

**weather report**

**57°**  
at noon



**Today**

- Sunset, 5:13 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 6:47 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:14 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil Temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 21 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds southwest 18 m.p.h.
- Barometer 20.13 inches and falling
- Record High 74° (1987)
- Record Low -16° (1933)

**Last 24 Hours\***

- High 53°
- Low 18°
- Precipitation none

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: partly cloudy, low upper 20s, wind west 10-20 m.p.h. Tomorrow: partly cloudy, high mid 60s, wind west 10-20 m.p.h.

**Extended Forecast**

Saturday: partly cloudy and very windy, high upper 30s. Sunday: mostly clear, high mid 50s, low near 20. Monday: clear, high mid 60s, low mid 20s. Tuesday and Wednesday: partly cloudy, high upper 40s, low 20. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**

**Noon**

- Wheat — \$2.63 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.49
- Corn — \$1.90 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.81
- Loan deficiency payment — 18¢
- Milo — \$1.62 bushel
- Soybeans — \$3.71 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.65
- Loan deficiency payment — \$1.27
- Millet — \$3.50 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$8.95 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 86¢
- Confection current — inquire
- Pinto beans — \$25

(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.

**Texas fugitives caught at store**

ARDMORE, Okla. — Two convicted murderers who broke out of a Texas jail surrendered peacefully early today, hours after seizing a hostage at an Oklahoma gas station. Two other fugitives who escaped with the pair last month were also captured.

The hostage-takers, Curtis Gambill and Joshua Bagwell, gave up at 4:30 a.m., FBI Special Agent Richard Marquise said.

The surrender was the result of "a very skillful agent developing a rapport" with the fugitives, Marquise said. He said the fugitives' only request was to talk to relatives by telephone.

The hostage, store owner George West, 65, emerged unharmed.

Authorities arrested the other escaped inmates, Chrystal Gale Soto and Charles Jordan, outside the store at 9:50 p.m. Wednesday.

# Citizens and officials speak on trash

## Some say they're paying for less

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

City and county commissioners held a joint workshop Wednesday night at the county courthouse, looking for solutions to trash disposal problems with an audience of more than 30 people.

City and county officials got a chance to explain and talk about changes in the trash system

with the new county landfill, and taxpayers got to tell the officials they were not too happy with losing old services like yard-waste dumpsters while paying more to have their trash hauled.

Marty Melia of KLOE radio moderated the workshop, and mostly held it to its agreed-upon guidelines. Commissioner discussion ran about five minutes long, and a few of the audience spoke up without first being recognized, but it was a civil and well organized meeting.

All the county commissioners attended the meeting, and four of the city commissioners, with only Mayor Tom Rohr absent.

The city is trying to cut the costs for handling the city's trash. They were hit with a \$32 a ton "tipping fee" for the new county landfill at the first of

the year, and City Manager Ron Pickman said it cost the city \$60,000 last year to handle yard waste. The commissioners met to talk about what the landfill will hold, and how to separate different wastes.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the city and county are working together with a recycling program. Recycling dumpsters should arrive next week or the week after, he said. They will be put at three spots in town, and there will be separate dumpsters for cans, clear glass, brown glass, and newspapers, magazines and office paper. The voluntary program should help keep the landfill from filling up as fast, and will help keep tipping fees down, he said.

Pickman said the city and county are trying to

get a cardboard bailer, either through Energy One or through a grant. The county wanted to know if they went ahead with the cardboard recycling if the city would put its cardboard dumpsters back out and bring them in to the county site.

"I don't think we'll have any problem with that," City Commissioner Rick Billinger said. "It's a win-win situation."

The city and county agreed the county's transfer station could be more user-friendly. Rich Simon, superintendent of waste water for the city, said four dumpsters will be delivered to the transfer station this morning and will be placed next to the weighing scales for easy access. There is

See TRASH, Page 7

## Big snow brings little help

### Crop 'desperately' needs some moisture

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

The .30 of an inch of moisture the area got from snow last month helped parched wheat fields, but we could have used a lot more.

"There are parts of this county where the crop was stressed early on," said Dana Belshe, Sherman County extension agriculture agent, "and any moisture will help."

"Some of our wheat crop is regressing rapidly and desperately needs more moisture."

It is a problem throughout the state. As much as 32 percent of the Kansas wheat crop is in poor or very poor condition, the Kansas Agriculture Statistics Service reported Monday, and Belshe said Sherman County is no better off.

"We're probably just about at the state average. I would estimate 30 to 35 percent of our wheat is in poor condition."

The condition is not uniform in all fields, he said.

There are areas which have wheat in good condition, he said, and some which are very poor.

He says on the average, the southwestern part of the county is worse off than rest.

"They have been in almost a drought situation," he said.

Farmers have a tougher time this year than they did last. Belshe said although we had a dry summer last year, we had uniform moisture and colder temperatures in the fall and winter, the dormant season.

This year it has been anything but cold.

When temperatures are above 40 degrees, wheat keeps growing, using up moisture, and becomes less resistant to disease and cold weather.

The barley yellow dwarf virus is a concern this year, Belshe said.

The disease is spread by an aphid, and with recent warm, dry weather, he is worried the insects might get started earlier.

The virus at full power can take a third of a crop's yield away.

Belshe said he is worried about soil erosion and fluctuating warm and cold spells.

He said when wheat can't grow, winds can take away top soil.

