

weather report

92°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:21 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

Extreme Fire Danger

- Soil Temperature 83 degrees
- Humidity 29 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds southeast 5 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.02 inches and rising
- Record High 107° (1971)
- Record Low 42° (1940)

Last 24 Hours*

High 97°
Low 67°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of rain, low mid 60s, winds south 10-15 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly sunny, high upper 90s, low mid 60s, 30 percent chance of rain in evening.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: mostly sunny, high lower 90s, low upper 60s, 30 percent chance of rain in the evening. Thursday: mostly clear, high near 90.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Group looks for new ideas

County expected to approve resolution

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

The new Sherman County Economic Development committee is in the final stages of asking county commissioners to take it under their wing, leaders told about 70 people at a public meeting at the Elks lodge Thursday.

Chairman Royal Reid reviewed the steps the steering committee and the seven-member board had taken to move the organization process along. He said they had met with the city and county commissions and had held by-laws and finance committee meetings.

"We met with members of the Chamber executive board, and believe we have their support," he said. "The next step is to draft the resolution for the county commissioners."

Reid said the group had received support from both the city and the county.

Board member Harlan House reported that he had spoken to the city commission on Monday and it had voted to give the new group \$12,000 for the rest of the year. He asked the city to budget \$50,000 for next year.

John Garcia, another board member, said he made a similar presentation to the county commissioners and they appeared willing to give the group the \$43,000 they have in their budget as soon as a formal resolution can be drafted and approved creating the committee as a county unit.

Reid said the plan is to have the group seek donations to raise \$20,000, then

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Armed man arrested at Buffalo Inn

A Missouri man was arrested Saturday at Buffalo Inn for allegedly forcing his way into a room with a handgun.

Kerry Lynn Hartzog, 55, El Dorado Springs, Mo., was arrested just after 9 p.m., after forcing his way into room 187, a police report said. He should be charged with aggravated assault today, Police Chief Ray Smeed said.

Three people were in the room. One of the guests, Christy Southards, was from Wichita, and the other two, John Richerson, and Darryl Wall, live in Valley Center, just north of Wichita.

The incident was reported to the police by Linda Melton, an employee of the inn, at 9:09 p.m., the report said, and officers arrived at 9:13.

Two Goodland police officers, a sheriff's deputy and a state trooper helped take Hartzog into custody, Smeed said.

The hotel manager was not available for comment.

Massive fire stops short but town still in danger

By Foster Klug

Associated Press Writer

SHOW LOW, Ariz. — A mammoth blaze formed by the union of two wildfires edged closer to this evacuated mountain town today and firefighters said it was only a matter of time before it overran the community.

"The fire has abated a little but we're still in a lot of danger here," fire spokesman Jim Paxon said today on NBC's "Today" show. "We think it's an inevitability that the fire is going to enter Show Low."

Firefighters planned to pull back, let the fire strike and then fight it where they can.

The fire has burned about 305,000 acres — nearly 480 square miles, slightly larger than sprawling Los Angeles — since it began as two blazes last week. The fires merged on Sunday.

Harvest is here



Wheat harvest kicked off this weekend in Sherman County. A farmer north of Goodland was cutting wheat Sunday afternoon.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

First load hauled in early Friday

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Harvest started in Sherman County early Friday morning, with a farmer hauling 330 bushels of moist wheat into the downtown Frontier Equity Exchange elevator, but elevator operators say it won't really take off until later this week.

Lloyd Harden, a long-time farmer who was cutting his wheat about 10 miles north of Goodland, was the first in Sherman County to bring in a load this harvest.

Bernie Stefan, division manager at the Frontier Equity downtown elevator, said the 330 bushels came in at 7:40 a.m. Friday. The wheat had a 54.6 pound test weight, he said, and the moisture was 18.4 percent.

Stefan said the elevator accepted the grain, but it was too wet to qualify for Goodland merchants' annual Harvest Countdown contest, as the rules say the first load must be under 14 percent moisture.

Considering the contest rules, Harden still brought in the first load of wheat because the 350 bushels he hauled in at 7:51 a.m. Saturday was 12.7 percent moisture and had a 57.8 pound test weight.

The winners of the contest, in which people guess when harvest will start, are Lois Sieck, who took first with her guess of 9 a.m. Saturday; Eddie Emig, second, 10:30 a.m.; and Colleen Duell, third, 11:05 a.m.

