

Goodland man gives con artists \$42,000 in cleanup scam

GOODLAND — An elderly Goodland man told police he gave con artists \$42,600 in a yard cleanup scam last Friday.

Police Chief Ray Smee said he believes there are three or four people involved, including one posing as a U.S. marshal.

He said the suspects stayed at Motel 8 for two nights and made reservations for a third. Police put the room under observation after the scam was reported, but no one returned.

The chief said the man, in his mid-70s, was quite embarrassed that he had turned over the money. He said the man's yard did need some cleanup, but \$1,000 should have covered it.

"I don't want to embarrass the man," Smee said. "He already feels bad about it, but I sure want to find these guys."

"We were about two hours behind them when we got the call. We don't have much to go on."

"We know there is a criminal case

and probably a civil case when they are caught."

Smee said the con artists are believed to have headed for Colorado. Information about the scam was sent to police in both Colorado and Kansas.

The chief said the man posing as the marshal wore a badge and a set of handcuffs on his belt, a white cowboy hat, white shirt and jeans.

He cashed two checks, one for \$10,000 and the other for \$32,600, at First National Bank.

The bank called the victim to verify the checks, then converted them to money orders.

Smee said the victim's nephew, who lives in Atwood, became suspicious when he found out about yard cleanup deal and called the bank, which in turn called the police about two hours after the checks were cashed.

"The nephew called to ask why the city was referring people to a Wisconsin firm to clean up yards," Smee said.

"I told him the city had not referred anyone about yard clean up."

"That was when we found out these people had gone to the man's house and said they were there representing the City of Goodland, and that he needed to clean up his yard."

Smee said a teen-ager youth, not part of the scam, was to help with the cleanup and promised a total of \$160 but only got \$40.

Smee said the suspects left behind a Bobcat that may have been rented in Hays. He took the loader

and put it in the city impound lot.

"I figured if they were coming back, they would have to come talk to me," Smee said.

"We don't have much information, and what we do have is sketchy."

"All we know is they were driving a red Ford pickup and a white Ford pickup. No one was sure about the license plates."

"We will be waiting for the money orders to be cashed to see if we can follow them."

Crop not promising, says farmers, crop experts and elevators

By **KIMBERLY BRANDT**
Oberlin Herald

OBERLIN — Farmers, elevator men and crop experts don't have much good to say about this year's wheat crop.

The county has been in a drought for the last four or five years, and each year it seems that crop production decreases a little more. At harvest time last year, it seemed like things were looking up, but with the lack of rain after planting season and little snow over the winter, the wheat isn't where it should be.

A lot of people were hoping that the wheat crop this year would be as good as it was last year, said Brian Olson, Kansas State University area extension agronomist, but we didn't get any rain in October to help establish the wheat.

The previous year, he said, the area got three inches of rain which got the wheat going. The area needed that again this past year. With a two- to three-inch rain right after planting, said Mr. Olson, the crop would have been able to survive.

The wheat is up, he said, but it is highly variable. Some of it may produce decent wheat, but most of the plants only have one head. Mr. Olson said there is no way to determine what the yields will be with only one head on the plants.

The area still has bare ground, too, where wheat was planted last fall but never came up.

Last spring, said Olson, the area got good weather for the crop. It stayed cool through the filling season. If that happens again this year, it could help the yield, but still won't compensate for one head per plant.

Recently, the area got some rain. He said that helps, but then it was 80 degrees and windy for several days. That just sucks the moisture right out of the ground, he said.

Every year, Olson said, the college supports wheat test plots with area farmers.

This year, said Olson, only the conventional plot came up at the May farm west of town. A no-till plot didn't make it.

In Norton County, he said the university won't have a plot. In Quinter there is only one kind, but Trego and Sheridan counties have the conventional and no-till plots.

Earlier, said Olson, he talked with farmers about their options, whether to over seed the wheat or plant spring barley. Now the option is whether to keep the crop or terminate it and plant soybeans or something else for fall.

The yields now depend on the stands, he said. If a field got established early, there may be some yield, but if it didn't, farmers won't see the numbers come harvest.

