

Wheat harvest might come early

HARVEST, from Page 1

Wheat harvest traditionally begins around July 4, but it might come a little sooner this year, said Dennis Chandler, Thomas County extension agent.

"With the subsoil depleted, a lot of these fields are going to ripen up quickly," he said, "which could mean harvest would start a week or two earlier."

Thomas County's wheat crop is in

about the same condition as Sherman County's, Chandler said.

Throughout the state, wheat is rated as 18 percent very poor, 23 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 24 percent good, and 2 percent excellent, the Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service reported this week.

A little respite might be on the way, though. Taber says the county has a good chance of getting some rain this weekend.

"It looks like there will be a more

active weather pattern this weekend to early next week," Taber said. "I'm not sure how much moisture will come, it's too early to tell, but any bit will help."

Even if the coming clouds don't bring much rain, he said, the cloud cover will help stop the water in the soil from evaporating.

"I hope rain starts coming on a normal basis," Taber said. "Otherwise we might have to go do some rain dances."

Director honored by group

Man believes knowledge key to success in funeral industry

By Rachel Miscal
The Goodland Daily News

Dane Scherling, funeral director for Koons Funeral Home in Goodland and Sharon Springs, believes keeping in touch with state and federal legislators and knowing what laws are being passed helps him better serve families here.

That belief has led Scherling, who owns three funeral homes in Colorado with his wife Micki, to be named "Funeral Director of the Year" by the Kansas Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association.

Scherling, president of the association last year, was given the title at the association's annual convention earlier this month in Salina.

It's quite an honor, considering he is one of 785 licensed funeral directors in Kansas and one of 707 licensed embalmers.

Scherling said the award is tied to his involvement in the association, and, if nothing else, shows that the funeral home wants to give families the best service possible.

"It ought to reflect that we have a greater knowledge of our industry as a whole," he said, "and are up-to-date on state and national issues."

When someone walks into Koons, Scherling said, "they can expect Linda (Koons) and I to know as much about this business as possible."

He said he became more involved in the association about 8 years ago because he wanted to learn how state and federal laws can affect funeral homes.

"I've always said it's important because it gets you out of the little niche you're in and gets you to know what's going on at the state and national level," Scherling said.

He said he was first elected to the association's board of directors and worked his way up the ladder until he



D. Scherling

was elected president last year. Scherling said he will serve on the board for another year as past president and then will go off.

Being president is a demanding job, he said, because it requires you to travel to conferences, meetings and seminars all over the country.

"I was gone at least 65 days this past year," he said, noting that his wife and two children, Ian, a junior in high school, and Ren, seventh grade, traveled with him much of the time.

Scherling, a Smith County native, said he doesn't have a clear cut answer for why he got into the funeral home business.

He said he attended Kansas State University and earned a degree in construction from Garden City Community College, where he played football, in 1982.

When he got out of college, he said, high interest rates were stopping

people from building houses, and he realized he needed a way to make money.

Scherling said he had recently married Micki and she was a little surprised when he told her he was planning to attend mortuary school.

"She didn't quite know how to react to that," he said, "for obvious reasons."

But it turned out good in the end. Scherling said he earned an associate's degree in mortuary science from Kansas City Community College and was co-owner of Simmons Mortuary in Smith Center and Kensington with his wife until 1998.

Scherling is now an embalmer and funeral director for Koons and owns funeral homes in Burlington, Cheyenne Wells and Limon.

What keeps him in the business? "The people and the families that we work with," he said. "We help them get through that difficult time in their life."

Scherling said his job has gotten less stressful as he's gotten older.

"In time," he said, "you learn how to communicate better with families and better understand what they're going through."

Lawyer questions where mother lived

THOMPSON, from Page 1

heard the judge's decision.

While cross-examining Tohna, Warren asked where she lived when she filed her cross petition after Mark's filing for divorce in January of 2001.

Tohna said she lived in Burlington but did not claim Colorado residence.

Warren questioned Tohna about signing a statement saying she had been a resident of Kansas for 60 days prior to filing the cross petition. She said she did not understand all of the paper work but had just signed where her lawyer told her to.

Warren said if the state of Kansas did not have jurisdiction, the orders the state is relying on were invalid. Judge Burr said he would not rule on that at this time but that Mark had not objected when those orders were entered.

Warren asked Tohna whether she had any personal knowledge that Mark did not intend to come back. She said she had only her "mother's intuition."

He asked if she knew whether Mark had his utilities shut off, and Tohna said she didn't know about the gas bill or the water but that a city employee told her Mark's electricity had been shut off because he did not pay the bill.

The first witness Warren called was Widner, who testified Mark had asked to borrow a camper from him before he left in January. Widner said Mark told him he wanted to take the boys on a camping trip and had picked up the camper on Friday, Jan. 11, and was to return it the following Friday.

Widner said he went to Bastrop, Texas, paid a fee to get the camper out of impound, and towed it back himself.

Jones testified he had several conversations with Mark about his children's custody. Jones said Mark had told him he didn't think the custody evaluation was fair because his evidence wasn't in it, only Tohna's was.

Jones said Mark asked to borrow a trailer from him to store some stuff and talked about loading the boys up and taking off. Jones also said Mark had talked about going to see some people in Houston who would help him get custody of the boys.

Johnson said Mark, who worked at Total, had called her while he was in Texas. She said she wasn't home and he talked to her daughter, but she talked to him herself a couple of times later.

Johnson said Mark told her he had taken the boys and wasn't coming back and he wanted to request a transfer from the Total corporation so she wouldn't know where he was.

Warren asked her why the statements she made in court were not in her statements to police. Johnson said she couldn't remember what days the conversations with Mark took place and couldn't remember how many statements she made to police.

