

Enjoying Thanksgiving



More of the West Elementary first grade pilgrims and Indians at their feast prior to Thanksgiving. Parents and teachers provided the feast of turkey, fresh fruits, jerky and cheese. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

First flu cases of the year found

The Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories has confirmed influenza in a specimen from an adult in south central Kansas on Oct. 31. This is the first laboratory-confirmed influenza case in Kansas for the 2012-13 flu season.

Health officials are reminding Kansans that it's not too late to get vaccinated against influenza. Influenza vaccine is recommended for nearly everyone six months of age and older to reduce the risk of becoming ill with the flu and reduce the risk of spreading the flu to others. This is especially important for anyone at high risk of complication, and for anyone who is caring for, or in regular contact with, an infant less

than six months of age. Babies this age are too young to be vaccinated and are more vulnerable to the complications from influenza.

Symptoms include fever, dry cough, extreme tiredness and muscle aches. Complications can include pneumonia, ear and sinus infections, and dehydration; influenza may also worsen other chronic conditions.

"Flu has arrived once again in the state. While there is little flu activity right now, flu normally rises during the holidays before peaking around February. Influenza can continue to circulate through spring, and the flu can be unpredictable," said Robert Moser, M.D., Kansas Department of

Health and Environment secretary and state health officer. "There is still time for everyone to get a flu vaccination to protect themselves, their loved ones and the community."

One of several ways the department tracks influenza is by monitoring the percentage of patients seeking healthcare in outpatient "sentinel" clinics who exhibit influenza-like illness, in a system known as ILINet. During the 2011-12 influenza season, the rate peaked at 3.4 percent the week ending March 10; this is the latest peak of an influenza season in Kansas since surveillance began in 1995. The typical peak is January to February, the department also closely monitors influenza-

related deaths. During the 2011-12 influenza season influenza and pneumonia, a common complication of influenza, contributed or directly caused more than 1,300 deaths among Kansas residents, and was the eighth leading underlying cause of death in 2011.

Additional ways to avoid spreading influenza include covering coughs and sneezes, washing your hands and staying home when sick.

For information on receiving the influenza vaccine, please contact your health care provider or the local health department. Visit www.ksheks.gov/flu for influenza facts.

corrections

The story "Northwest Tech delights home crowd with big win" on Page 8 of the Friday, Nov. 23, edition of the *Goodland Star-News* was truncated, and left off some details from the last minute of the game and contained an inaccurate final score. Colby scored a two-pointer with 50 seconds left, then Markees Walker made two free throws. A last-second three pointer from Colby was no good, ending the game with a 75-72 win for the Mavericks. Also, the photo caption on

Page 3 incorrectly identified a local member of the Maverick Dancers. Her name is Katlyn Topliff. These were reporting error.

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The *Goodland Star-News* will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

Wheat in various stages of growth

Wheat is in various stages of growth and conditions across the whole state of Kansas and we have some that still hasn't emerged in the area. It is a good idea to be scouting fields to see how well the crop is developing, and whether there are any pests, weeds, or nutrient problems that could be solved later this fall or winter. Root development is the primary concern so far this year. This is due to the dry conditions that the wheat has been enduring so far this growing season.

Roots are important because they are the structure for taking up water from the soil, as well as nutrients. Many times we will see



jeanne falk
• extension district

both drought stress and nutrient deficiencies in dry conditions.

In many cases, there are some primary roots coming out from the seed. These roots are used to take up water and nutrients throughout the whole growing season, but usually there are not very many of these roots so that can't support a plant with one or two tillers for a long period. The crown root system is, or

should be, much more extensive than the primary root system.

So far this year, we seem to be finding a lack of crown root development. This is due to a lack of moisture in the topsoil. The crown roots are often called the secondary roots. Crown roots take up most of the water and nutrients from the soil, so they are very important for the plant to survive the winter. In addition, the crown roots provide the anchoring of the plant. They are especially important when grazing wheat. By this point in the season, there should

be a much more extensive crown root system than what I am finding in many wheat fields. The warm fall actually would promote more root development, but the lack of moisture has actually put additional stress on the primary roots to support the plant.

All we really need is some moisture in the crown area of the soil and these roots would begin developing. They will not develop quickly after the plant goes into dormancy. The wheat plant will resume more rapid root development early in the spring and can continue to grow roots until the primary plant growth is completed.

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Sherman County Senior Citizens

Mr. Biermann and the USD 352 Board of Education cordially invite you to attend our Holiday Dinner on December 12, 2012.

11 a.m.: Entertainment by GHS and GJHS students
12 noon: Dinner at Goodland High School

The members of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCCLA), National Honor Society (NHS), and AFS will serve as the hosts and hostesses.

Please RSVP before December 7th by calling 890-5656. If you need transportation, please call. We will also deliver meals to those who are not able to leave their homes. Enter through the south doors on 13th Street and remember: Valet parking will be available.



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