

Dustin Zelfer stoops to make the catch after his mother, Diane, tossed a baseball to him in their front yard. Dustin is recovering from his second open-heart surgery performed in July.
Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

New York City has set up distribution points

ATTACKS, from Page 1

stockpile. "It's going to be given to the people who need it in the city that has the greatest need," Hauer said. "You've got to turn it over to the locals. They've got to be able to distribute it in the city." New York, for instance, has set up 300 potential distribution points. The city was supposed to practice how such distribution would work on Sept. 12, a drill canceled following the terror attacks on the city's World Trade Center and the Pentagon. But if an outbreak was big enough that all those sites needed to open — more likely, only a

few dozen would be needed, Hauer stressed—the city would need 40,000 workers to hand out medications. The antibiotics are stored in huge bottles, meaning doses for each person would have to be counted out by hand. "One of the dumbest things I've seen was in the previous administration, this decision to buy bulk antibiotics rather than blister packs" of individual doses, Hauer said. But quickly discovering bioterrorism remains the weakest link, as the diseases incubate for days to weeks before someone exposed gets sick. "If you got really lucky, you might save quite a number of people," be-

cause of the stockpiled medications, said Dr. C.J. Peters, a virologist who recently retired from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where he helped plan bioterrorism preparedness. "But you would have to be really lucky." However, Thursday's discovery of an anthrax case in Florida provides some reassurance that the system to catch suspect diseases is working better. A Florida state lab worker recently trained by the CDC about anthrax symptoms tested the patient's blood and sounded the alarm, something that might never have happened before the

People give for surgery

HEART, from Page 1

nesses, she said, and had to be hospitalized when he had a cold. She was unable to work, Diane said, because she had to stay with him. He had his second closed-heart surgery when he was 8 months old, she said, because he had outgrown the shunt that was put in during the first. Then when he was 2, he had his first open-heart surgery, to have a valve put in and to have the holes between the chambers closed. To close the holes, Diane said, the surgeon grafted some of the lining from Dustin's heart for one and used a material that is similar to a velour shirt for the other. After this surgery, she said, Dustin's health improved and he had been doing well until this spring, when he began to tire easily. An angiogram revealed that the valve put in 10 years ago was more than 75 percent blocked, she said. This led

to his second open-heart surgery. Before the problems that led to his latest surgery, Diane said, Dustin finished in second place in his class at Kansas Kids Wrestling in March and played flag football. He wasn't able to do that this year, she said, and he won't be able to play football, wrestle or lift weights because these activities raise his blood pressure too much. He has been able to play baseball, she said, and will play basketball, tennis and golf. He is on medication to lower his blood pressure and to regulate his heart rhythm and has to deal with some dietary restrictions. Dustin was born in Missouri, she said, and his first three surgeries were performed by Dr. Thomas Spray at the Children's Hospital in St. Louis, a well-known surgeon whom she has recently seen on television's Health Network. Dustin's father Sam is a farm technician for Lynn Ihrig Farms, Diane

said, his brother Brandon is in the eighth grade at Grant Junior High and his sister Kate is 2. Glenda Cochran, who owns Cochran Farm Supply with her husband, arranged for businesses in Goodland to put jars out to collect donations to help with the expense. Jars were put up at the Goodland Activities Center, Western State Bank, Ray's Cafe, Frontier Equity, Goodland Greenline and Bankwest, she said, and at the fairgrounds during the fair. The fund-raising drive started during the fair and the jars combined with tickets sold for a drawing, she said, raised about \$2,300. The prizes for the drawing were two quarters of beef, she said, that were awarded to Nancy Cole and Kaye Barton. The cost for the tests and recent surgery was over \$100,000, Diane said, and she doesn't know how much their insurance will pay.

Sunflowers ready to harvest early due to weather

HARVEST, from Page 1

farmers have cut about a quarter of the sunflower crop in Sherman County. However, he said, the elevator has been receiving sunflowers for the past 20 days, as farmers from Texas and other states have been shipping the crop in. Stewart said Mueller stores sunflowers from across the country because many elevators won't take the crop. He said dry, hot weather caused the sunflower crop in this area to ripen early, and farmers here are starting harvest sooner than in north-central Kansas, where there was more rain. As for the quality of the crop, Stewart said it's about half and half. "I've seen some good, and some bad," he said, noting that the quality hasn't improved much over last year, but more acres were planted this year. He said an increase in acres was due to rotation farming — where farmers rotate the type of crop planted on a field each year — and the fact it's more profitable to grow sunflowers because the crop is worth more on the market.

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Global market glut hurting the nation's cotton farmers

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—The state's cotton farmers are struggling to survive the latest in a series of lousy seasons that have driven prices to Depression-era levels. Farmers blame big crops in India, China and the United States for the poor prices, and a strong U.S. dollar for slumping domestic sales and exports. With the world production of cotton far outpacing demand, growers are earning about 65 cents per pound for the pima variety and around 82 cents for acala. The California upland variety is earning about 60 cents per pound, but that price is still subject to change, said Bruce Groessema, vice president of sales for Calcot, a Bakersfield-based cotton cooperative. Most growers' break-even price is

about 70 cents per pound. The industry also is suffering the long-lingering effects of the Asian economic crisis, which has forced top textile regions to cut back on U.S. imports, said Calcot spokesman Mark Bagby. Even in the United States, several mills have closed and some textile companies have filed for bankruptcy. "We haven't seen these levels since 1972, and adjusted for inflation, it's below Depression prices," said Mark Borba, owner of Borba Farms in Fresno County. The story is much the same in other cotton states. Texas cotton farmers, for example, have been hurt by drought and high irrigation costs the last two years, and the toll can be seen in the industries that support farmers.

"We're getting squeezed pretty hard," said Scott Wylie, who sells chemical application equipment at nine locations in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, and has laid off about 20 percent of his employees. "The South Plains and the Panhandle are being harder hit and it's a direct result of the cotton downturn," Wylie said. The total world output for cotton is forecast at between 88 million and 90 million 500-pound bales, of which the United States will contribute roughly 20 million bales this year. California is expected to produce about 2.25 million bales. There's also about 36 million bales on the world market left over from last year's crop, Borba said.

The global market conditions will have particularly harsh effects on California's growers, who export up to 85 percent of their crop. "We've had to lay off people and are farming less intensively this season," said Chuck Nichols, who grows 2,700 acres of cotton near Hanford. The low prices caught Calcot by surprise this year, and the cooperative's 1,725 cotton growers in California and Arizona were told they will have to give back some of the advance payments doled out before the season began. This is the second time in Calcot's 74-year history it has required growers to pay back advance money. "This has been the season from hell, it's one thing after another. Then the

terrorist attacks shut down commodities trading, and all the planes were grounded for crop dusting," Bagby said. The last couple of seasons haven't been much better for the nation's growers. In 1999, things got so bad that Congress and President Clinton carved \$194 million out of the federal budget to provide growers with support payments — in addition to the federal subsidies they'd already received. Although Americans consume about a quarter of the cotton produced in the world, U.S. shoppers just couldn't make up for such depressed market conditions and the world's surplus continued to grow through last year, further depressing prices paid to farmers.

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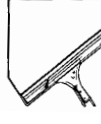
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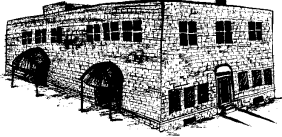
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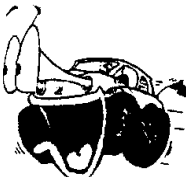
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