At Norcatur Grain, Rodney O'Hare said the crop doesn't look very promising. There are a few fields that look decent, but 80 to 90 percent of the wheat is hurting real

bad.

The wheat is getting a funny blue shade to it, he said, meaning that the plants are stressed because of the drought. On Thursday, he said, it was probably 65 to 70 degrees in

Norcatur and the wind was blowing. The weather is just taking the moisture out of the ground.

O'Hare said wheat, weeds and grass this year may get four inches tall and then put out a seed stalk

because Mother Nature is saying that it is time. Normally, the plants get knee high or better before that happens.

He said that on Thursday morning he had three farmers in his of-

fice and each of them were hoping to get the crop insurance adjusted out in the near future and talk with them about tearing up the wheat and getting soybeans or milo in the ground.

Trucker calls in suspicious situation involving youths

OBERLIN — A trucker did a doubletake Friday when a light blue Jaguar heading east on U.S. 83 outside of Rexford passed him and he noticed two youths in the back seat in handcuffs.

The driver called the Kansas Highway Patrol and reported what he had seen.

The patrol relayed the call to Oberlin dispatch. Around 12:24 p.m., the Jaguar passed Decatur County Undersheriff Michael French near the county line. Undersheriff French stopped the vehicle.

He said he stopped the car to check. He said the driver told him he was working with Security Transport out of Deerfield and was

taking one of the juveniles to the Sappa Valley Youth Ranch.

Undersheriff French said he reviewed documents the man had and they appeared to be valid.

The jaguar was registered to the company.

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SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 1065 W. 5th, 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.

Schedule of church services

ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Christian Education and Choir Practice for Youth, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May

COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, Rev. Leonard Burgess, 245 W. College Dr. - 462-8234, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., 1st Worship Service - 8:15 a.m. 2nd service - 10:30 a.m.

BEREAN CHURCH, Rev. Francis Harwerth, 1000 S. Franklin - 460-3076; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m., Sunday Evening Youth 6:00 p.m., Tim Morris, associate pastor; e-mail: morris4him@st-tel.net. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Colby Armory

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Rev. Jim Puckett, Grant & Webster Street, 462-2867, Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Evening Worship 6:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, (SBC), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 462-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m.

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Chris Shubert. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 p.m. and 9:25-9:40 p.m. on Sunday.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m. September through May; Worship 9:30 a.m. June through Labor Day.

WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

TEENS FOR CHRIST CONNECTION, Everett Robert, 462-7404, Both middle school and high school program.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 462-6605, President Dave Geldmacher, 846-7740; Elmer Schielke, 1st counsellor, 462-9022 and Calvin Haverfield, 2nd counsellor, 672-4165. Sacrament meeting 9 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 10:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 11:10 a.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, or by appointment. Call 462-3571.

COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 462-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. <http://www.gbgn-umc.org/colby-umc/>

REDEEMING LOVE CHURCH, 345 N. Franklin, Bishop W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Sunday service, 5 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 510 E. 4th, Jay Kelley, minister, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Eve. Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), 385 W. 3rd - 460-2718, Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. followed by Sunday Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m. E-mail: fcccolby@st-tel.net

LANDMARK UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH, Pastor Doyle Glasscock, 815 West 3rd - 462-3667, Service times: Sunday, 10 a.m., 6:30 p.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, David S. Hall, Pastor, East 5th & Country club, 462-3497, Worship, Saturday, 5:30 p.m. ; Sunday School and Bible Class 9:15 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m. ; Lutheran Hour on KXXX at 10 a.m.; KGCR at 2 p.m. website <http://www.trinitycolbyks.org>

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH Brewster, Sunday Worship 9 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Charlie Buch, 694-2242, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Evening service, 6:00 p.m.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, Pastor Jerry Vincent, 586-2376, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. Michael Eurit, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. (CDT)

BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Rev. Mike Meserve, Outreach; Lane Purcell, Men's Ministry, 687-2565

REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford - 687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Sunday Night Bible Study 7:30 p.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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