

**weather  
report****75°  
noon  
Monday****Today**• Sunset, 6:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday**  
• Sunrise, 6:45 a.m.  
• Sunset, 6:28 p.m.**Midday Conditions**• Soil temperature 60 degrees  
• Humidity 29 percent  
• Sky mostly cloudy  
• Winds south 20-30 mph.  
• Barometer 30.09 inches  
and falling  
• Record High today 93° (1953)  
• Record Low today 30° (1999)**Last 24 Hours\***High Sunday 70°  
Low Sunday 43°  
Precipitation none  
This month none  
Year to date 13.26  
Below Normal 4.27 inches**The Topside Forecast**

Today: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers before noon, a high near 75, a low around 46 and winds out of the north at 10-25 mph. Wednesday: Sunny with a high near 81, a low around 50 and winds out of the south at 10-15 mph.

**Extended Forecast**Thursday: Sunny with a high near 83 and a low around 52.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.**local  
markets****Noon**Wheat — \$8.69 bushel  
Posted county price — \$8.5  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c  
Corn — \$3.32 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.20  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c  
Milo — \$3.16 bushel  
Soybeans — \$8.40 bushel  
Posted county price — \$8.61  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c  
Millet — \$7 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c  
Pinto beans — \$25 (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**Mustangs  
win game**

Parker Sieck (No. 43) for the Grant Junior High Mustangs was prepared to stop an Oakley Wildcat in the eighth grade football game Thursday. The Mustangs won the game 28-12. See photo, story on Page 11.

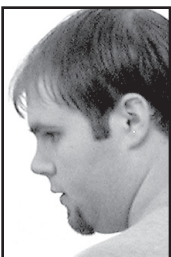
## Man pleads guilty in tractor case

**By Sharon Corcoran**

sccorcoran@nwkansas.com

A St. Francis man arrested for stealing tractors in three counties has pleaded guilty to theft in Sherman and Cheyenne counties and paid half of the total \$48,899 restitution ordered by the court, but has no agreement in Wallace County.

Teegan J. Callicrate took a plea bargain and entered guilty pleas for felony theft Monday, Sept. 17, in the Sherman County District Court, court files say. There, he was sentenced to 12 months of supervised probation with an underlying prison term of six months. If he messes up just once during the year, he could be sent to jail for the entire six months, but the three sentences run at the same time.

**Callicrate**

That sentence will run at the same time as an eight-month sentence for the Cheyenne County case.

Callicrate and John Stephens of St. Francis were arrested on burglary and felony theft charges April 9 in Sherman County.

The complaint in Stephens' court file says they stole a 1976 4630 John Deere tractor owned by Brent Cook of Edson sometime between Nov. 1 and March 19.

In Cheyenne County, they were charged with taking a 1984 Allis Chalmers 8070 tractor valued at \$20,000; a 1963 930 Case propane tractor, \$5,000; and a GMC truck, \$3,000; a total of \$28,000, all belonging to Sam Goodale of St. Francis.

In Wallace County, the men were charged

with theft of a 1973 International 1066 tractor owned by Oriette Ritter of Sharon Springs. Stephens said in his plea he stole the tractor March 10.

Stephens entered guilty pleas in all three cases in May and was sentenced to pay \$19,099 restitution to the victim, \$163 court costs and \$50 probation fees. In Wallace, he will have to pay restitution of \$6,500 for the tractor taken there plus court costs and attorney fees. In Cheyenne County, he will have to pay \$29,800.

The restitution includes joint liability with other defendants, said Cheyenne County Attorney Justin Barrett. Both parties are equally responsible, said Deb Farland, court services officer; Callicrate did pay his half, but if Stephens doesn't pay, the other defendant could be responsible for it all.

Both parties are responsible, she said, and

their probation could be extended until everything is paid. However, she said, if Stephens doesn't pay, Callicrate could file a civil suit asking him to pay.

Besides restitution, Callicrate has been ordered to pay \$163 court costs each in Sherman and Cheyenne counties, \$53 probation fee and \$100 for a DNA test by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation lab.

In all three counties, Stephens was sentenced to 12 months of supervised probation with an underlying prison term of 10 months, meaning if he messes up just once during the year, he could be sent to jail for the entire sentence, but the three terms run at the same time.

Callicrate has not entered a plea in the Wallace County case.

"I'm not aware of the Wallace case at this time," Farland said. "Teegan has only pled in Sherman and Cheyenne."

## Keep boiling state tells Brewster

**By Patty Decker**

pdecker@nwkansas.com

Brewster residents will need to keep boiling their water until at least Wednesday or Thursday under an order issued by state officials after tests last week showed bacterial contamination in the city's supply.

Joe Blubaugh, director of communications with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, said the order was put into effect Friday due to a positive reading on the twice-monthly tests made of all public water supplies.

Following a visit Friday, experts from the Kansas Rural Water Association out of Seneca determined the city's chlorinator, which is supposed to disinfect the water supply, had malfunctioned. It has now been repaired, he said, but it may take some time to be sure all the bad water is out of the system.

