

weather report



78°

noon
Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 6:36 p.m.
- **Saturday**
- Sunrise, 6:41 a.m.
- Sunset, 6:34 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 65 degrees and falling
- Humidity 15 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds northeast 10-15 mph.
- Barometer 30.22 inches and falling
- Record High today 97° (1953)
- Record Low today 26° (1985)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 76°
- Low Wednesday 40°
- Precipitation none
- This month 00.91
- Year to date 13.06
- Below Normal 4.31 inches

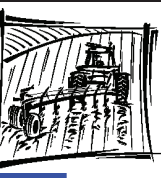
The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers with a high near 87, a low around 57, winds breezy out of the south 15-40 mph. Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain after noon, a high near 85, a low around 50, winds out of south 25-45 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 74 and a low around 47. Monday: Mostly clear with a high near 80 and a low around 48. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



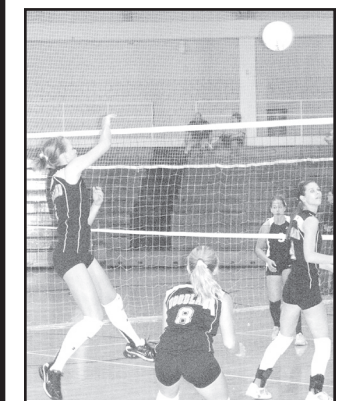
Noon

- Wheat — \$8.45 bushel
- Posted county price — \$8.21
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$3.52 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.24
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$3.34 bushel
- Soybeans — \$8.64 bushel
- Posted county price — \$8.60
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Pinto beans — \$00 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scoular Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today



More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowgirls lose games

Cowgirls Whitney Schields (left) hit the volleyball across the net during the first game against the Scott City Lady Beavers on Saturday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Cowgirls Jade Herl (center) and Ashley Christians were ready for a return. See story, photo on Page 12.

Warrants bring more drug arrests

By Sharon Corcoran

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The neighborhood looked like it was under siege as members of the Sherman County Sheriff's Department and the Quad County Drug Task Force executed a search warrant last week, arresting three Goodland residents at 1627 Syracuse.

Four more arrests were made Thursday, Sept. 20, and what are believed to be methamphetamines and marijuana were seized.

Sheriff Kevin Butts, deputies and members of the task force executed the first search warrant at 1627 Syracuse on Wednesday evening and arrested Michele Johnson, 35, and Jody Linnell, 38, for drug charges, including alleged possession of methamphetamine and



Boyd



Barnes



Aaron



Linnell



Johnson



Schwerdtfeger



Kindall

marijuana with intent to sell. Monica Aaron, 20, was arrested for obstruction of justice and later released.

As part of their investigation, the sheriff said, Tammy Kindall, 38, Goodland, was arrested at work for alleged possession of marijuana with intent to sell. These events led to a second search warrant, he said, which was executed at 711 Broadway on Thursday.

Benjamin Barnes, 53, Goodland, was alleged to be in possession of marijuana with the intent to sell, the sheriff said, and he along with David Schwerdtfeger, 40, of Fair Play, Mo., and Ashley Boyd, 18, of Fair Play, Mo., were arrested later that night.

What are believed to be drugs were seized, Butts said, and sent to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation lab for analysis. All the arrests and

seizures were the result of the search warrants, he said, one led to another.

The task force anticipates more arrests as the result of the investigation, Butts said.

"It was a good bust," he said, "but we're not through."

The bust was the result of an investigation they have been working on for some time, he said, and a lot of it has been due to tips from the public.

"Without the public's help," the sheriff said, "it would be really hard to do the job."

"If you see anything suspicious, call dispatch; we'd be more than happy to check it out."

Regional recycling program explained

By Tom Betz

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Tons of paper, glass, tin and aluminum are hauled out of Sherman County each year to be recycled, and this effort is designed to reduce the tons of solid waste the county buries in the landfill southwest of town.

For more than seven years Sherman County has been part of the East Central and Southeast Colorado Recycling Group. A ripple in the collection process in the summer caused some concern that the county might have to look for another recycling operation.

That alternate option was what brought Lynette Koon and Roger Jensen of the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization to the Sherman County commission meeting last Tuesday. Koon is the program coordinator and Jensen is the chairman of the organization's board.

