17
 - Loan deficiency payment — 73¢
 - Millet — ask
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$5.20 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.62
 - Confection current — \$15/\$6 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$15
- (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

More people have insurance

WASHINGTON — The number of people without health insurance decreased last year for the first time since the Census Bureau began compiling the data in 1987, a new trend that health care advocates said was due in large part to America's robust economy.

About 42.5 million people, or 15.5 percent of the population, lacked insurance for all of 1999, compared with 44.2 million, or 16.3 percent, in 1998, according to data released Thursday.

The number of uninsured children fell by 1.5 percentage points to 10 million or 13.9 percent.

Analysts highlighted two factors: more employers offering health coverage as a way to lure or keep workers in a tight labor market and healthy economy, and the Child Health Insurance Program, enacted by Congress in 1997.

Fall cleaning



Danny Krayca (back) sprayed water on windows Thursday afternoon at Shores Bros. Auto Supply on Main, while Nick Levin (front) used a squeegee to wipe them off. Earlier Krayca had washed dirt off the bricks after the tin on the front of the building had been removed two days before. Both men are employees of the business.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

I-70 project complete

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Road crews will load the orange cones and signs onto a truck and head out, ending almost two years of work along I-70 between Goodland and Edson.

"We definitely want to thank the traveling public and businesses for their patience," said Kristen Brands, spokesperson for the Kansas Department of Transportation in Norton. "We realize that it's been an unusually busy season for road construction."

While highway drivers were delayed this summer because of the I-70 repaving project, which included closing the east Goodland exit twice, city drivers were inconvenienced by the K-27 repaving project, which included closing parts of the west Goodland exit twice.

The I-70 project is ending on time, but the contractor repaving K-27 between Commerce Road and Business U.S. 24 has already passed the Sept. 27 deadline, which came and went on Wednesday.

City Manager Ron Pickman said Smith, Sand and Gravel Construction,

the contractor on the joint city-state project, told him on Thursday that work would be finished in late October. He said the Garden City company will pay the state \$600 a day for each work day beyond the deadline.

The city won't directly see any of the contractor's late fees, he said, though it is in charge of the project—for which it paid about \$300,000. The total cost, including state and federal money, is about \$1.3 million.

Brands said last week that the I-70 project would be finished by the end of this week, but bad weather last week-end delayed work.

The eastbound I-70 lanes were finished in mid-August, and for over a month contractors have been focusing on the westbound lanes, where traffic has been reduced to one lane.

"Koss has wrapped up the permanent striping and seeding part of the job," Brands said today, "and they're just doing some final touches."

Brands said the workers will come back in October to smooth out some rough spots in the road, but that shouldn't take more than a day.

Van Gogh artist to start work

After eight months of waiting, the Canadian artist planning to make a replica of a sunflower painting by Vincent Van Gogh here will be walking the streets of Goodland on Saturday.

Cameron Cross is on the way to Goodland now, said Marcia Golden, vice president of the Sunflowers USA Association.

He left for Kansas after receiving a long-awaited work visa.

Cross plans to erect a large copy of a Van Gogh sunflower painting in Goodland.

Golden said that Cross should be arriving this evening or Saturday morning, and probably will start work on the 24-by-32 foot painting on Monday.