"The amount of chemicals purifying the water is effective," Blubaugh said today, "however, even though we think the water system is working properly, no samples will be taken until Tuesday and then it will be another 24 hours to determine whether the water is free of the bacteria.

"At the earliest, if the tests come back negative, residents won't be ready to use the water until Wednesday, but it could even be Thursday.

As the boil order went into effect Friday, said Mike Heideman, media correspondent with the health department, there were no reports of illness in Brewster.

The advisory was issued Friday because coliform bacteria (common organisms that come from human or animal waste) were found in eight samples taken Tuesday, Sept. 25, from the public water system, Heideman said.

At that time, Heideman said the water association would go to Brewster to provide technical assistance, since officials suspected the chlorinator device.

He said the boil order was issued to prevent any potential threat to people. Brewster residents are advised to continue boiling water used for cooking or drinking until the ban is lifted.

People need to boil water for one minute prior to drinking or food preparation, he said, or use bottled water.

The state suggests disinfecting dishes or other food-contact surfaces by dipping them for at least one minute in clean tap water that contains one teaspoon of unscented household bleach per gallon.

Water used for bathing does not generally need to be boiled, he said, but anyone with a cut or severe rash might want to talk with a doctor.

"We would rather be safe than sorry," Blubaugh said, "and residents are asked to continue following the boil order until it's lifted."

## Flatlander Festival chili tasting



Marty Melia, manager of KLOE Radio, took a sample of chili made by Christie Rasure of Rasure Lumber Do It Center as Goodland Police Officer Doug Whitson (center) watched. The Rasure Lumber chili was reputed to be the warmest of the entries in the Flatlander Fall Festival cook-off on Saturday. The KLOE Afternoon Show crew's chili was chosen as the judge's choice. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

## Commissioners raise property taxes, 2-1

**By Tom Betz**

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

One taxpayer appeared at the Sherman County commissioners' meeting Friday to ask the board not to raise property taxes, but later they voted 2-1 to raise the levy by \$113,382 over the legal limit defined by state law.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure voted against the hike and refused to sign the resolution, which was approved on a motion by Commissioner Mitch Tiede and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Thomas.

Rasure has said he did not see a reason to raise the property taxes, and that he felt the commissioners could have found ways to balance the budget without an increase.

The resolution which would raise the property taxes by 3.523 mills, from the 51.523 this year to 55.146 next year.

A budget hearing will be held at 8 a.m. Tuesday at the next commissioners' meeting.

Under state law, the county is allowed to raise taxes based on a formula that includes

increases in valuation and the consumer price index. The state repealed a tax limit several years ago replacing it with a formula that allows cities and counties to raise taxes by passing a resolution.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the county had to pass the resolution because the proposed increase was higher than the level allowed by the formula. She said the maximum under the formula was \$3,437,385 and the proposed county budget was \$3,550,767, or \$113,382 over the limit.

She said the county valuation had gone up by about \$2 million, and each mill of property tax would raise about \$65,000.

The county tax levy this year raised \$3,156,362 and the county could spend up to \$3,437,385 or \$281,023 without raising the levy over the maximum state limit.

Based on a business with an appraised value of \$50,000 and an assessed value of \$12,500, the property tax would increase by \$44 next year. A residence with an appraised value of \$50,000 and an assessed value of \$5,750 the property tax

would increase \$20.26 next year.

Jim Hodgekinson, owner of Mr. Goodrin's car wash at 2305 Enterprise, told the commissioners the property taxes are high compared to those he pays in Kit Carson County in Colorado.

"I pay five times as much here as the car wash in Burlington," Hodgekinson said.

He said the total mill levy in Kit Carson County is 89.317, including the county, city and school district.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the total mill levy for Goodland — where the car wash sits — is 159.922.

"You are talking about raising taxes," Hodgekinson said. "It makes it difficult to stay alive and to stay in business, especially if you are going to raise it even higher.

"I wanted to get this off my chest. I don't get to vote or have any other say because I don't live here, but I wanted you to at least hear me out."

Thomas asked about the breakdown on the Kit Carson County levy, but Hodgekinson said he did not know. He said all he had

asked for was the total property tax levy in the county.

County Assessor Terry Ballard said it might make a difference in how the county valuation is done in Colorado versus what is done in Kansas.

"I don't know," Hodgekinson said. "All I know is what I pay is so much higher here than there."

Thomas said it was hard to compare one state to another without knowing the valuation.

"We should have as many dirty cars as Colorado," Tiede said.

"I just wanted to let you know," Hodgekinson said. "I guess if you grow up here, you get used to the higher taxes."

Ballard said everyone from Colorado who moves to Goodland gets shell shock when they get a tax statement. He said part of the difference may be that Kit Carson county has lots of oil and gas to lower the property taxes.

Hodgekinson thanked the commissioners for listening, and said he hoped they would reconsider the tax hike.