

reminder

How many years has it been?


The annual *Goodland Star-News* Business Honor Roll is coming up on Friday, Jan. 10. The honor roll records how many years participating businesses have been active in the community. Ads on this page include business name, year established and how many years the company has been in business, the owners' name or names, address and phone number. Cost is \$40. Call us at 899-2338, e-mail abonham@nwkansas.com or stop by the office to get your business recognized in the honor roll.

weather report

38°

10 a.m.

Thursday



Today

Sunset, 4:36 p.m.

Saturday

Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.

Sunset, 4:36 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 32 degrees

• Humidity 57 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds west 15 mph

• Barometer 30.30 inches and rising

• Record High today 68° (2006)

• Record Low today -26° (1959)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 38°

Low Wednesday 22°

Precipitation trace

This month trace

Year to date trace

Below normal 0.01 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high of 58, winds out of the southwest at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 23.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow, a high near 31, winds blustery out of the north at 15 to 30 mph and a low around 10.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of snow at night, a high near 30 and a low around 5.


Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 18 and a low around 6.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 31 and a low around 16.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local markets



10 a.m.

Wheat — \$6.23 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.15

Corn — \$4.18 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.13

Milo — \$3.77 bushel

Soybeans — \$11.97 bushel

Posted county price — \$12.65

Millet — no bid


Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$18.55 cwt.

Confection — no bid

Pinto beans — \$36

(Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)



Suspect caught after run from cops

A New Year's Eve chase on I-70 ended with the suspects crashing into a guard rail at the Edson exit. Sherman County deputies, fire-fighters and emergency medical technicians were called to the scene of the wreck Tuesday night.

Few details were available at press time Thursday. The Sherman County Sheriff's Office posted to its Facebook page that night that one suspect ran from the crashed vehicle. Law enforcement and other emergency vehicles searched up and down the interstate and in the surrounding area, but the suspect was not found immediately.

The suspect was later identified as Walter R. Gariffo, a 26-year-old Colby resident. A warrant was issued for his arrest. The Sheriff's Office was asking local residents for tips on his whereabouts, and advising people in the Edson area to lock their cars and homes. Gariffo was not thought to be dangerous. The search was called off around midnight, but authorities were able to apprehend Gariffo on Wednesday.

Emergency responders were called to another wreck Wednesday night. A Toyota Tacoma rolled into the north ditch on I-70 at the Caruso exit, coming to rest on its side. Neither occupant was seriously injured.

New Year's snow



Goodland rang in the new year with fireworks and a little snow as well. There were light flurries Wednesday morning, and early Thursday morning a small amount of snow was clinging to yards and cars. The temperature today is expected to reach as high as 58, but the weekend is expected to be colder with a slight chance of more snow.

Photo by Kevi n Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Pheasants Forever banquet is Jan. 11

The 14th Annual High Plains Roosters Banquet will begin at 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, at the Goodland Elks Lodge.

High Plains Roosters is the Sherman County chapter of Pheasants Forever, a non-profit organization that supports habitat conservation, youth hunting programs and more.

There will be a social hour beginning at 5 p.m. and a prime rib dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for youths age 10 and

under. Those who register before Wednesday will receive a free gift.

Throughout the evening there will be a live and silent auction, games, drawings and a membership drawing. There will also be a special gun drawing, with six items to be given away. Cost for that drawing is \$5 per ticket or five tickets for \$20.

A registration form is available online at www.highplain-sroosterspf.com.

State has new commercial vehicle system

The Kansas Department of Revenue, Commercial Motor Vehicle Office is rolling out a new system that will increase compliance with federal and state departments of transportation. The property tax assessed on commercial vehicles will also be replaced with a fee.

The office, will now register intrastate and interstate motor carriers in the newly created Commercial Vehicle Registration System. This registration does not affect farm vehicles.

During the 2011 session, the Kansas Legislature passed House Bill 2557 which removed the property tax, also called the ad valorem tax, from commercial vehicles and replaced it with a commercial vehicle fee that will be collected at the time of registration.

Motor carriers operating solely in Kansas as an intrastate motor carrier will receive a new license plate. The new white and purple plate marked "Commercial" will provide and easy reference for law enforcement. Kansas-based motor carriers that drive in Kansas and other states and currently have an apportioned tag will continue to receive the license plate that is white with red marked "Apportioned."

"The new fees will streamline Kansas' antiquated process tied to fluctuating property taxes and help businesses predict from year-to-year what their registration will cost," said Deann Williams, manager of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Office. "This is leveling the playing field for all commercial vehicle operators and

simplifying the process because the fee will be collected when the vehicle is registered."

The definition of a commercial vehicle is not changing; the federal rules have been in place since July 2000. The new system will help ensure that all commercial vehicles are properly registered and comply with existing federal and state laws. Currently, commercial vehicles should be operating under a U.S. Department of Transportation number; that number will be used to set up the new intrastate commercial vehicle registration account.

A commercial vehicle is used to transport property or passengers and:

- Has a gross vehicle weight or

See VEHICLE, Page 5

Prominent northwest Kansan retires from public service

By Heather Alwin
colby.society@nwkansas.com

Sheila Sloan Frahm, a Colby native and long-time public servant, marked the end of her weekly or monthly travels to Topeka this month.

She stepped down from her position on the Kansas State Postsecondary Technical Education Authority this month.

