

**weather report**

**68°**  
at noon



**Today**

• Sunset, 6:20 p.m.

**Tomorrow**

• Sunrise, 6:51 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:19 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

• Soil Temperature 58 degrees

• Humidity 50 percent

• Sky partly sunny

• Winds light and variable

• Barometer 30.02 inches

and rising

• Record High 89° (1963)

• Record Low 20° (2000)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High 74°

Low 38°

Precipitation none

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: partly cloudy, low lower

40s, winds east 10-15 m.p.h. Tomorrow:

partly sunny, high upper 60s,

low lower 40s, winds south 10-15

m.p.h.

**Extended Forecast**

Thursday: mostly sunny, high mid

70s, low mid 40s. Friday: mostly

clear, high mid 70s. Saturday: mostly

cloudy with chance of showers, high

mid 50s, low mid 40s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**



**Noon**

Wheat — \$4.48 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.39

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$2.59 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.40

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Milo — \$2.34 bushel

Soybeans — \$4.80 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.74

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Millet — \$13.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$10.65 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Confection current — \$17/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$18

(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.

**House, Senate debating war**

WASHINGTON — Congress

today began a fateful three-day

debate on authorizing President

Bush to use force to disarm Iraq's

Saddam Hussein. If forced into

war, "We will prevail," the president

declared.

"I want to thank members of

both political parties for realizing

the seriousness of this issue," Bush

said as debate opened in the

House.

"At this moment, the people's

house begins debate on one of the

most difficult questions we will

ever face," said Rep. David Dreier,

R-Calif.

Both the House and Senate hope

to conclude by Thursday night,

with expectations they would

approve a resolution providing

the president wide latitude to

take military action to disarm

## Fall harvest is here, but just barely

### Crops still too wet for storage

By Rachel Hixson

The Goodland Daily News

Fall harvest in Sherman County is coming about two to three weeks late this year because stressed crops that haven't seen much moisture all season are still too wet to cut.

Lynn Hoelting, general manager of Mueller Grain, said several farmers are starting to roll combines into fields this week, but harvest is just gearing up and won't be in full-swing for another week to 10 days.

Harvest is usually reaching its peak by the second week in October, he said, but this year is different.

"We're just on the front end," Hoelting said, "normally at this time it would be going hot and heavy."

A couple of factors are pushing harvest back, he said.

First, the fall crops are drying slower than normal because the plants seem to be reacting to the drought by storing as much water as possible for as long as possible. Most elevators won't accept grain that has more than 20 percent moisture content.

Hoelting said it's hard to know how plants will react to abnormal conditions, such as drought. This year, he said, it looks as if the crops are storing the little moisture that has fallen recently. Fall crops include corn, sunflowers, milo, pinto beans, soybeans, millet and alfalfa.

It's frustrating for farmers who are eager to bring in the crops, Hoelting said, but no one can blame the plants.

"The plant doesn't know it's the middle of October," he said.

Some farmers are putting off harvest until they are finished planting the new wheat crop, Hoelting said. Some wheat is going into the ground late, he said, partially because farmers were waiting for rain.

One bit of good news, he said, is that no severe weather is forecast for the next couple of weeks, so the crops should be safe sitting in the field.

"Wind would be a big foe," Hoelting said, noting that heat, drought, disease and insects have weakened the plants' stalks.

Farmers would welcome colder weather, he said, adding that a hard freeze would kill the plants and cause them to dry out.

Harvest is late, Hoelting said, but right now it's not causing farmers a huge amount of stress.

"They're just a little nervous," he said.



Melvin Nemechek (above) harvested irrigated corn on a field about five miles east of Goodland on Monday evening, with help from Duane Hanke, who was driving the grain cart. A view (below) from the combine cab of the auger unloading corn into the grain cart.

Photos by Rachel Hixson/The Goodland Daily News

## Farmer surprised by good corn crop yield

By Rachel Hixson

The Goodland Daily News

As Melvin Nemechek was steering a combine through his irrigated corn field on Monday evening about five miles east of Goodland, he said he was surprised at what the crop was yielding.

The watered crop, which managed to survive a season of drought, was producing an average of 205 bushels per acre, which Nemechek said he considered an exceptionally good yield for the conditions.

"I can't believe it's as good as it is," he said, looking up as a flashing orange light signaled the combine's bin was 70 percent full of grain.

Rainfall in Sherman County is so far about nine inches below normal for the year.

The drought has killed most of the dryland crops in the county and has even taken a toll on the irrigated crops, as farmers couldn't put enough water on the plants to make up for what was evaporating.

Watching a yellow stream of corn flow out of the combine's auger into a grain cart, Nemechek said his other dryland crops weren't as lucky this year.