Johnson said she had sent Mark's check to a post office box as he had asked her to do, but it was sent back after it had not been picked up.

On redirect, Selby asked Johnson to read a portion of one of her statements to the police. The statement Johnson made to the police said Mark told her he needed his check to get a place to

live, and he told Johnson "since there was no court order in Kansas, they could not make him come back."

Enfield said she had talked to Mark when he called to talk to her mother. She said he told her he had his kids, had left the state and wasn't going to let anyone take his kids.

Berens said Tohna called him when the boys were not returned to her on time. Berens said he advised her to call the sheriff's department and report the boys missing.

Brandon Terry said he was sent to Tohna's house after she reported the boys missing, and she showed him the custody papers that showed she should have the boys.

He went to Mark's house, Terry said, and the house was dark and Mark's suburban was gone. He then began investigating Mark for custodial interference, Terry said.

Becker testified that he had assisted the investigation and took statements from Tohna and from Johnson.

Caldwell said he had been friends with Mark for several years and that the police had called to ask if he knew anything about the kidnapping or his pay check. Caldwell said he didn't know anything.

"I read in the newspaper about the charges," he said.

<p>STAR WARS EPISODE II ATTACK OF THE CLONES PG. Sustained sequences of sci-fi action/violence. www.goodlandnet.com/movies</p>	<p>Bring this AD to the theatre for \$1 OFF on a large popcorn & 2 med. drinks EXP. 12/31/02</p>	<p>Nightly 7:00 p.m. Sunday Matinee 1:30 p.m. Movie Bucks Make Great Gifts!</p>
		<p>Sherman 1203 Main - Phone 899-6103</p>

Grand Opening

Saturday, June 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Four Sisters Bed and Breakfast

Register for a free night's stay for 2.
Try samples of our breakfast,
coffee & tea.

1204 Center • Goodland, KS • 899-5654

The Goodland Daily News Service Directory • 785-899-2338

Your KEY to business success.

Have your name up front when a customer needs you.
Repetitive advertising is the key to opening the door to new customers.



Combined rates are available to feature your services in the Daily and The Country Advocate.

Impact Auto Glass

Greg & Kathy Cochrane

- Auto Glass Replacement
- Chip Repair
- In-Shop or Mobile Service

612 Main • Sharon Springs, KS
(785) 852-4661

The Goodland Daily News

1205 Main
Goodland, KS
(785) 899-2338

Check our On-Line Site at nwkansas.com

D & D Builders

Michael Downing
General Contractor

Concrete Work • Patios & Decks
• Garages & Etc. •
• Remodels & Additions •

785-626-3529 or 785-626-0060

Karen's Cleaning Service

Residential & Commercial
For all of your cleaning needs.

Steam Cleaning/windows
Call 821-1628
785-694-2687

Jones Land Company

Residential Real Estate
Farm and Ranch
115 E. 9th • Goodland
Office (785) 899-0500
Toll Free 866-899-0555
Joyce Boehme realtor
Robert Jones owner/broker

MLS EQUAL HOUSING

NEW SYSTEM Professional WINDOW CLEANING

Colby, Kansas

COMMERCIAL - RESIDENTIAL - FREE ESTIMATES

785-462-6995 or
1-800-611-6735

Please call early to get your name on the list for spring cleaning.

Chris & Beth Lewon "We do windows"

Real Estate • Divorce • Probate • Child Custody/Support
Trusts • Estate Planning • Bankruptcy • Bus. Org.
Criminal Defense • General Litigation

~ SERVING NORTHWEST KANSAS ~

ANDREA R. DEAN
Wyrick & Dinkel, P.A.
- ATTORNEYS & COUNSELLORS AT LAW -

Call 1-888-811-FIRM or stop by one of our 3 locations:
Colby-462-5791
Goodland-899-7141
Sharon Springs-852-4095

HomeLand REAL ESTATE

only the best will do
Mitch Hixson

785-899-3060 • Home: 785-899-9270
114 W. 12th • Goodland, KS

Hot Brush

Since 1974

SIGNS-LETTERING & PINSTRIPES
Custom Vinyl & Painting

Box 309
BIRD CITY, KS 67731
FAX-785-734-2459

800-886-2423

CLEAR CHOICE, LLC

MOBILE AUTOGLASS

CRACK REPAIR & REPLACEMENT

785-462-9793 or
888-466-8602

660 W. WALNUT • COLBY, KS 67701 • FAX: 785-462-2782

Buffalo Inn Restaurant & Convention Center

Open daily
Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner
Parties from 20 to 200

SENIOR DISCOUNT WITH AD

830 W. Hwy 24, Goodland • 785-899-5057

We'll always be there for you.

LIFE • HOME • CAR • FARM • BUSINESS

SHELTER INSURANCE

Jim Alcorn, Agent
1624 S. Main Street
Goodland, KS 67735-0727
Business: (785) 899-2553
Home: (785) 899-3974
www.shelterinsurance.com

Alex's Radiator and Auto Repair

Auto, Truck & Tractor Radiator Repair • Auto Repair • Tire Service • Oil Change • Small Engine, Lawn Mower, Chain Saw, and Trimmer Repair • Unlock Vehicles

24 Hour Wrecker Service • Rollback Available

Tire Service

531 W. 17th • Goodland, KS
785-899-7554

After Hours Phone #'s
Alex West 785-821-1128 Cell #
785-899-6916 Cell #

nwkansas.com

Your local Internet service provider with connections in Goodland.

Call (785) 899-2338 for information.

With monthly costs as low as
\$16.50 per month!

YOUR ad could be here!

Call Bill or Eric at 899-2338

The Goodland Daily News