The end of her term concludes a public service career that began in 1978 when she won a spot on the Colby School Board.



Sheila Frahm

Frahm, born into a family that had farmed in Thomas County for generations, graduated from Colby High School in 1963. She attended Fort Hays State University, graduating in 1967, and the University of Texas at Austin before returning to Colby in 1976 after her father-in-law, Albert Frahm, died and she and her husband Ken returned to the family farm.

She ran for the school board po-

sition when the family first moved back to Colby, having two young daughters at the time. She won the primary but lost the general election.

Two years later, she ran again and won, holding her position on the board until 1985.

Frahm said she enjoyed the opportunities for interacting with the community while she was on the school board. She began traveling to Topeka as the board's representative to

the Kansas Association of School Boards.

In 1985, she was appointed to the state Board of Education, winning an election to the board in 1986 and serving as the vice-chairman in 1987. She represented 34 Kansas counties.

In 1988, she was elected to the Kansas Senate for the 40th District, winning re-election in 1992.

Frahm said she remembers going to towns throughout northwest

Kansas, knocking on doors, trying to earn votes by talking to each constituent. Some people slammed the door in her face, she said, while others welcomed her in.

She was elected as Senate's majority leader in 1992, a position that allowed her to determine what bills were sent to the Senate's schedule and work with the minority leader to make the Senate run smoothly. For this organized, detail-oriented senator, the position was a good fit.

She served on several committees, including Agriculture, Commerce, Education and Rules and Regulations. She considers her committee assignments "lucky," she said, because they gave her a good chance to see many aspects of government.

Frahm said she was "terrified" every time she entered a new position, not knowing exactly what to expect, but she gave each job her best efforts.

Her first senate office was small, she remembered, but she was fortunate to get her own secretary

since House members had to share secretaries. Her majority leader's office seemed huge, just off the Senate chamber and with several staff members.

In 1994, she ran for lieutenant governor with Bill Graves of Salina, the Republican candidate for governor. Graves had been secretary of state.

She remembered sitting with Graves in her family's home, looking at Pizza Hut across the street, when he asked her if she would run with him. She said yes, and their campaign was successful, earning her another office upgrade at the Capitol.

While she was lieutenant governor, she said, she also served as the Secretary of Administration, managing several state departments.

In 1996, U.S. Sen. Bob Dole resigned to focus on his presidential campaign, giving only a few hours' notice to Gov. Graves.

Graves, who could have left his position as governor to fill the Senate seat himself, asked Frahm if she

would like to take it.

She said she was warned not to take the appointment but try to run for the Senate on her own, since there were only a few months left in Dole's term, but she tried it anyway.

Within a few months, she hired a staff, closed her lieutenant governor's office, raised \$1.5 million dollars for a re-election campaign and moved to Washington, returning to Kansas each weekend.

When she entered the Senate, she said, she became the 1,828th senator since the founding of the republic.

"I have great appreciation for government," she said.

Frahm lost the election, but said her months in the Senate seat was an experience she would not trade.

"Some of the senators were awesome and some were incredibly difficult," she recalls. "It's human nature."

When Frahm returned to Kansas, a college trustee she knew suggested she become the executive director

See KANSAN, Page 5

Area city celebrates 125th anniversary with games, food and more

Selden celebrated 125 years as a town – and the Christmas season – over the weekend before Christmas with games, carols, soup, some history and lots of hot chocolate.

The afternoon started off with bingo games, with more than 40 prizes donated by area business and individuals. Participants got one card free but could buy others, with all the proceeds going into the blackout prize of Selden Green-bucks. The \$240 prize was won by

Ashton and Londyn Schiltz, who chose to share the winnings.

Following the games, a soup supper featuring chili, chicken-noodle and oyster soups, was provided by the Selden American Legion. Guests brought side dishes and cupcakes to the potluck.

The Christmas Committee then provided trailers for community Christmas caroling. A large group of talented musicians joined in to spread cheer throughout the town.

When they returned, winners of the Christmas Decorating Contest were announced, receiving \$50 in Selden Greenbucks each.

The three winning homes belonged to Jaci and Nate Schaben, Richard and Renee Lewis and Davis and Terra Rath. The evening concluded with snacks, hot cocoa and fellowship at the community center.

"I would like to thank all who volunteered their time and talent to help make this afternoon and eve-

ning a success," said Judy Rogers, who helped coordinate the event for the Selden Community Foundation. "Thanks to all the businesses and individuals who donated bingo prizes and side dishes for the soup supper, to the American Legion for providing the soup, to Darrel Bruggeman, Bernard Ritter and the Knights of Columbus for calling bingo, to Gloria Goscha at Midway Cafe for making the chicken-noodle and oyster soups and the hot cocoa, to the

Christmas Committee for organizing the caroling and the decorating contest and prizes, to Jackie Neff for the wonderful cake and cupcakes, to Mayor Jacque Boultinghouse for her and the City Council's support, to the high school girls for their help with the bingo cards and history readings, and to all the participants who enjoyed the afternoon and made the day a success."

student news

Jeffrey House of Goodland was named to the fall semester President's Honor Roll at Washburn University in Topeka. To be named to the list, a student must be enrolled in at least 12 graded semester hours and attain a semester grade point average of 4.0

Hayley Pletcher of Sharon Springs was named to the fall Dean's honor Roll at Washburn University in Topeka. To be named to the list, a student must be enrolled in at least 12 graded semester credit hours and attain a semester grade point average between 3.4 and 3.99.

