

weather  
report

88°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:11 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:11 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 67 degrees

• Humidity 31 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds south 25-30 m.p.h.

• Barometer 29.88 inches

and falling

• Record High 100° (2000)

• Record Low 40° (1954)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 90°

Low 56°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly cloudy, 20 percent chance of isolated thunderstorms, low mid 60s, winds south 10-20 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms from the afternoon until midnight, highs near 100, low mid 60s, winds south 20-40 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: mostly sunny and breezy, high upper 90s, low lower 60s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.68 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.68

New Crop — \$2.67

Corn — \$1.86 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.87

Loan deficiency payment — 12¢

Milo — \$1.56 bushel

Soybeans — \$4.42 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.59

Loan deficiency payment — 33¢

Millet — \$3.75 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$10.40 cwt.

NuSun — \$10.55 cwt.

Posted county price — \$10.28

Confection current — \$15/\$7

Pinto beans — \$27

(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.

Bush asks for  
no 'turf battle'

WASHINGTON — President Bush today warned Congress against sparking a "turf battle" over his plan to create a Department of Homeland Security, and said he was sending top adviser Tom Ridge to Capitol Hill to promote the terrorist-fighting plan.

"We've got a lot of work to do to get this department implemented. There's going to be a lot of turf protection in the Congress. But I'm convinced that, by working together, that we can do what's right for America," Bush said after a meeting with nearly a dozen Democratic and Republican lawmakers.

The morning, Bush convened a strategy session in the White House Cabinet Room to survey the opinions of lawmakers who had already drafted legislation doing essentially what the president has proposed.

# Farmers say it's worst crop in years

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

Fred Schields, who has fields in Sherman, Cheyenne and Kit Carson counties, said his wheat crop this year is like the Clint Eastwood movie, "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly."

Some of it is good, he said, most of it is bad and the outlook for summer harvest is pretty ugly.

Hot, dry weather has taken its toll on the growing wheat plants, and Schields said he already has abandoned half of his crop acres.

His wheat is all a lost cause up north in Cheyenne County, he said, but there is an area about 8 miles wide and 10 miles long in Sherman County that looks decent, considering the conditions. The rest is barely surviving.

"This is the worst crop I've seen since I got out of college in 1972," Schields said. He said the nearly 2 inches that fell Monday night was the first rain over an inch he's seen since July 24 — almost a year ago.

"Everything that probably could have gone wrong did this year," he said. Other Sherman County farmers basically agree.

They say wheat harvest, which usually starts around July 4, will most likely come earlier this year, maybe around June 23. That's because unseasonably hot weather and drought has stunted the plants' growth and caused them to mature early. A good rain in the next couple of weeks, however, could push the date back some.

When harvest does come, farmers say, there's going to be less wheat to cut this year. And much of it will yield between 15 to 30 bushels per acre — 20 to 40 bushels below what most consider a good yield.

There won't be much reason to celebrate after the crop has all been brought in, either.

The market price for wheat has been in the hole for four of the past five years, Schields said, and the new farm bill probably won't do anything to turn

prices around.

Farmers say they need to make \$5 to \$6 per bushel of wheat to break even, but wheat is currently going for about \$2.70 a bushel. In May 1996, a bushel was selling for \$6.02, but the price has been down since then, with a low before the 1999 harvest.

On July 2, 1996, the price was \$4.92 per bushel; July 2, 1997, \$2.92; July 1, 1998, \$2.55; July 1, 1999, \$2.20; July 3, 2000, \$2.46; and July 6, 2001, \$2.48.

Farming isn't what it used to be, said Alfred Pancake, who grows organic wheat — without using any chemicals — about 10 miles northwest of Goodland. After 64 years in the business, he said, he now leaves the planting and harvesting up to his younger brother and nephew, but he can tell the farming life has become more stressful.

"It isn't as much fun," he said, "when you don't get good yields and good prices."

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## Harvest contest offers winners \$100 in prizes

Farmers won't be the only ones counting down the days to harvest.

The person who comes closest to guessing when the first load of wheat will be delivered to a participating elevator will win \$50 in Goodland merchants' annual Harvest Countdown contest.

The second prize will be \$35 and third \$15. Winners will be awarded scrip, which can be spent at participating businesses. People can enter the contest at the Goodland Daily News office or at participating stores.

There are a few rules.

• The first load must have a moisture content of 14 percent or less and be brought to Frontier Equity Ex-

change in Goodland, Ruleton or Brewster or Mueller Grain in Goodland.

• Entry guesses can be made at all Frontier Equity elevators, Mueller Grain, American Communications, the Daily News and Farm Credit of Western Kansas.

• You have to be 18 or older to enter. No purchase is necessary.

• Entry deadline is Thursday, June 20. If harvest starts before then, the winning entry must be made at least 24 hours before the first load was delivered.

• Previous winners and previous first loads are ineligible, as are employees at The Daily News.

## Hostage killed in rescue

### Kansas missionary freed from capture

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP) — U.S.-trained commandos freed a Kansas missionary after more than a year in captivity today but her husband and a Filipino nurse were killed in a shootout with the Muslim extremist kidnappers.

Four of the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers were killed and seven soldiers were wounded in an operation by Philippine commandos outfitted by the United States with silencers, night vision equipment and high-tech headsets. Abu Sayyaf is believed to have links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorism network.

