

Leadership class learns about agriculture businesses

LEADERSHIP, from Page 1

bushels of wheat in 2000 worth about \$15 million, and 13 million bushels of corn worth about \$26 million.

The group then toured Goodland Greenline, 1104 W. Hwy. 24, and listened to owner Ron Lucas talk about how he got started in the implement business and why he believes the farm economy will grow stronger despite drought this year.

The class went next door to Frontier

Equity Exchange, where manager Brad Cowan talked about how grain is stored at the elevator and other services Frontier provides.

Lynn Hoelting, general manager of Mueller Grain elevator, came to Frontier to explain the process of buying, selling and storing grain. He said an elevator usually won't buy grain until it's sure the commodity will be sold to another buyer.

Hoelting said moisture is an elevator's enemy and employees test

loads of grain farmers bring in to make sure the product is dry enough to store. Among other things, moisture can produce heat in the storage facility, he said, and cause a fire.

Cowan and Hoelting said dry grain can be stored for years. They said some farmers will keep their grain in storage for a long time, waiting for market prices to increase.

The students traveled to the Mueller Grain scalehouse on Main and 17th Street, where elevator manager Tom

Stewart took the class up to the top of the concrete elevator. He showed them how a conveyor belt transports grain from one storage bin to another.

In the afternoon, the class toured Hawkeye Spraying east of Goodland. Owner Bill Ashton talked about his operation, which includes aerial and ground spraying, and the students got to peek inside the airplanes used to

spray chemicals on fields.

Randy Whitmore at Century Feeders, a feed lot west of Goodland, gave the class a bus-tour of the facility, talking to the students about the benefits of buying beef from a feedlot and the difference between different types of cows and cuts of meat.

The session ended back at the Farm Service Agency, where Agronomist

John Murray talked about the benefits of genetically modified crops, commodity broker Art Kalbach explained how to trade commodities on the futures market and Wayne Bossert, manager of the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management office in Colby, discussed what's being done to preserve water in the Ogallala Aquifer.

Two men arrested in sniper case

SNIPER, from Page 1

the Army in the mid-1990s.

The key break, authorities said, was a phone call to the sniper task force tip line suggesting investigators check out a liquor store robbery in "Montgomery." The caller claimed responsibility for the robbery and the sniper shootings, officials said.

Investigators checking the tip matched it with a Sept. 21 liquor store robbery in Montgomery, Ala., in which two employees were shot, one fatally. Montgomery Mayor Bobby Bright said Malvo's fingerprint was found at the scene on a magazine about weapons, though he did not specify whether the print was found before or after the telephone call.

Police traced Malvo to the Tacoma home that was searched Wednesday in the sniper hunt. Malvo had been living in the home with Muhammad, a source told the AP.

A composite sketch of the suspect in the liquor-store shootings was made and "there are some very good similarities" to Malvo, Montgomery Police Chief John Wilson said. He said the gun used in Alabama wasn't the same as the one in the sniper shootings, however.

Members of the sniper task force made the arrests without incident at 3:19 a.m. off I-70 in Frederick County, Md., about 50 miles northwest of the nation's capital, said Larry Scott, an agent for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. State police said the men offered no resistance. The Seattle Times said Muhammad

changed his name from John Allen Williams after converting to Islam.

Several federal sources told the Times that Muhammad and Malvo may have been motivated by anti-American sentiments in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks. Both were known to speak sympathetically about the men who hijacked jetliners over Washington, New York and Pennsylvania, the sources told the newspaper.

Neither man was believed to be associated with the al-Qaida terrorist network, the sources said.

The Times reported that Muhammad was stationed at Fort Lewis outside Tacoma in the 1980s, served in the Gulf War and was later stationed at Fort Ord, Calif. Malvo, who authorities said is a citizen of Jamaica, attended high school in Bellingham, Wash., last year.

The witnesses at the rest stop called police at 1 a.m. after they spotted the men sleeping inside one of the cars sought in the investigation — a blue 1990 Chevrolet Caprice with a New Jersey license plate. Micah Rasmussen, a spokesman for the New Jersey Department of Transportation, said the car was registered to Muhammad at a Camden, N.J., address.

Investigators spent hours examining the Caprice before putting it in a white trailer and towing it away. With news of the arrests filling the airwaves, truckers blew their horns as they passed by the rest stop.

On Wednesday, FBI agents spent hours at the Tacoma home, eventually carting away a tree stump from the yard and other potential evidence in a U-

Haul truck.

The ATF's Scott said the stump would be brought to the agency's lab in Rockville, Md. On background, law enforcement sources said they believed it might contain bullets or fragments.

A Fort Lewis spokesman did not return a call for comment on whether Muhammad was stationed on the base. FBI agents visited Bellingham High School, 90 miles north of Seattle, on Wednesday, reportedly seeking information about Muhammad and Malvo. Mayor Mark Asmundson said both left the area about nine months ago.

Bellingham Police Chief Randy Carroll said his force had known about Malvo since December 2001, when a police officer at the high school filed a suspicious persons report because the youth arrived at the school without transcripts or other papers. At one point, he lived with Muhammad as father and son at the Lighthouse Mission, a homeless shelter, Carroll said.

Pfc. Chris Waters, a Fort Lewis soldier who lives across the street from the Tacoma home, said he called police after hearing gunshots in the neighborhood nearly every day in January.

"It sounded like a high-powered rifle such as an M-16," he said. "Never more than three shots at a time. Pow. Pow. Pow."

One of Muhammad's ex-wives, Mildred, was questioned by the FBI on Wednesday, said Adele Moses, who identified herself as the woman's sister. She said Mildred was living with her in Clinton, Md., southeast of Washington.

RAID, from Page 1

And even as the Chechen rebels were threatening to kill their hostages, intermediaries entered the building earlier this bearing a white flag and won the release of five more captives.

Sharpshooters perched on rooftops around the theater less than three miles from the Kremlin.

Distraught relatives tried to reach family members inside the theater. Alina Vlasova, 24, said her sister Marina was so upset when she called from inside the theater that she could barely speak. "They are standing over us with automatic rifles and are getting angrier," Alina said her sister told her.

A pro-rebel Web site, www.kavkaz.org, said today that Russia had seven days to begin withdrawing from Chechnya or the theater would be blown up.

The Web site said the attackers were led by Movsar Barayev, the nephew of warlord Arbi Barayev, who reportedly died last year. The site said some of the women hostage-takers were the widows of Chechen rebels killed fighting the Russians.

President Vladimir Putin canceled his trip this week to the APEC summit in Mexico as the secessionist war that has bedeviled Russia for a decade came terrifyingly home to the nation's capital.

Meeting with security officials today, Putin said "freeing the hostages with the maximum assurance of their safety," was the main goal. He said the raid was planned "in one of the foreign terrorist centers" but did not name it.

The dramatic siege was a bitter blow for Putin, who repeatedly has said Russia has the situation in Chechnya, a

Chechen rebels threaten to blow up theater


mainly Muslim republic in southern Russia, under control. While Putin's popularity remains high, opinion polls show public support for the war dropping in recent months.

In Washington, White House spokesman Sean McCormack said in a statement that "the American government and the American people stand with the people of Russia at this difficult moment. There are no causes or

national aspirations that justify the taking of innocent hostages."

U.S. Ambassador Alexander Vershbow said three Americans were among the hostages, but he did not identify them.

Citizens of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Australia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Germany also were confirmed to be among the hostages.



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