Taylor Kennedy of St. Francis was named to the fall Dean's honor Roll at Washburn University in Topeka. To be named to the list, a student must be enrolled in at least 12 graded semester credit hour and attain a semester grade point average between 3.4 and 3.99.

genesis and salvation army

Genesis and Salvation Army are available year round to help those in need. Call (785) 890-2299 to speak to a volunteer.

activities

Tours of the 1907 Victorian House at 202 W. 13th are from **1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Monday**. Closed on Tuesday.

The High Plains Museum, 1717 Cherry Ave., is open from **9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday through Saturday and from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday**. Closed Tuesdays.

The Carnegie Arts Center is open from **10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday and 1 to 6 p.m. on Monday** at 120 W. 12th. The center is always in need of hosts and hostesses on Sundays. New monthly exhibits and you are invited to visit the gift shop.

The Goodland Public Library is open from **10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday** and from **10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday**. For information call (785) 899-5461 or stop by the library.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Sherman County is seeking mentors and children to mentor. Call 890-3665.

The Good Sam Family Support Council meets at **7 p.m.** the second Thursday of every month at the Goodland Elks Lodge. Meetings are open to all interested people. For information call 890-3117 or 890-5936.

Breast Cancer Support Group meets at **5:30 p.m. the second Monday** of the month. Any woman with cancer is welcome. Call Norma at 890-6629 for more information.

The Goodland Activities Center has the daily activities. For information call 890-7242. Memberships options for everyone including day passes for \$5. Visit goodlandgac.com or stop by 808 Main. The hours are 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday through Thursday, Friday 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. **Aerobics** are at 5:30 a.m. on Monday and Wednesday. **Insanity class** meets at 5:30 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. **Taekwondo** with Wayne

the calendar

calendar

Prairie Land Food sign up will be until Monday, Jan. 13. Distribution is 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at Cat's TnT, 1018 Main, or at the Bernadine Johnson residence, located at 704 Walnut. For information call 899-2338, 821-1275, 890-2287, 821-1827, 890-3793 or 899-4278 or order online at www.prairielandfood.com. The Prairie Pak will have fully cooked chicken/apple sausage links, chicken and vegetable stir fry, Canadian bacon, lean ground beef, salmon fillet, a variety of seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables. The specials are a breaded chicken breast fillets, sausage breakfast pouches, pepperoni pizzas and Augus beef sliders sandwiches.

The Goodland Soup Bol serves dinner at **5 p.m. on Monday nights** at the Goodland Methodist Church Fellowship Hall for anyone who wants to come. Free will donations welcome. For information call 899-3631.

The Kids Cooking Class is held on the **second Wednesday of each month** from 3:45 to 5:15 p.m. at the 4-H Building. This class is open for second to fifth graders.

Luckert call for times and dates.

Weight Watchers meets at **5:30 p.m. for weigh in** and 6 p.m. for the meeting every **Tuesday** at the Harvest Evangelical Free Church, 521 E. Hwy. 24. For information call (785) 890-6423.

Goodland Alcoholics Anonymous, 1013 Center. If you drink alcohol, that's your business. If you want to stop, we can help. Call 821-3826 or 728-7491.

Goodland Al-An Family Group meets at **6 p.m. on Fridays** at First Christian Church, 711 Arcade. For information call Alice or Marilyn at 890-5914 or 821-2862.

The "Freedom Today" group of **Narcotics Anonymous** meets at **8 p.m. Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and 8 p.m. on Sundays** at 1013 Center. Call 890-8369.

Bird City Alcoholics Anonymous group meets at **6:30 p.m. (Mountain Time) on Fridays** at the Senior Center on 4th Street. **Narcotics Anonymous** meets at **6:30 (Mountain Time) on Tuesdays** at the Senior Center. Call (785) 734-2734 for more information.

Stratton "AA by the Book" Alcoholics Anonymous group meets at **7 p.m. Thursdays** for a beginners open meeting. Filies and young people welcome. Call (719) 348-5398 for men and (719) 346-8553 for women. On U.S. Highway 24 go to Statton and it is the second house on the left, 513 Iola Street.

Fibromyalgia and Chronic Myofascial Pain Support Group meets from **6:30 to 8:30 p.m. the third Wednesday** of every month in the Emergency Medical Services building, 257 15th St., in Burlington. Call Debbie at 719-346-4612.

thrift store

The Goodland Churches Thrift

For information call 890-4880.

senior menu

Today: Tuna and noodles, peas, cottage cheese with pineapple, bread and brownie. **Monday:** Sloppy joes, tator tots, Mexican corn, bun and rosy pears. **Tuesday:** Ham, au gratin potatoes, beets, bread and apricots. **Wednesday:** Harvest turkey soup, Mandarin oranges, crackers and cookie. **Thursday:** Oven baked chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, bread and gelatin with fruit. **Friday:** Spanish rice with hamburger, California blend vegetables, peaches, bread and no bake cookie.

