

weather  
report

51°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 5:27 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:32 a.m.  
• Sunset, 5:28 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 31 degrees  
• Humidity 40 percent  
• Sky sunny  
• Winds southeast 5  
• Barometer 29.95 inches  
and falling

• Record High 75° (1986)  
• Record Low -3° (1929)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 45°  
Low 20°  
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 25-30,  
south 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly  
cloudy, 20 percent chance of rain or  
snow, high 40, low 15-20, east wind  
15-25 mph and gusty.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: chance of snow, high  
20s. Thursday: dry, high 40, low 10-  
20. Friday: dry, high 40, low 20s.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.72 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.69  
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢  
Corn — \$1.90 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.90  
Loan deficiency payment — 9¢  
Milo — \$3.05 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$3.97 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.85  
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.05  
Millet — \$7.25 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$6.10 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.61  
Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$14 (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.

Teens arrested  
for murders

NEW CASTLE, Ind. — Two  
teen-agers wanted in the slaying of  
two Dartmouth College professors  
were taken into custody today,  
authorities said.

Henry County Sheriff Kim  
Cronk confirmed that the two sus-  
pects were taken into custody at 4  
a.m. Eastern Timer near Interstate  
70. He gave no details on how they  
were found or where.

A nationwide manhunt had been  
launched for James Parker, 16, and  
Robert Tulloch, 17. They were  
believed to have left their home-  
town of Chelsea, Vt., on Thursday  
bound for Massachusetts.

Parker and Tulloch are charged  
as adults with two counts of first-  
degree murder in the deaths of Half  
and Susanne Zantop, whose bod-  
ies were found Jan. 27.

# Low bird numbers cause poor hunt

By Janet Craft

*The Goodland Daily News*

Pheasant hunting in Sherman County was not as good this season as it has been in years past, but it was a safe season said the county's game warden.

Jim Robinson, conservation officer here for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, said the pheasant population has been going down steadily for several years. This year has been really down, according to people he talked to.

Robinson said this season's decline was due to the drought in spring and early summer, but the overall decline is due to farming practices which eliminate habitat and food for the chicks.

With farmers doing post harvest spraying and tillage of their wheat fields, chicks don't have the weedy wheat stubble they need to be raised in,

Robinson said. Weedy wheat stubble is good to raise chicks in, he said, because of the overhead cover and insects it provides.

Without weeds, you don't have insects, he said, and without insects, the chicks don't have enough to eat.

Robinson said another factor is that the shorter wheat varieties being grown now produce shorter stubble. Instead of chicks living in 15 to 18 inches of stubble, they are being raised in 5- or 6-inch stubble. This leaves them more prone to predators, the heat from the sun and the wind.

The mother hens have to look for something else to raise their chicks in, he said, but there is no real good replacement in this part of the country.

Robinson said, though, that natural disasters, like the drought, have a worse effect on the chicks.

A lot of animals feed on pheasants, including

coyotes, domestic cats, foxes, dogs and hawks, he said, but if there's good cover, they are less likely to be easy prey. Pheasants have lasted over a century in the United States with these same predators, so the predators aren't the problem, Robinson said.

Most birds don't live more than a year, but they can live for several, he said. The number of pheasants is determined mostly by weather, cover, predators and hunters.

Pheasant hunting season starts the second Saturday in November and runs through Jan. 31. The limit is four roosters per hunter per day.

Robinson said this seemed to be a safe pheasant hunting season. There were no accidents reported to him.

He said some hunters were able to get a limit, but he didn't know if it was that way every time

they hunted.

He said landowners he had talked to had seen hardly any pheasants while they were harvesting wheat or working their fields this past year.

"They all noted that the pheasant population was way down," he said.

Robinson said hunters told him the same thing and that's also what he saw when he was out in the fields.

"We'll get a little better this year, if we don't have a harsh winter or a drought," he said. "It depends on what happens with farming."

Robinson said he didn't think the pheasant population would increase to what it was in the early '80s unless the farming practices became more like what they were then.

He said to get many birds, we would have to get back to the habitat we had back then.

## Guiding farmers



Andy Davis, a salesman for OutbackGuidance.com in Colby, explained his company's product, a guidance system for combines, to Sherman County farmers Richard and Sheryl Wedtke on Thursday at the Hi Plains

Ag Expo. Over 40 businesses set up booths at the annual expo, with farmers coming to look and buy.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

## Bush dedicates Oklahoma bombing museum

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—President Bush today recalled the horror of the Oklahoma City bombing and the courage that rose from the rubble, in dedicating a museum devoted to the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

"Your loss was great and your pain was deep," Bush told the crowd gathered for the opening of the Oklahoma

City National Memorial Center. "Far greater and deeper was your care for one another. That is what lasts."

A children's choir sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth" before Bush spoke. The president and his wife, Laura, earlier toured the center, located near the site where a powerful truck bomb sliced into the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Build-

ing in April 1995, killing 168 people, 19 of them children.

At the tour's end, the Bushes signed white tiles to be added to a guest registry on one wall. Bush signed his name

and "God bless," while the first lady wrote "With love" and her name.

"A time for mourning may pass," Bush said in his remarks. "But a time for remembering never does."

## Sun and suds



The air was warmer on Sunday and many people took advantage of it to wash their vehicles. Doug Lalicker, a Goodland High School student, washed his pickup that afternoon at the Goodland Car Wash at 819 Main. He is the son of Ray and Jamie Lalicker of Goodland.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

## Bills look to reduce gas usage

By Katrina Hull

*Associated Press Writer*

TOPEKA — Some legislators want to end Kansas' dependence on natural gas by encouraging construction of coal-fired electric plants and development of solar and wind power.

The time is right, they assert, to take steps to ensure Kansas won't have to import electricity — and that residents will be spared future bouts of high natural gas prices like those that have been blamed this winter on a tight supply.

But energy proposals that will be the subject of further discussion in the House and Senate Utilities committees this week have met strong resistance.

"I know 21 ways to kill a bill, and I've seen them all used," said Rep. Carl Dean Holmes, R-Liberal, chairman of the House Utilities Committee.

Both committees are studying bills to offer 10-year property tax exemptions on new, coal-fired "merchant" power plants. Such plants are privately financed and sell electricity exclusively to commercial customers.

Property taxes on energy plants in Kansas are assessed on 33 percent of their appraised value. The bills under consideration propose that after the 10-year exemption, the new plants would be taxed at a 25 percent assessment rate.

The Senate and House proposals differ in some of the details of how the exemption applies. In addition, the Senate version also offers incentives to new power plants that use natural gas.

Opposition has come from existing electricity producers — almost all using natural gas — who say the proposals are unfair and that the tax exemption should be extended to them. Some utilities threaten to challenge the legality of the proposal in court.