Martin Burnham, 42, was killed by a gunshot, said Gen. Narciso Abaya, Philippine military deputy chief of staff. Abaya said Ediborah Yap, a Filipino nurse kidnapped shortly after the Burnhams, also was shot in the rescue operation and died of her wounds. It was unclear who shot them.

Burnham's wife, 43, underwent surgery in the southern city of Zamboanga, said Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, commander of Philippine forces in the south. Doctors said a bullet passed through her thigh.

"I was so happy when I got out of the jungle," Gracia Burnham, 43, told doctors as they treated her.

She said she believed her husband's death was part of God's plan.

"That is God's liking," she said. "That is probably his destiny."

Gracia Burnham was flown from Zamboanga to Manila, where the U.S. Embassy will take over arrangements to fly her to the United States, said Maj. Richard Sater, a spokesman for the U.S. forces in Zamboanga.

Yap and the Burnhams were the last remaining captives after the guerrillas kidnapped dozens of people over the past year. Some were beheaded and some escaped or were released.

President Bush said he was assured by Philippine President Macapagal Arroyo that "justice would be done."

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the military could now pour reinforcements into the area and unleash its

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## A smooth ride



Work kept moving westward Thursday on Old U.S. 24 as crews from Lafarge of Burlington chip sealed the road between County Road 24 and 25. Plans were to complete the seal project today, said Curt Way,

county public works manager. Besides the old highway, the county was going to seal a section near the Armstrong Addition and a short section on County Road 31.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

## One candidate has filed for county job

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

The deadline to file for county office is noon on Monday, and so far only one candidate has said he will run for county commissioner in District No. 1, a seat Chuck Frankenfeld will leave open when he moves out of the district.

Shirley Dupsky, in the county clerk's office, said Royal Reid, a Republican, filed for the job on Wednesday. Reid, a Kanorado elevator operator, said he thinks the county commissioners are doing a good job and he wants to help them continue.

"Chuck Frankenfeld, who is going off this year, is to be commended for his outstanding leadership," Reid said. "I would like to see this kind of positive accomplishment continued."

"I want to contribute to this good ef-

fort and will do my best to do what is good for Sherman County and its citizens. I have lived in Sherman County for the past 47 years and would enjoy being a part of good county government."

Reid has been active in the effort to form a new economic development group for Sherman County and was named chairman of the new agency by board members on Monday.

After nearly five years in office, Frankenfeld will not be able to run this year because he is moving out of the district he represents.

Commissioners serve four-year terms, but Frankenfeld was appointed on April 1, 1998, to fill the seat of a commissioner who resigned, and he



Royal Reid

was elected on Nov. 8, 1998.

If he decides he wants to run for commissioner again, Frankenfeld would have to wait until 2004, when the commissioner seats now held by Mitch Tiede and Kevin Rasure go up for election.

This year's primary election will be held on Aug. 6 and the general election will be on Nov. 5.

Other county positions up for election are 13 township clerks and party county committee memberships in each of the county's 17 voting precincts, which include the 13 townships and the four wards in the City of Goodland.

People who have filed for township

clerk include Perry Lohr, Logan; and Shirley Anderson, McPherson.

Mary Ann Snethen, deputy county clerk, said ideally the four committee positions in each precinct would be filled by two men and two women, one each for the Democrat and Republican parties. But, she said, only two Democrats hold the positions now and some precincts have no representation.

Dupsky said several women have filed to fill positions including Christina Rasure, Logan; Lois Cossman, Grant; Cora House, Itasca; and Dixie Chatfield, Ward 2. Jeff Mason filed this morning for Ward 1.

The deadline to file for most state positions is also on Monday including governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state treasurer and insurance commissioner.

## Judge overturns Sebelius order blocking Blue Cross sale

By Joshua Akers

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — A judge today overturned an order from Insurance Commissioner Kathleen Sebelius blocking the sale of the state's largest health insurance company to an Indiana firm.

Sebelius ruled in February that premiums for people insured by Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Kansas would have increased too much if it were pur-

chased by Anthem Insurance Companies of Indianapolis.

The two companies, who had argued that the sale was necessary to ensure the long-term financial viability of Blue Cross in a competitive market, appealed the commissioner's decision in Shawnee County District Court.

District Judge Terry Bullock sent the proposed deal back to Sebelius for another review.

But Bullock said under Kansas law, a possible increase in premiums to keep an insurance plan profitable is not a good enough reason under Kansas law to reject an acquisition.

He also said the commissioner's ruling was based on "speculation and suspicion which are not supported by substantial evidence."

Bullock wrote: "Although the commissioner is granted power to supervise

insurers and to enforce the Kansas insurance code, she is not authorized to add or change established legal requirements or take regulatory action based upon anticipated premium rates or level of surplus."

Officials of Blue Cross argued the deal would have given the Kansas company access to capital and new markets and spread its claims risk over many more policyholders.

Sebelius had concluded that Anthem would have had to raise premiums significantly to make Kansas Blue Cross more profitable.

Insurance Department attorneys, working independently of Sebelius, had estimated the increases at \$248 million over five years.

Anthem, a publicly held corporation, operates Blue Cross plans in eight states and covers about 7.8 million people.