school menu

Today: No school. **Monday:** Breakfast - whole grain waffles with syrup, fruit, fruit juice and milk. Lunch - pig in a blanket, potato wedges, broccoli with cheese, apple, jello and milk. **Tuesday:** Breakfast - star spangled pancakes, sausage links, sliced peaches, fruit juice and milk. Lunch - chicken wrap with lettuce and tomato, spanish rice, steamed carrots, fruit and milk. **Wednesday:** Breakfast - whole wheat

bagel with toppings, orange, fruit juice and milk. Lunch - spaghetti, spinach salad, garlic bread, fruit and milk. **Thursday:** Breakfast - breakfast pita with salsa, apple, fruit juice and milk. Lunch - taco salad, tortilla chips with salsa, refried beans, pineapple tidbits and milk. **Friday:** Breakfast - cinnamon roll, fruit cocktail, fruit and milk. Lunch - chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, orange and milk.

school calendar

Today: No school. **Monday:** Classes resume. **Tuesday:** 3:45 p.m. junior varsity c basketball against Colby at Max Jones Fieldhouse. 5:30 p.m. varsity basketball against Colby at Max Jones Fieldhouse. **Wednesday:** 7:30 a.m. professional learning community. **Thursday:** 3 p.m. junior high scholars' bowl at Scott City. 5:30 p.m. varsity and junior varsity wrestling against Colby at Max Jones Fieldhouse. 7:30 p.m. financial aid night. **Friday:** 3:45 p.m. junior varsity and c team basketball against Ulysses at Max Jones Fieldhouse. 5:30 p.m. varsity basketball against Ulysses at Max Jones Fieldhouse..

ticipate in a variety of educational activities and receive free medical and dental care.

Services include special needs of children with disabilities. If you have a family member with a special problem, such as drug or alcohol abuse, job loss or other family crisis, your family can qualify. Call 785-672-3125, ext. 187.

preschool

Sherman County Head Start is a free preschool for eligible 3 and 4 year olds. The federally funded program is targeted to families who meet certain economic guidelines and provides hearing, vision, dental and educational screenings. Nutritious meals are served, and parents are encouraged to get involved in their children's education. For information call 890-2552.

mops

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meets the first Monday of every month October thru May. Meeting time: 6 p.m. -7:30 p.m. at the Harvest Evangelical Free Church; 521 E Highway 24; Goodland. For more information email goodlandmops@gmail.com or call (785) 890-6423.

crimestoppers

If you have information about any crime, call the Goodland Area Crime Stoppers "Look Line" at 899-5665. Your call will be confidential and you will not be asked your name. If the information results in the arrest and/or conviction of those involved, you could be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000. Goodland Area Crime Stoppers is a nonprofit organization formed by citizens against crime.

The police department can also be called at 890-4570.

Scholarships available for fall

The Vietnam Veterans of American Hays Chapter 939 will be agains awarding four \$500 scholarships for college or trade school. The scholarship is available for residents of Cheyenne, Decator, Ellis, Finney, Graham, Gove, Hodgeman, Lane, Ness, Norton, Osborne, Phillips, Rowalins, Rooks, Rush, Sherman,

Smith, Thomas, Trego and Wallace. The application deadline is March 3 and the the recipients will be announced on April 15.

For more information write Edna Hansen, 2001 Monroe Street, Ellis, Kan. 67637. Students may also contact their high school for an application packet.

Traditions symbolize fresh start, hope

Around the world, New Year's traditions symbolize a fresh start and hope for health, prosperity and love. The American Heart Association has compiled a list of some favorite traditions across the globe and put a healthy spin on them.

1. Beans, beans they're good for your heart.

In Brazil the lentil is believed to signify wealth, while black-eyed peas foretell good fortune in the South. They're a great source of fiber - about 6 grams to 8 grams per half cup.

2. Eating any ring-shaped treat symbolizes "coming full circle" and leads to good fortune.

This year how about skipping the fritters served in Dutch homes and the oh-so-tempting donuts? Instead, substitute a small whole-wheat bagel with some fresh fruit.

3. In Spain, eating one grape for each of the upcoming 12 months of the New Year is expected to bring prosperity.

Fresh fruit is a good source of vitamins, minerals and fiber and it's low in fat and calories.

4. Toasts are made with hot, spiced wine in Holland.

Whether you're ringing in the year with wine or wassail, here's the deal: limiting high calorie and sugary drinks is the way to go for New Year's Day - and the next 364 days.

5. In Scotland, coal, shortbread and silverware are exchanged for good luck.

Pass along the coal from your stocking, skip the shortbread to avoid coal in next year's stocking and use that silverware to dig in to a

nice New Year's salad.

6. Gifts of gilded nuts or coins marked the start of the New Year in Rome.

Nuts are chock full of Omega 3's, also known as the "good" fats, as well as fiber. And who wouldn't like a little extra coin? Save those pennies for a celebration event when you reach your health goals.

7. In some villages in Egypt, New Year's is a day for visiting friends, walking from house to house sharing good wishes and collecting people as they go. Ultimately, everyone ends up at the mayor's house.

What a great way to encourage your friends and neighbors to engage in physical activity.

8. In Northern Portugal children go caroling from home to home and are given treats and coins. They sing old songs, said to bring good luck.

Another community exercise plan only this time for healthy kids.

9. In Japan in December, various Bonenkai or "forget-the-year parties" are a great new beginning. Misunderstandings and grudges are forgiven and houses are scrubbed.

