

Scrubbing for a good cause



Whitney Dautel (left) was one of the kids who want to have a skate park and helped with a car wash and bake sale on Saturday at Wal-Mart. Connie Livengood (center) is one of the adults in the youth development action committee in the Shine on

Sherman County. They need to raise \$20,000 for a concrete pad in Steever Park. The skate park is one of the goals of the youth development action committee in the Shine on Sherman County. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Wheat crops being stressed

Michelle Myers

Free Press Intern

It's been a long seven years for Kansas farmers. The drought dried up their crops, hail chopped them down, wind flattened them, and tornadoes wiped them clean off, among other things.

However, this is the first good spring the area has had since the first year of drought, and local farmers were looking hopeful.

"Six weeks ago, there was not a bad field in the county, but now we see a lot of stressed fields," said Steve Ziegelmeier, broker for ZEZ Commodities and a farmer. The main culprits have been wind, hail and rust.

County officials are not optimistic about dryland wheat and irrigated wheat could still be average to above average depending on spraying for insects and other factors.

"It (wheat) was looking pretty good with all the snow, but unfortunately with the wind and hail, the drier wheat hasn't been up to its potential," said Brian Olson, Thomas County Extension Office researcher. "So it's not outstanding, but still respectable yields."

Mark Myers, who farms southeast of Thomas County, agrees.

"Freeze damage was minimal, and non-existent in Thomas County," he said. "The wheat is maturing very fast with the hot winds we had last week. And with the rust the wheat got, and the lack of moisture, it is maturing very quickly."

While farmers would like to see about 20 more inches of rain this summer, it would still be too late to help the wheat crop.

"I think there will be really good places to harvest, and some places

that won't be worth cutting at all," said Myers.

As for what farmers can do with the crop they have, Olson offered some advice.

"It's all in nature's hands, so we can't do anything about it. It'll be average at best so far for Thomas and Rawlins county," said Olson.

"It's a little disappointing, that's all," said Olson.

Many local farmers haven't seen a yield that could bring in 100 bushels in years, and some were looking at fields with the potential of producing up to 120 bushels of wheat before the wind and hail came.

Russ Martin, service technician, said that Colby probably has the worst wheat crop.

"Colby is probably the worst, especially with rust and getting only an inch and a half of rain. It's still green, but some places are starting to look a little yellow," said Martin.

Not only does the area suffer because of the lack of rain, but, "Rust has been an epidemic."

"It looks really good, but then it took off 30-40 percent of the yield," said Martin. "North of town is pretty good with 50-55 bushels of wheat, but then it starts to go downhill the closer to Colby with 25-30 bushels. Mingo will probably bring in 45-50 bushels, and the best is around Oakley, which will have about 65-70 bushels."

Fortunately, there is still hope for farmers.

"The prices are decent — a little higher right now, which is kind of unusual for this time of year. It's reminiscent of what happened last year," said Ziegelmeier.

Many farmers believe harvest will hit in about two weeks. For Ziegelmeier, he said he believes cutting will begin by June 23.

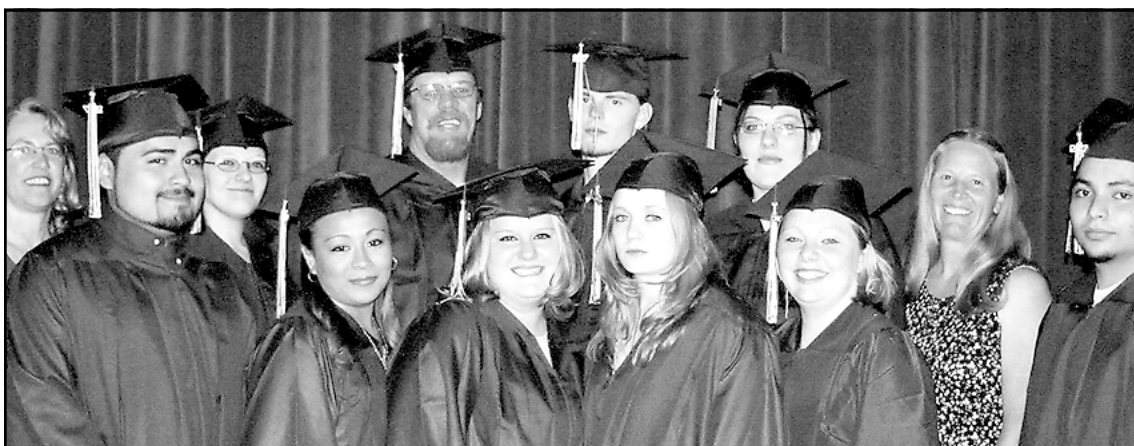
Center has graduation for 11 students

The Goodland Community Learning Center held its first commencement for 11 students. The graduation was Thursday, May 24, at the Goodland High School auditorium.

The graduates are Sonny Garcia, Elizabeth Ruiz, Andrea Hatfield, Sarah Pitcher, Ashley Davis, Carlos Soto, Gena Overmiller, Craig Grantz, Troy Harrison, Charlotte and Jamie Lieb. A reception was held in the high school cafeteria.

Site Director Lori Graybill gave the main address and Sonny Garcia gave the student remarks. Pictures were shown of the graduates and Roberta Normandin provided the music.

The learning center to help anyone of any age who did not finish high school to get their diploma.



Recent graduates from the Goodland Learning center are (front row l to r) Sonny Garcia, Elizabeth Ruiz, Andrea Hatfield, Sarah Pitcher, Ashley Davis, Peggy Klinge (staff), Carlos Soto, (back row) Lori Graybill (staff), Gena Overmiller, Craig Grantz, Troy Harrison, Charlotte Morris and (not pictured) Jamie Lieb.

Goodland Learning Center moves its digs

The Goodland Learning Center has new digs at 1209 Main next to The Goodland Star-News office. The center was located at 912 Main.

The center is doing credit recovery for students in junior high and

high school during June. The larger space will allow them to expand programs. It will be closed in July and reopen Monday, August 6 for the 2007-2008 school year.

ESSDACK, an educational non-

profit organization out of Hutchinson, operates the center in partnership with the Goodland School District.

Donations for extras for the students can be sent to the Sherman

County Community Foundation, P.O. Box 888, Goodland.

"The larger space will allow them to expand programs," said Program Director Lori Graybill.

Colby business fined for labor violations with minors

Dairy Queen, owned by Service Oil Co., has been cited for alleged youth employment violations and fined \$14,575. The fine was paid and they agreed to watch the regulations. When asked by The Colby Free Press they had no comment.

The U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division announced the decision on Monday,

June 4. The restaurant and service station was cited for 14 and 15-year-olds working as late as midnight. The kids worked as many as 9 1/4 hours a day and as many as 52 1/4 hours a week. There were 14 and 15-year-olds operating a deep fat fryer that did not have an automatic raising and lowering mechanism which is in violation of labor regu-

lations. The kids were also thought to be driving a motor vehicle to the grocery store for supplies.

Youth employment regulation list 17 hazardous occupations that people under 18 are not supposed to do. Kids 14 and 15 can work outside school hours, but not before 7 a.m. and not later than 7 p.m. (9 p.m. from June 1 until Labor Day). Kids

should not work more than three hours on a school day and 18 hours in a school week and eight hours on a non-school day and 40 hours a week when school is not in session. One of the regulations requires that 14 and 15-year-olds can not use deep fat fryers that do not automatically lower and raise baskets in and out of the grease or oil.

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Friday 7 p.m.
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