Greg Nemecheck, farmer from south of Goodland and a Sherman County representative of the Western Prairie RC&D was at the meeting and said he had mentioned the regional recycling group to Commissioner Kevin Rasure.

Koon said the recycling group originally organized on a regional basis and included nine counties in northwest Kansas including Sherman County. She said the seven member counties each have their own recycling operation but all the material is brought to the central location in Colby from where it is sold to larger companies who use the recycled materials.

She said the organization is expanding with the addition of an electronic waste collection pilot program over the next two years on a

grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Jensen said the cooperative was formed in 1995 and at that time the recycling program in St. Francis was failing and the county started talking to Thomas County about forming a regional program to be more effective.

The objective of the group was to get all nine counties to be part of the organization with the hub in Colby he said.

Koon said she has been into the marketing and has places to go with all the recyclables the organization receives. She is the full time program coordinator and there are two part time employees with a budget of about \$107,000.

She said the reason to come to Sherman County was to give the commissioners a sales pitch to join the other seven counties including Rawlins, Cheyenne, Thomas, Logan, Sheridan, Decatur and Gove.

She said the group has been successful in getting grants to help build collection buildings and for equipment.

She said the electronic waste program, known as ewaste, is to be set up by June to pickup electronic waste from the seven counties.

"We have not failed at getting grants," she said. "The state seems to really like us. We serve a big area and are sort of a unique situation in the state. We are sort of a shining star of success."

Koon said the total grants the organization have received are about \$1 million with \$822,000 for recycling and an additional

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Wheat planting ongoing; fields looking green

By Sharon Corcoran

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Most of the county's wheat has been planted, and farmers who planted early can see green clear down their rows. The county has enough moisture to get the crop off to a good start but will need more moisture and less wind for an exceptional crop to grow.

Most farmers started about the first or second week of September, said Dana Belshe, Sunflower Extension District agent, and planting will probably be about 80 percent done by the end of this week.

Sunday night's rain may delay drilling in areas that got .30 of an inch, he said, as they may have to wait for the soil to dry on top, but it won't affect most areas at all and wasn't enough to be bad for planting.

A heavy rain or rain coming down hard could cause crusting, Belshe said, sealing the surface so emerging wheat can't come through. But Sunday's rain wasn't enough to cause problems.

"I don't think anyone got enough to paste it under," Belshe said.

The wind Sunday may have been a problem, though.

Wind like that can cause crusting, Belshe said, and can damage emerging wheat.

"We don't like wind right now," he said; "it's not good for the crops."

It can cause ears to drop from corn, he said, and damage sunflow-

ers when the plants are brittle.

Most wait until the Hessian fly-free dates, between Sept. 10 and 20 for our area, Belshe said, before planting wheat, though some started earlier. The Hessian fly is an insect that weakens the wheat stem just above the lower node and often results in the stems buckling. The flies cause a decrease in wheat production and can even cause the plants to die, and nothing can be done once the wheat is infested.

The early-planted wheat (around Sept. 10th) is emerging, Belshe said, and looks like it has good stands. The first week's wheat and some of the second week's has enough growth you can see green all the way down the rows, he said.

The stands are looking fairly uniform, he said; the wheat is coming up good, so the plants are getting into moisture.

"We're still short on moisture, though," Belshe said, "so we don't want a dry winter."

The area is 4 1/2 to 5 inches below normal, he said, with actual numbers varying across the county. The rains in August helped with getting things to where farmers could drill, Belshe said, and as soon as they are done, they could use some moisture.

The area has been seeing a lot of 80- to 90-degree days with high winds, he said, which dry things out. Those aren't ideal conditions for the crops at this time, he said.

Trackside advice



Dick Rasure (left) checked out the set up for the belt sander race, and had some pointers for Dennis Saint and Quigg McCombs handling the sanders. Rasure, retired lumberyard owner, entered an older sander of his, and while everyone agreed it had the fastest take off, all the other sanders passed Rasure's to win. Saint had the fastest sander of the evening out running everything on the 36-foot track. The belt sander races were part of the 60th anniversary for Rasure Lumber Do It Center held Tuesday evening at the lumberyard with more than 50 people attending the celebration. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News