

weather report

81°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:13 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:14 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil Temperature 76 degrees
- Humidity 56 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds variable at 4 mph
- Barometer 29.66 inches and falling
- Record High 103° (1952)
- Record Low 37° (1947)

Last 24 Hours*

High 100°
Low 63°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, low mid 50s, south wind 10-20. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 75-80, low 50-55, north wind 10-20.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: dry, high 70s. Friday and Saturday: chance of thunderstorms, high 80, low 50.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

- Wheat — \$2.77 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.63
 - Corn — \$1.84 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.72
 - Loan deficiency payment — 27¢
 - Milo — \$2.97 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$4.25 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.12
 - Loan deficiency payment — 80¢
 - Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$7.55 cwt.
 - Oil new crop — \$6.40 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency prmt. — \$2.52
 - Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$14 (new crop)
- (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, 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.

Wheat better than expected

WICHITA — With wheat harvest barely underway in southern Kansas, the first truckloads of grain coming in to elevators in Barber and Sumner counties show better quality and yields than anticipated.

Wheat harvest offices in Sumner County reported Monday that 101,000 bushels were taken in around Caldwell and 4,500 bushels around Wellington over the weekend.

In Barber County, the OK Co-op Grain Co. took in 50,000 bushels on Saturday and another 250,000 bushels on Sunday.

General manager Alan Meyers expects harvest to be in full swing Monday with an anticipated 500,000 bushels to be cut.

"It is looking real good — better than expected," Meyers said. "Both quality and yield is looking good."

Hostage beheaded by rebels

Muslims claim they executed American

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP) — Muslim rebels claimed today that they beheaded one of three American hostages and threatened to kill more of their captives on a jungle-covered island despite a concession by the Philippine government.

Abu Sabaya, the leader of the Abu Sayyaf separatist group, said the rebels killed Guillermo Sobero, of Corona, Calif., because they doubted the sincerity of a government offer to give in to the single demand they have made during a violent hostage crisis now in its third week.

"We've chopped off his head because we... can see that the government wants to outsmart us with these negotiators. What are we, stupid?" Sabaya said over Radio Mindanao Network. "So we've cut off negotiations. We will call again when we've beheaded another to let them know."

Military officials at first expressed doubt that Sabaya was telling the truth. But Chief of Staff Diomedio Villanueva said later today that military intelligence reports suggested Sobero was killed.

"The possibility of it having happened is quite very, very high," Villanueva said.

The rebels also held Martin and Gracia Burnham — missionaries from Wichita, Kan., who were seized along with Sobero at an island resort on May 27 — and at least 25 Filipinos, including 15 captured in an attack on a plantation Monday on Basilan island, 560 miles south of Manila.

Sabaya had threatened to execute an American on Monday, but delayed it when the government agreed to his demand that a Malaysian negotiator be brought in. However, he said today he killed Sobero because he did not trust the government.

The rebel leader said the killing was a "gift" for the nation's Independence Day. The Philippines marked the 103 years of independence from Spanish rule today.

Before Villanueva spoke, the 40-year-old Sobero's younger brother, Alberto, said U.S. officials told him the reported execution was unverified.

"I'm still hoping this is not true," the Cathedral City, Calif., resident said. "I ask the Philippine government to exhaust all efforts and continue a dialogue to get my brother back, and all the hostages."

He added that only the oldest of Guillermo Sobero's four children, a 13-year-old daughter, has been told that their father was kidnapped.

The U.S. Embassy in Manila condemned the reported beheading and said, "We hold the Abu Sayyaf group responsible for the safety and welfare of the people it is holding."

Sabaya said the beheading happened near the town of Tuburan and told the military to look for Sobero's head there. He claimed he videotaped the killing and would release the footage.

Last year, the Abu Sayyaf seized several hostages and executed some Filipinos, but this was the first time they claimed to have killed a foreigner.

The military said the hacked bodies of two Filipino resort workers seized along with the Americans were found earlier on Basilan, one headless.

Sabaya taunted Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, whose troops have suffered casualties in an unsuccessful campaign to crush the rebels and free their captives.



Jen Castle used a hammer and chisel to chip away at ground on the west edge of Rawlins County this weekend, hoping to unearth remains of animals that lived millions of year ago. Castle is one of over a dozen

undergraduate and graduate students from New York and Pittsburgh who have come to this area with Dr. Bill Korth over three summers to dig for fossils. Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

'Paleo-detectives' scour earth

Students find rhino remains on the plains

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Danielle Deemer calls herself a "paleo-detective." She'll take clues she and five other students have dug up in Rawlins County and piece together a picture of northwest Kansas nine million years ago.

She says that picture will include a river running through now-dry, dusty land and herds of rhinoceroses and camels roaming the High Plains.

