

# Superintendent takes up the reins for school district

By Hailee Spresser  
Golden Plains High School

Golden Plains welcomes Darrin Herl as the new superintendent for the 2013-2014 school year. "I chose Golden Plains because of the location," said Herl. "I like western Kansas and the small school atmosphere that the schools here have." Herl graduated from Wheatland High School in 1993 and went on to Fort Hays State University where he completed his masters' degree in 2000. He taught and coached at Liberal then became

the superintendent and principal at Wheatland. He taught industrial arts at Healy before coming to Golden Plains.

"My goals for the school year are to expand curriculum, maintain enrollment, expand technology and make school as enjoyable as possible for the students," said Superintendent Herl.

He lives south of Hoxie with his wife Korey, son Draden, 5, and daughters Jaylen, 3 and Jenna, 1. His hobbies include farming, woodworking, and riding his motorcycle.

HAILEE SPRESSER/Golden Plains High School Superintendent Darrin Herl and senior Jordan Christensen shared a laugh while looking over the handbook. Herl has implemented many new rules for the school year.



# Scrap copper thieves destroy phone service

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) – Some homes and businesses in Dexter, Ore., lost phone service after thieves disguised as a road crew stole several hundred feet of telephone cable containing copper wire from a line near Highway 58. "They were trying to make it look like, 'nothing suspicious going on here,'" a Chevron gas station and mini-market employee told *The Register-Guard* newspaper (is.gd/N3ut2L). The gas station employee, who declined to be identified, said the two suspects bought items at the store, and sheriff's deputies are aware that surveillance cameras captured images of the men. Lane County sheriff's Sgt. Steve French said the men traveled in a red Ford diesel truck. Phone provider CenturyLink said legitimate technicians drive vehicles and wear clothing that display official logos. Crews han-

dling roadside repair jobs carry safety equipment, including vests, orange cones and traffic signs. "If you see individuals working on telephone wires without this equipment, especially at odd hours, call 911 immediately," said Jason Johannesen, CenturyLink's area operations manager in Eugene. CenturyLink said service was restored to most customers by Sunday evening. Copper thieves have been responsible for a number of telephone outages in Lane County this summer. Relatively high copper prices – about \$3 per pound – appear to have fueled the surge. Copper wire theft in Oregon peaked about five years ago when prices rose to nearly \$4 per pound. In response to that trend, Oregon enacted new laws that prohibit scrap metal recyclers from paying for scrap on the spot.

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