

weather report

44°  
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:28 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:39 a.m.  
• Sunset, 4:28 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 33 degrees  
• Humidity 49 percent  
• Sky cloudy  
• Winds south 18 mph  
• Barometer 30.05 inches and falling  
• Record High 73° (1924)  
• Record Low -4° (1929)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 53°  
Low 19°  
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 20-25, southwest winds 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 40-45, low 20-25, north winds 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday: dry, high 45-50, low 20-25. Saturday: chance of snow, high 30s, low 20s. Sunday: dry, high 40-50, low 20s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.83 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.62  
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢  
Corn — \$1.92 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.81  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 18¢  
Milo — \$3.12 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.31 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.16  
Loan deficiency payment — 74¢  
Millet — no posted price; ask.  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$5.75 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.24  
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.

Task force has ag suggestions

TOPEKA — A research center at Kansas State University that would develop more uses for agricultural products was among recommendations made by Gov. Bill Graves' task force on agriculture.

The Vision 21st Century Task Force also suggested Tuesday that the state provide more loans, grants and tax credits for new businesses trying to find more uses for agriculture products.

The 14-member group also said Kansas should join other states to open overseas marketing offices, and provide better communications and information technology equipment to rural parts of the state.

The K-State value-added research center could be built for \$5 million and operated for \$1 million a year to discover more uses for a product, the task force said.

# Snow, rain boost wheat's potential

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

The wheat crop in Sherman County is looking good, thanks to rain and snow the last few weeks. Dana Belshe, county agriculture extension agent, said the moisture this fall has left the wheat crop in pretty good shape.

"In general, we have a real good looking wheat crop," Belshe said. "If we get enough precipitation this winter, we'll be looking at some fairly good stands of wheat this spring."

Belshe said some fields that were planted late aren't as thick as those planted earlier. But, he

said, this last shot of moisture will give those plants plenty of opportunity to tiller, or send forth shoots and thicken up, in the spring. He said the moisture will help the plants develop roots.

Belshe said the rain at the end of October, 2.31 inches in Goodland, was great. It was a general rain that soaked in in most spots.

"We are in a whole lot better shape than we were this summer because of the moisture," he said. "If the conditions that we had this summer had continued, we would be in serious trouble."

Belshe said that in parts of Kansas, wheat planting isn't complete. However, he said, in Sherman

County, farmers got pretty well done within the normal time range.

He said he doesn't see the cold temperatures being a problem for the wheat because the cold air won't penetrate ground that is moist. Also, the snow cover protects the plants.

"If you are going to have cold temperatures, then you want moist ground and snow cover for the wheat," he said, adding that he thought the temperatures this month were colder than last year.

Meteorologist Kevin Lynott at the National Weather Service office confirmed that both the subsoil and air temperatures have been colder for

this month.

"We are probably up to 10 degrees colder than what we were last year," he said.

Belshe said the majority of the wheat planted in Sherman County is hard red winter wheat, but some farmers have planted hard white winter wheat on limited acres to see how it does.

He thinks this area will probably plant the white wheat more than other parts of the state will. The white wheat may be better adapted to this area, he said, as there is less chance of the heads sprouting during harvest because the county usually doesn't have much moisture at that time.

## Nine apply for new job

### County to review applications soon

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

With nine people applying for the new county administrator job, Sherman County commissioners plan to review applications in December and hire someone shortly afterward.

Commissioners said they created the position to keep up with a growing county government. They started accepting applications in late October. Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld said today that the applications have been sent to the Kansas Association of Counties in Topeka, which has been helping in the hiring process.

Randy Allen, executive director of the association, wasn't available Wednesday, but Frankenfeld said Allen will be in Goodland in December to drop off the applications and possibly meet with commissioners.

Frankenfeld said he didn't have any expectations about the number of applications that would come in, but noted nine was about right for the qualifications commissioners set.

"I think that was probably good," he said.

Applicants are expected to have a degree in public administration or a related discipline and five years' experience in administration, including budgeting, personnel, supervision of departments, economic development and intergovernmental partnerships.

The three-member commission is down by one as Kenny Davis, a Democrat, resigned earlier this month after losing his seat in District 2 to Democrat

## Painting on the ceiling



Jona Neufeld and Norma Staker's class at North Elementary painted ceiling tiles Wednesday. They made their own designs, which had to be tied to Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh or sunflowers. The project is part of the students' study of Canadian artist Cameron Cross' project which will result in a huge replica of a van Gogh sunflower painting in Goodland. The class is also doing a documentary on the project.

Adrienne West (left) and Steve Mangus (left back) painted, while Tanee Garrett (right) mixed paint and Eryn Topliiff (right back) watched. The paint was donated by Wal-Mart and McDonald's and the tiles bought at Rasure Lumber at discounted prices. The tiles replaced others in the school's front entrance.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

## Bush tells lawyers to take case to U.S. Supreme Court

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — George W. Bush told his lawyers today to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court to shut down Florida's ballot recounts in the fiercely competitive presidential race, the Associated Press has learned.

Earlier, in a stunning turnabout, officials in Miami-Dade County abruptly called off a manual recount of presidential ballots, dealing a sharp blow to Al Gore's efforts to overturn Bush.

"I do not believe we have the ability

to conduct a full, accurate recount" under the Sunday deadline fixed by the state Supreme Court, said Lawrence King, chairman of the three-member canvassing board.

The decision means Gore must look

to Broward and Palm Beach counties, where the manual recounts are continuing, if he hopes to erase Bush's 930-vote lead.

The Bush appeal was to be lodged later today, said Republican officials.

## Are we there yet?



Pat Thompson's first grade class at West Elementary put on a short play called "The First Thanksgiving" on Tuesday afternoon. Some of the students who played pilgrims were (from left) Paige Ford, Shawn Reiter, Katelyn Coon, Garrett Nemechek and Jacob Garcia.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

## Fewer pheasants mean fewer hunters this year

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

Two weeks into pheasant season, fewer hunters and fewer birds can be found this year in Sherman County.

Workers at Wal-Mart, Presto Convenience Store, Alco and the Sherman County clerk's office, where hunting licenses are sold, say license sales are down from last year.

Tom Rush, a manager at Alco, said they have sold about 20 licenses so far this season and only about 18 licenses have been sold for the entire year at the clerk's office.

Edith Blume, manager at Presto, said she couldn't give exact numbers but the sales seemed to be down from last year. "We still had a good turn out," she said, "but it wasn't as rushed as last year. I think a lot of hunters bought their licenses earlier."

She said she thought the weather might have kept the hunters away on opening weekend.

"Usually Thanksgiving is a big weekend for us," she said.

Wildlife Conservation Officer James Robinson said the low numbers in license sales might be due in part to the sale of licenses over the Internet this year.

"As people get more used to doing this," he said, "the number of sales in local stores might drop."

Robinson agreed with Blume that the weather played a large factor, not only in the low number of hunters but also the low bird numbers.

The birds were holding tight in the weather, he said. A lot of times hunters had to nearly kick the birds in order to get them to fly. He said the dogs were probably walking right past the birds, too, with the snow masking them.

Thanksgiving weekend should see an increase in the number of hunters, he said, as kids come home from college and relatives come to visit. A lot of times the hunters will wait to go out until this weekend, he said.

"The general consensus from the hunters," said Robinson, "is that there are fewer birds than normal this year."

Overall, he added, it seems like this season has been a really safe one — maybe because there are fewer hunters. He said he has gotten a few reports of trespassing, but it has been fairly quiet. There haven't been any accidents in this area, though several hunters have been shot by accident in eastern Kansas.

Pheasant season is open through Jan. 31.