And up-and-down weather can cause the crop to lose its winter hardiness, making the plants more susceptible to damage.

Moisture might be on the way. Dave Thede, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service here, says we got .21 of an inch in the six-inch snowfall at the end of January and could get more Tuesday.

"At this point, it looks like wide-spread snow," he said. "It's too early to guess accurately, but we might get .10 to .25 inches of moisture."

Warm weather might be on its way out now that we have snow on the ground. Kevin Lynott of the weather service said if we have ground snow, air doesn't mix as well to bring warmer days.

But then, by the end of the month, it will be nearly time for spring.



## New sign at inn

Workers from Commercial Sign in Colby used extended ladders to put a fabric overlay to update the Buffalo Inn sign by Business U.S. 24 last week (above and right) while (below) they were directed from the ground. Tim Kistler, Gary Salisbury, Lauren Wegle, Daniel Burke, and Jeff and Ray Griffen, all of Colby, worked on the crew.

Photos by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News



# Children are safe, but ordeal isn't over

## Father will be brought back to stand trial for kidnapping

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

While mother and sons are happy to be back together, the Thompson family's ordeal is not completely over, as they are settling into a new home and awaiting Mark Thompson's extradition and trial for kidnapping.

The Sherman County Sheriff's Department is working to bring Mark back to Goodland as his four sons returned to school, and their mother, Tohanna, says she is seeking justice.

Tohanna Thompson says she doesn't want the police and the courts to be too lenient on Mark, saying that would trivialize what he did.

"He took my life when he took the boys, she said, "everything that ever meant anything to me."

"It was like living in hell without the fire. It was like someone sentenced me to hell and expected me to go on."

While the boys were missing, Tohanna said, all she wanted to do was stay home and not even go out. She spent much of her time making and distributing flyers to try to find the boys.

And the kidnapping was hard on other family members. Their cousins

missed them, Tohanna said, and are very protective of them now that they are home.

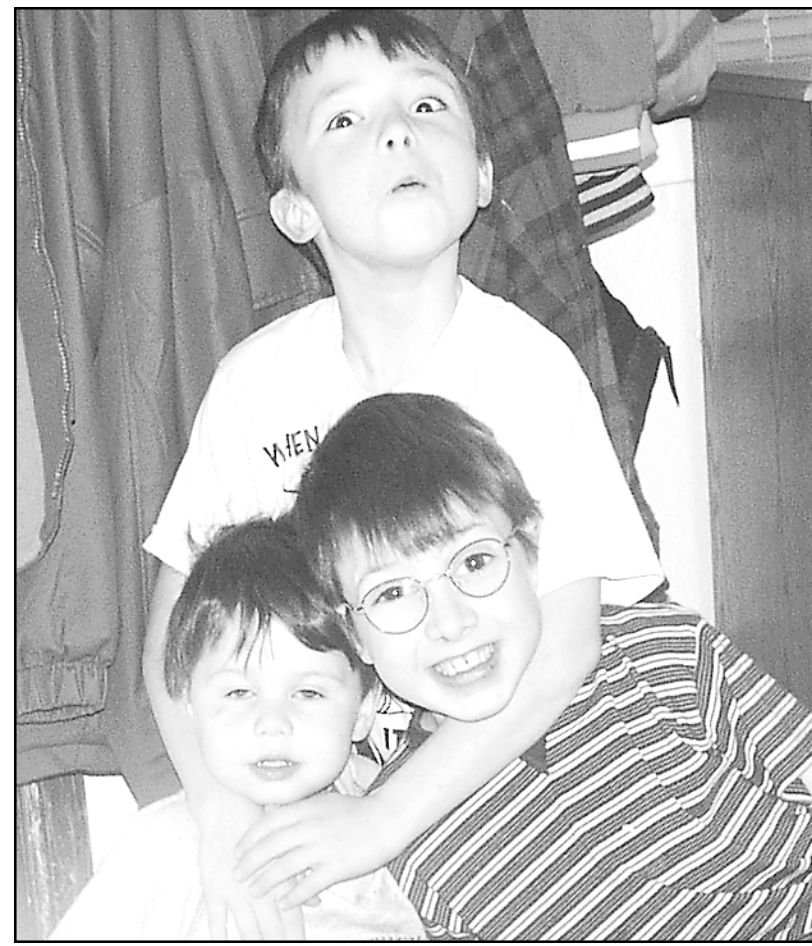
"Her daughter (Alexis) cried and cried one night," Tohanna's sister Monica Albers said, "and asked, 'will we ever see them again?'"

Now that Jaeger, 8; Jacob, 7; Jonah, 3; and Job, 2, are home, Tohanna said, she wants to prevent future kidnappings. The schools should teach kids about abduction, she said, so this doesn't happen to other families.

Jonah has tonsillitis and an ear infection, Tohanna said, and all of the boys need well-child checks. They lived in abhorrent conditions for the two weeks they were gone, she said, without proper nutrition in a dirty camper.

The woman who took care of the boys while she drove to Texas to pick them up told her the camper was filthy, Tohanna said, and the clothes they brought home smelled of urine. She said she had to throw a lot of their things away.

The camper had no bathroom, Jacob said, and the boys had to go in the



Jacob (top), Job and Jaeger Thompson goofed around together Monday in their new home. The boys' mother picked them up in Texas last week after they were found with their father, who is being extradited to Goodland to face kidnapping charges.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

See KIDNAPPING, Page 7