Sieck wins \$50, Emig \$35 and Duell \$15. The winners will receive scrip, which can be spent at participat-

Elevators seeing low yields, but higher test weights

Wheat started flowing into area elevators this weekend and operators say harvest should kick into high gear by Tuesday or Wednesday.

They say yields are down, as expected, but test weights are surprisingly high considering drought and heat have stunted growth in many Sherman County fields.

Tom Stewart, operations manager for the Mueller Grain elevator in Goodland, said the elevator took in about 30,000 bushels over the weekend, about 40 truckloads.

Moisture was between 9 to 16 percent, he said, and test weights were ranging from 55 to 61 pounds. The standard is around 60 pounds.

Stewart said there was a good run this weekend and he expects even more farmers to start harvesting today. Some farmers, he said, are waiting for custom cutting crews to arrive.

Josh Dechant, manager of Collingwood Grain in Kanorado, said the elevator only took in a

couple of loads this weekend.

"It should get fired up hot and heavy today," he said.

He said test weights were better than expected at 58 to 59 pounds and moisture was around 13 percent.

Rex Jamison, manager of the Frontier Equity branch in Brewster, said the elevator took 20 loads on Saturday and 50 on Sunday. He said test weights were between 58 to 60 pounds and moisture was 9 to 10 percent.

Yields are low, between 15 to 30 bushels per acre, he said, but test weights are higher than he expected. A good yield is about 60 bushels per acre.

"It's actually pretty good considering we haven't had rain," Jamison said. "Test weights are extremely good for the year."

He said a couple of custom harvesting crews showed up Sunday and he's expecting more this week.

"I do know they are coming," he said. "They've been calling."

added there was a lot of cutting in Cheyenne County, where the first load came in Tuesday.

Harden, who said he has been farming here for 52 years, said drought has caused this year's crop to be the smallest he's seen since 1950. He said the wheat was yielding only 20 bushels per acre — a good yield is around 60 bushels.

"We've had 5 inches of rain since September," he said, "and I bet we didn't have 5 inches before that. That's dry."

The crop was yielding about three-quarters of what it did last year, Harden said.

"We're glad to get anything," he added.

Harden said he hasn't seen many custom cutters — crews who travel the country helping farmers with the harvest — arriving in Sherman County yet. Some farmers who usually hire custom harvesters are cutting their own crop this year because heat and drought have cut yields to the point that hiring helpers is futile.

Stefan said the elevator received a few thousand bushels of wheat on Saturday, but he guessed harvest won't be in full swing until Tuesday or Wednesday. He also said he hadn't seen any custom cutters.

Considering the weather this past year, Stefan said the wheat was looking OK to him.

"I've seen worse," he said.

Despite conditions this year, Harden said he'll plant wheat again. "It's a force of habit."

local markets

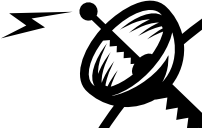
Noon

- Wheat — \$2.93 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.79
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Corn — \$2.05 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.89
- Loan deficiency payment — 10¢
- Milo — \$1.72 bushel
- Soybeans — \$4.40 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.38
- Loan deficiency payment — 28¢
- Millet — \$4.25 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$10.45 cwt.
- NuSun — \$10.60 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Confection current — inquire
- Pinto beans — \$27

(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.

Tanks surround headquarters

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Israeli tanks encircled Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's badly damaged headquarters today, and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told his party Israel was preparing a large operation in the Gaza Strip against the militant Hamas movement.

Sharon's spokesman, Raanan Gissin, said the prime minister spoke to members of his Likud Party hours after Israel delivered the first blow of the new offensive — a helicopter missile strike on two cars carrying Hamas members, killing six Palestinians and injuring five in the southern Gaza Strip at Rafah.

Four of the dead belonged to Hamas, the movement said. Israel said it targeted and killed Yasser Rizik, a "senior Hamas activist" who was allegedly behind a January attack that killed four soldiers.

Making way for new



Cahoj Earthmoving took out the concrete entryway from Business U.S. 24 to the old Gibson's property today. U.S. 24 is blocked at Gibson's, and traffic is being detoured through a new path to the parking lot. Cattletrail is now open south of 17th Street, and people can access Short & Son from Cattletrail and

can get to Sharon's Taco Place and Buffalo Inn on the new part of Wyoming. Old U.S. 24 to the west, serving Frontier Equity Co-op, Goodland Greenline and other businesses is now open. U.S. 24 to the east will be closed while workers replace the pavement. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

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