Putting old grudges and bad feelings aside can ease your mind. Studies show that reducing stress has great health benefits.

10. In Mexico, you'll have good luck in love in the coming year by wearing red underwear on New Year's Eve.

This is a great way to get ready for Wear Red Day in February.

For more information, visit your physician or go online to www.heart.org.

Discussion on West's aging legends planned

The Goodland Public Library, 812 Broadway, will begin a new four-part book discussion series at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16.

Brenda Craven will lead a discussion of "Buffalo Girls" by Larry McMurtry. McMurtry returns to the Montana scene of Lonesome Dove as Buffalo Bill Cody convinces Calamity Jane and a handful of the West's aging legends to tour with his Wild West Show.

The western experience remains

the most colorful phase of American history. Western heroes began appearing in American fiction as early as the 1850s, and the "western" soon became a popular literary genre in its own right.

This book series looks at the West as land of adventure and of larger-than-life characters, but also explores some of the realities behind the myths. Readers will enjoy also discussing "The Ox-Bow Incident" by Walter Van Tilburg Clark on Feb.









20, "Shane" by Jack Schaefer on March 13 and "Dancing at Rascal Fair" by Ivan Doig on April 24.

Brenda Craven is an instructor of English at Fort Hays State University at Hays. The series is sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council,

a nonprofit cultural organization, as part of its Talk About Literature in Kansas. The council is furnishing the books and discussion leaders.

For information call (785) 899-5461.

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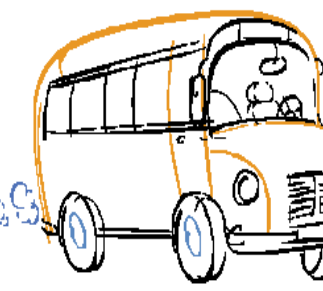
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By Ron Wilson

*Director
Huck Boyd National Institute
for Rural Development
at Kansas State University*

The home team is behind by one point with just over two minutes to play. A conference victory and eligibility for a bowl game are on the line, but it doesn't look good for the home team. They have the ball, but way back at their own 32 yard line. These are the types of games and close finishes that make football so exciting. Today we'll meet a couple of young men from rural Kansas who have been a part of such games and who have taken their football experience to a higher level.

Curry Sexton and Cody Whitehair are two key players on the Kansas State football team. They played football together at Abilene High School. Jeff Geist was their

coach at Abilene.

"The thing that struck me about Curry was his intelligence and understanding of the game," Coach Geist said. "Even as a freshman, he understood what we were doing."

At Abilene High School, Curry played as a free safety, flanker, and quarterback. "He's extremely fast and talented, and he had unbelievable vision of the field," Geist said. "In his junior year, the first two plays of the year were broken plays, but he was able to run both of them in more than 40 yards for touchdowns."

His skill made him a highly touted player in the state of Kansas and his intelligence made him a candidate for academic success. In fact, he had an opportunity to go to Harvard, but chose to stay closer to home and live the dream of playing college football at Kansas State. His younger brother Collin

has now joined Curry on the Kansas State roster as well.

Cody Whitehair is one year younger than Curry Sexton. Unlike Curry, who stands 5-11 and weighs 183 pounds, Cody stands a brawny 6-4 and weighs 309 pounds. But it isn't his size which Geist brings up first. "Cody has tremendous athletic ability," Geist said. "He had flexibility and mobility for a big kid that is phenomenal." Cody played on the offensive line in high school just as he is doing at Kansas State, but he also demonstrated some pass-catching ability.

"We would put him at tight end in certain situations," Geist said. "In his sophomore year, he caught the winning two-point conversion pass over Concordia."

At the college level, Cody has excelled as an offensive lineman. In his first year, he was named a freshman All-American by

Phil Steele, ESPN.com All-Big 12 team, and honorable mention All-Big 12 honors from the league's coaches. In his sophomore campaign, he moved up to become a member of the All-Big 12 second team.

It is exciting to find two such excellent players who came from the same school in rural Kansas. The Sextons and Cody Whitehair grew up together, hunting and fishing in Dickinson County. Cody used to spend time on his uncle's farm which is in southeast Dickinson County near the rural community of Hope, population 366 people. Now, that's rural.

"They are great kids and great football players," Coach Geist said.

The home team is behind by one point with just over two minutes to play. A conference victory and eligibility for a bowl game are on the line, but it doesn't look good for the home team. They have the ball, but way

back at their own 32 yard line.

That was the scenario on Nov. 16 when Kansas State was playing TCU in Manhattan. TCU had just taken the lead on a long field goal with two minutes and 13 seconds to play. Following a good kickoff return, Kansas State was still set back at its own 32 yard line. After an incomplete pass, Kansas State's quarterback threw over the middle. It was Curry Sexton who made a leaping catch for a 28 yard gain.

After a couple more short passes, the field goal kicker came in and made the winning field goal with just seconds to play.

We commend Curry Sexton, Cody Whitehair, and all small town Kansas football players for making a difference by representing their communities so well at a higher level of football.

State has set new performance goals for schools

The Kansas State Department of Education has released its first look at the 2013 Kansas School Report Card achievements based on the four Annual Measurable Objectives approved through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Flexibility Waiver. The new system provides Kansas a multi-dimensional look at student achievement based on academic performance, academic growth, proficiency gap reduction and reduction in the percentage of students scoring below proficiency, rather than the single percent proficient previously used known as Adequate Yearly Progress.