"I'm taking all that we have found here and making sense of it," said the 25-year-old University of Pittsburgh graduate student. "Hopefully, it will tell me what this area looked like nine million years ago. It's kind of like detective work, but really, really old detective work."

Deemer, a geology student who will put it all down in her master's thesis, is one of many students from New York and Pittsburgh who have traveled to northwest Kansas for three summers to unearth fossils that they say are the key to figuring out the past.

The undergraduate and graduate students, studying subjects ranging from earth science to art, are led each year by Dr. Bill Korth, a geology professor at Buffalo State College in New York, who has been finding fossils in the Midwest for over 25 years.

This year's group arrived in rural Decatur County, where a couple lets them stay rent-free in an old farm house, in mid-May and plans to leave on Sunday in two trucks filled with old jaws, hips, teeth, ribs and skulls sealed in plaster shells. After they're cleaned and repaired, the fossils, mostly rhino remains, will join others the professor



and students have uncovered at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh.

Dr. Korth says he doesn't get the most excited about finding remnants of ancient rhinos, but of rodents, his main field of study. He plans to make the trip again next year, he said, continuing the westward search along 120 miles of the Sappa Creek that winds through Decatur and Rawlins Counties. The students have already found several outcroppings, where the earth is exposed and fossils are easier to find, to dig into on the next expedition.

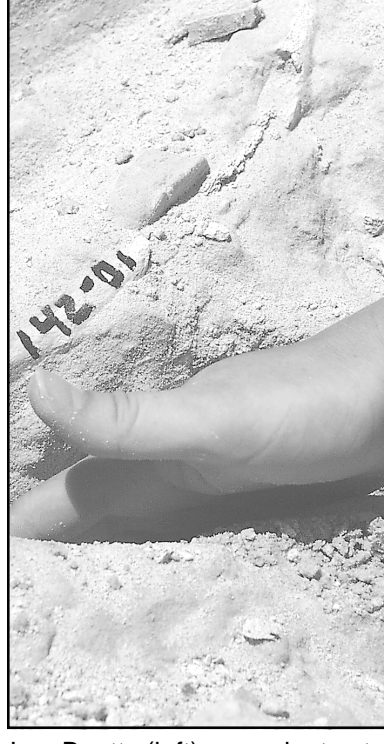
They've scoured 75 miles of the

creek's south fork, the professor said, and plan to devote more time to the other two forks in coming summers.

Over three years, Korth said, he and his students have unearthed parts of old elephants, camels, rodents and rhinos. He said the bones will help him and other paleontologists figure out how the earth and animals, including humans, evolved.

"It's one little piece in the big puzzle of what went on in the development of the earth," he said.

While the first trip wasn't as fruitful, last year the diggers removed over 140 fossils — mainly the jaws, teeth,



Lee Beatty (left), a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh, used paper towels, strips of burlap and plaster to encase a rhinoceros rib he and other students uncovered in Rawlins County. The fossil will be taken to a museum in Pittsburgh and analyzed. The diggers number each fossil according to its order and location.

hips and pelvises of adult and baby rhinos — from a quarry on the west edge of rural Rawlins County.

The students uncovered more of the same this year at a spot just to the north, but the professor said the bones they found look to be from a different species of rhino.

That doesn't make much of a difference to Deemer, who said she's interested in taphonomy, or determining when, why and where the rhinos were in northwest Kansas and how their remains ended up on what she believes

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Board to take last step toward remodeling science rooms

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland School Board on Wednesday plans to look over estimates from construction companies that want to remodel the high school's second floor this summer and may pick one.

The board will also discuss borrowing \$500,000 from First National Bank in the form of a lease-purchase agreement to pay for the remodeling, which

could cost up to \$800,000.

The district will get the rest of the money out of its capital outlay account, set up to pay for building renovations and other major items.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said bids on the project, which will result in three new science classrooms, will be opened today, with Glen Strait, the district's architect, and Mike Miller, the project manager, reviewing them for the board.

Selby said the board decided to move its regular meeting from Monday to Wednesday so members can see the bids as soon as possible. The district wants the remodeling to be finished by the start of the school year. The board will meet at 7 p.m. at the administration office, 1312 Main Ave.

The project will include remodeling two older science classrooms and the board has already approved ordering over \$200,000 in state-of-the-art lab

centers and other furniture.

Karla Murray, the district's technology coordinator, plans to ask to gather bids for new computers at the high school. Selby said she plans to replace older computers in the high school lab.

The board will also discuss approving a food service agreement with the federal government, saying the district will provide free or reduced lunches that meet federal guidelines. A high school senior will ask members to let

him graduate a semester early.

The board will discuss renewing a membership with the Western Plains Arts Association and hear a report from member Gerald Franklin, who represents the district on the Northwest Kansas Technical College board.

Selby said the board will also accept a resignation from Troy Rall, an eighth grade English teacher who had planned to help coach the high school wrestling team.