The farmer, who grows corn, sunflowers, milo and wheat, said drought "zeroed out" all of his dryland crops and even the sunflowers he pre-watered to make sure there was at least six-feet of moisture in the ground.



"I did it with the intention that Mother Nature would help out," he said of the pre-watering. "In a normal year it would have been enough."

Nemechek said the corn he was cutting was being hauled by semi-tractor rigs to a feedlot in Leoti, which accepts

high-moisture grain.

The corn was running between 30 to 32 percent moisture content, he said, which is too wet for most grain elevators that like corn to have under 20 percent moisture content.

Nemechek, who was born and raised

in Sherman County, said fall harvest is coming late for him this year because the plants are taking awhile to dry out. But, he noted, there is also less crop to cut this year.

"It will be a real short harvest," he said.

## City searching for right person to fix-up arts center

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

The Kansas State Historical Society awarded a grant to the City of Goodland in May to repair the Carnegie Arts Center, but so far the city hasn't been able to find a contractor who will do all of the work for the money offered.

Only one company responded to a bid request on the project, and was turned down Monday because its bid was more than what the city wants to pay.

The state estimated the work would cost \$51,960, and gave the city \$41,568. The city put aside \$10,392 at budget time to cover the rest of the cost.

The city wants to replace the center's roof, fix the columns at the entrance,

### City roundup

At a Goodland City Commission meeting Monday, the commissioners:

- Decided not to award a bid for restoring the Carnegie Arts Center. See story to left.
- Approved paying \$692.21 to the Sherman County Community Foundation. Story to come.
- Gave City Manager Ron Pickman a raise, and passed a compensation plan for the rest of the city's employees. Story to come.

replace mortar joints, replace damaged gutters and down spouts and fix wood window and door frames.

Rhoads Construction submitted the sole bid. It said replacing all of the clay tiles on the roof would cost \$72,073,

and salvaging some of the tiles would cost \$54,255. Rhoads bid \$22,522 to put in a wheelchair ramp, \$2,775 to paint the north outside wall, and \$1,110 to paint handrails, all optional items in the bid. The city only set aside \$7,000

to build a wheelchair ramp in May, which was not covered in the grant.

Commissioner Curtis Hurd wanted to make a motion to turn down the bid, but City Manager Ron Pickman told him all motions have to be to approve something.

Hurd then made a motion to approve the bid so the commission could have a chance to vote it down. All five commissioners, including Hurd, voted against accepting the bid.

Pickman said the city will try to find more companies to bid on the project.

The city applied for the grant at the beginning of the year after the director of the center Tine Goodwin asked the commission to find a cheap and easy way to repair an inside wall, which had

paint and plaster falling to the floor.

The commission decided to put off fixing the wall until the leaking roof had been fixed first, not wanting to "put the cart before the horse," and started looking for ways to finance it.

The building, which is owned by the city and leased to the Goodland Arts Council, is on the National Register of Historical Places, and nothing can be fixed or changed without the approval of a state architect, who tries to keep the building as close to its original condition as possible.

Goodwin said all the fuss about the building is worthwhile.

"The center adds a lot of character to the city," she said. "It is worth keeping in good shape."

## Maryland governor pleads for 'insane killing' to stop

By Stephen Manning

Associated Press Writer

BOWIE, Md. — Anxious parents accompanied their children to school or kept them at home today, a day after a sniper linked to the murder of six adults critically wounded a middle-school pupil. The governor pleaded with the gunman to surrender and "stop this insane killing."

"I can't stop going to work, the children can't stop going to school," said Henry Ollie, 48, lead-

ing his 12-year-old son, Charles, to the front door of Benjamin Tasker Middle School in Bowie, where the latest shooting happened. Ordinarily, Charles takes the bus.

Some parents served as volunteer guards, watching over intersections. But it appeared many decided to keep their children home as Monday's shooting fueled heightened anxiety for families in already nervous suburbs. Some buses arriving at schools carried fewer students than usual.

Tasker student Jessica McFadden, 13, said she knew of at least three friends whose parents were keeping them home. She came to school clutching a pot of pink flowers and a teddy bear, a thank-you present for her teacher for her help Monday.

Her mother, Diane McFadden, said she decided to let her daughter come to school because "they can't live in fear. That's why we're back. You can't stop what you're doing because of some sick person."

Said another 13-year-old, Amanda Wiedmaier: "Usually I'm embarrassed to walk around and hold my mom's hand, but I don't care today."

Gov. Parris Glendening appealed for an end to the attacks.

"This is a person who is shooting elderly men, shooting women, and now shooting little children," Glendening said. "And I really think if there is any message, it is for this individual to turn himself in, to stop this insane killing."