Achievement Measures

The Assessment Performance Index, the new accountability system, awards successively higher points each time a student moves into a higher proficiency level rather than focusing only on those students who could be moved over the proficiency line established by No Child Left Behind. The Assessment Performance Index is calculated by assigning points to each of the top four proficiency levels in fixed and equal increments of 250 points. At the lowest performance level (Academic Warning) no points are awarded, Approaching Standards awards 250 points, Meets Standards awards 500 points, Exceeds Standards awards 750 points and Exemplary awards 1,000 points. Therefore, a school

can earn up to 1,000 points for each student who advances from the lowest proficiency level to the highest proficiency level. The point increments are uniform so that there are no incentives to focus exclusively on those students at the threshold of proficiency, while neglecting those at the very bottom and the very top. Schools are rewarded for maintaining students at the highest levels possible.

Student Growth Measures

The Student Growth Percentiles model adopted by Kansas will measure each student's academic trajectory on state assessments. The model uses easy-to-understand percentiles and offers realistic year-to-year goals for each student. Based on the percentiles model, Kansas has established a Growth Annual Measurable Objectives target that requires schools to fall within the top half of the distribution of all school growth medians in order to meet the target.

Gap Reduction Measures

Achievement gaps in Kansas will be identified by comparing building and district performance against a state benchmark. Both building and district performance and state benchmarks will be calculated by using the index. Gap calculations will be performed separately for math and reading. State benchmarks for math and reading are based on the building scoring at the 70th

percentile on the index, which was determined to be an ambitious but achievable level of performance for all buildings and districts. This benchmark is then compared to the index score for each building and district's lowest performing 30 percent of students. The difference between the state benchmark and the lowest performing 30 percent of students in each building can then be ranked and used to identify those schools which have the most pronounced state-level achievement gaps. This system provides each building and district with a customized Gap Annual Measurable Objective to know the progress they must make each year.

Reducing Non-Proficient Measures

The goal of the Reducing Non-Proficient objective is to help schools chart their progress towards reducing the number of non-proficient students by half in annual increments spanning six years. Separate proficiency objectives will be reported for the all students group and all identifiable subgroups at the building, district and state levels. Reducing Non-Proficient objectives will be reported separately for math and reading assessments.

Under these new measures, it is expected that schools will achieve at least one of the four objectives in reading, at least one of the four objectives in math, assessment partici-

pation must be greater than or equal to 95 percent for all students and all subgroups, and at the high school level, must make graduation goals for all students and all subgroups. Of the Title I schools in Kansas, 205 made progress while 349 did not. Of the non-Title schools in Kansas 356 made progress while 469 did not.

2013 Kansas State Assessment Results: Annual Yearly Progress

Based on the now retired Adequate Yearly Progress model used to measure student achievement, 84.7 percent of Kansas students scored at or above proficient in reading on the 2013 state assessments. This marks a decline of 2.3 percentage points from 2012. The percent of Kansas students scoring at or above proficient in math declined from 85 percent in 2012 to 78.3 percent in 2013. Conversely, the percentage of students scoring at or above proficient in science increased .7 of a percentage point from 84.3 percent in 2012 to 85 percent in 2013.

"I am not concerned that we have seen a decrease in the percent of students scoring at or above Proficient because the assessment given in the spring of 2013 was based on the former standards," said Education Commissioner Dr. Diane DeBacker. "Our focus as a state is ensuring students can meet the higher Kansas College and Career Ready Standards that are in place. Our assessments beginning

this spring will reflect these new standards and the results based upon achievement, growth, closing the gap, and reducing the number of students scoring below proficient will give us a much more accurate picture of what students know and can do."

2013 Kansas State Assessment Results: Assessment Performance Index Reading

Reporting 2013 assessment results through the lens of the new accountability system provide a much deeper look at student performance. In reading, 92.7 percent of paid lunch student subgroup scored at or above proficient compared to 84.7 percent of reduced lunch students and 72.6 percent of free lunch students, representing 20.1 percent achievement gap between the paid lunch student free lunch student subgroups.

The 2013 index reading score for the paid lunch student subgroup is 764, down from a score of 777 in 2012; the reduced lunch subgroup score was 658, down from 677 in 2012; and the free lunch subgroup score was 562, down from 583 in 2012.

With regard to Kansas schools' performance in reducing the percent of non-proficient in reading, 2013 results showed an increase in the percent of students who scored non-proficient in the all students

group from 12.1 percent in 2012 to 14.3 percent in 2013. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch scoring non-proficient increased from 19.3 percent in 2012 to 22.5 percent in 2013.

Math

For the paid lunch subgroup, 87.8 percent scored at or above proficient as compared to 79.4 percent of those in the reduced lunch subgroup and 64.6 percent of those in the free lunch subgroup.

The 2013 index math score for the paid lunch student subgroup was 706, down from 757 in 2012. Those in the reduced lunch subgroup scored 588 down from 657 in 2012, while those in the free lunch subgroup scored 494 down from 566 in 2012.

With regard to Kansas schools' performance in reducing the percent of non-proficient in math, 2013 results showed an increase in the percent of students who scored non-proficient in the all students group from 14.2 percent in 2012 to 20.6 percent in 2013.

Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch scoring non-proficient increased from 21.8 percent to 30.5 percent.

The complete 2013 Report Card results are available on www.ksde.org.

Program returns to public television on Tuesday

Smoky Hills Public Television premieres a new season of Doctors on Call Tuesday at 6 p.m. (Mountain Time). Doctors on Call is a live call-in program featuring a new medical topic each Tuesday night through April.

Doctors from throughout the state

travel to Bunker Hill to provide information and answer questions from the viewing audience. Questions can be called in during the show or emailed prior to the broadcast. The doctors selected each week have expertise in the topic chosen for that program.

Some of this season's topics include women's health, pain management, digestive disorders, hospice care, Cancer, men's health, orthopedics, heart disease and common illnesses.

Doctors on Call is a local production from Smoky Hills Public

Television. Entering Doctors on Call's 9th season, SHPTV is proud to again offer comprehensive medical information for a wide audience.

To submit questions electronically on a specific topic, viewers can send an email to doctors@shptv.org or message through Twitter with

the hashtag #DOCCall. Questions submitted through either email or Twitter must be received by noon on the day of the show. During the program, viewers can call 1-800-337-4788.

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story.

Please call our office at (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.



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
** NOTE ** ALL REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE!	JOIN US FOR OUR NEW FITNESS CLASS! "GET FIT" EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY!		1 <u>INSANITY</u> 5:30 AM	2 <u>INSANITY</u> 5:30 AM	3 <u>INSANITY</u> 5:30 AM	4 <u>INSANITY</u> 7 AM
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from other viewpoints...

Postage increase a flawed decision

The Postal Regulatory Commission handed everyone who uses the mail a lump of coal on Christmas Eve, approving of the U.S. Postal Service's proposal to raise postage rates by more than triple today's inflation rate.

The new rates will likely go into effect Sunday, Jan. 26, if the service elects to accept the commission's decision.

The commission did disagree, however, with the Postal Service's justification for a proposed "exigency" rate increase that it lost more than 53 billion pieces of mail because of the Great Recession. Rather, the commission continues to blame Internet diversion as the principal reason for Postal Service losses. The commission only credits the recession with less than half the service's financial loss — but granted the increase anyway — noting service still needs the money.

National Newspaper Association President Robert M. Williams Jr., publisher of the Blackshear (Ga.) Times, said the association respectfully disagrees with the Postal Service's request as well as the commission's decision. He insists a lack of action by Congress on postal reform is at the root of the problem.

"We are whistling in the dark," said Williams. "We cannot avoid the fact the Postal Service is operating in a new world. We all are. The longer the Postal Service and lawmakers avoid reducing core costs for the delivery network, the more pain will be inflicted upon all who use the mail. Fewer and fewer customers will be paying more and more. This approved postage increase solves nothing."

The Postal Rate Commission said it expects the service to wean itself of the "extra" increase over time. Although service said it expects the effects of the recession to go on for an unforeseeable period, the commission declined to allow the additional \$1.8 billion it expects the service to reap to go on forever. The ruling requires service to provide a plan by May for eliminating the extraordinary increase over a two-year time period.

Unless the service can achieve serious reductions in operating costs without critically diminishing services, Williams said, he is not optimistic this can happen.

"This latest action by the commission only makes the Postal Service's survival challenge tougher and scarier. This decision opens the door to perpetual steep postage increases for American businesses, including ours, which strives to fill a deep desire by readers to receive a hard copy newspaper, even if they also read online."

Max Heath, long-time chair of the association's postal committee, said he also is disappointed the exigency rate increase is granted. Heath notes that although service certainly has been hurt by the recession, have has its customers, and raising postage rates now is ill-advised.

"We calculated increases up to 7 percent for some of our critical newspaper mail categories," he said. "To the extent that service suffered from the recession, so did our business. It is too bad the law doesn't allow for an "exigent decrease" in postage so we, who must respond to market realities, could be made whole as well."

Williams said the association will renew its efforts to seek prudent postal reform legislation during the annual Newspapers Leadership Summit March 13, 2014, when publishers visit their representatives on Capitol Hill.

— *Tonda Rush, chief executive officer, National Newspaper Association. The Association is a 2,200 member organization of community newspapers, including the Goodland Star-News. For more about the association, go to www.theassociationweb.org.*

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The Hagenah Defense

New Years is a confusing time of year for me. I don't throw things away very well (you should see my collection of earth shoes and bell-bottom pants) and that goes for years also. I mean, what was so wrong with the old year that we had to go to a new one anyway? So we were out of months - big deal. Couldn't we have gone with, "January II, the Sequel?" After all they do it with movies, don't they?

When I was overseas in the Peace Corps, all of the islanders on the island on which I was stationed came over one time to my hut on January 1st and asked me how old I was that day. When I told them I was the same age I had been the day before, they started arguing with me. See what I mean about it being confusing?

It turns out the people of that island group (and I am told it holds true of much of the Pacific islands and some Asian nations) all celebrate their birthdays on the same day, Jan. 1.

I am sure that this custom was invented by the men of the island. Even I would have trouble forgetting that every single one of my wife's relatives (and my wife for that matter) have their birthday on the first day of the year. Of course, buying birthday presents would set one back a bit, but it would make for one heck of a celebration.

Speaking of celebrations, this year's New Year's Eve a friend of my wife invited us over



tv time

- t.v. hagenah

for a nice quiet New Year's celebration. "Why don't you and your husband come over," she asked? "We'll have a bite to eat and usher in the new year with some board games, like Scrabble."

Well, I'm an English teacher and newspaper columnist, so words are my stock and trade (well, words and cliches are anyway). I figured, what better way to start the year than by crushing everyone in a small room with my brilliant command of the language? Little did I know that by sneaky manipulation of the rules, I would be cheated out of my goal.

Let me recap just a few minutes of the contest around the Scrabble board that night. "Ahh... TV, I don't think 'xown' is a word," said my hostess.

"Of course it is," I responded. "I used it just a couple weeks ago in my column."

"Yes, I know, TV," said my wife, "but that was because you misspelled 'Town' in your column. Don't you remember you wrote 'Xown Council Buys New Metres' in your

column's headline?"

"And your point is...?" I snapped. "Anyway, how do you expect me to match up with the last word I put in there, 'xcape', if you keep disallowing my words?"

And so it went for hours. I think there should be a rule that no dictionaries are permitted within 50 yards of a Scrabble board. I also think my extension of the rules, which states that if you have a really hard letter, you can turn the letter over and use it like a blank, is a good idea. Unfortunately, I didn't clear this with my fellow players before instigating the rule, so they were a bit miffed with me about the fifth time I tried to implement it.

But it turned out OK. I used what in chess I like to call the "Hagenah Defense" to stave off defeat. When things look their darkest, I drop a potato chip and kick over the table seemingly by accident while reaching for it.

I just wish I hadn't used the Hagenah Defense so many times last year playing chess against my wife. She caught me on it at New Years.

TV Hagenah is an English teacher at Grant Junior High School. TV Time is meant as humor even though his wife doesn't always see it that way.

Undeserved criticism

Several of my friends are up in arms because Cryptic Studios, the California-based developer of our favorite computer game, didn't do everything they said they would over the past year.

I'm different. I just can't bring myself to criticize people for not getting to everything on their "to do" list when I can't do it myself.

Since I run a business, or a branch of one really, I can sympathize. I have many things I'd like to get done throughout a given time period. Stories I'd like to write, events I'd like to get to, advertising promotions I'd like to run, that sort of thing. But I only have a certain amount of resources, the main ones being personnel



kevin bottrell

- simple tricks
and nonsense

and time.

I only have one reporter aside from myself, and currently only two people in the advertising department. And we all only a certain amount of hours in the work week. That means we have to triage. If there are five things going

on in a day and we can get to three of them, I have to decide which three get priority. Usually I'd like to get to all five, but it just ain't going to happen.

In the longer term, if there are things I said I would accomplish this year that I just can't. Well that's life. I don't throw a fit about it, I just put them on next year's list of things to do. In the meantime, other things might come up that have more immediate priority and I might have to put off these other things again. That's life.

Everyone is so quick to criticize these days. But I say, look to thine own self first to see if you meet the standards to which you are trying to hold others.

The limits of free speech

"I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend your right to say it" is a superficial creed.

Speech has limitations. We cannot yell "Fire!" in a crowded theater. And we have laws that provide legal remedy for speech that is slanderous (oral) or libelous (written).

But in this age of off-the-cuff shoot-first, aim-later social media communication, there is another constraint that is not codified in law, but to which we must pay attention.

We may have "freedom of speech," but we do not have freedom from consequences. For example, a teenager may decide to tell parents "%*#&^"! But if the teenager is over 18, the parents can set his or her suitcase on the front steps and wave goodbye!

You must consider your target audience. As a teacher it is my responsibility to communicate effectively with my students. It is not enough for me to know what I mean. I must select words so that my students, my audience, will accurately understand what I mean. Communication is the paradigm — the central core — of teaching. As a supervisor, I will flunk a student teacher who cannot refine their message for effective and accurate communication with various students.

When a speaker broadcasts their message openly on social media, the task becomes even more complex. But the responsibility still resides with the speaker. Literary theorist and legal scholar Stanley Fish wrote a book titled: "There's No Such Thing as Free Speech...and It's a Good Thing Too." He explains how we



education frontlines

- John Schrock

must be constrained in what we say. And as his book title states, "it is a good thing, too." It is not just the laws that keep us civil, but the consequences of our speech.

Simply, within the constraints of libel, slander, immediate endangerment, inciting to riot, and divulging how to build a nuclear bomb, we can have freedom of speech. But we are not free from its consequences.

I cannot follow some university colleagues into wholesale defense of the recent controversial tweet because I believe that the message was not worthy of defense. It was more of an emotional outburst than a communication of valuable substance. All "heat." No "light." And no "dignity."

It deserved to be ignored. Instead, the Board of Regents adopted bad policy. And in this national and state political climate, it might even threaten sabbaticals and tenure.

With rights come responsibilities. My speech and debate teacher, Otis Aggertt, explained it clearly when he wrote "A Hippocratic Oath for Speakers."

"Inasmuch as membership in society requires concern for ethics, the instrument of public speaking has incalculable power over the minds and hearts of humans, and engaging

in public speaking demands corresponding concern for ethical standards,

I, therefore, affirm that as a public speaker I will so evaluate the techniques of my art by the measure of my purposes and receptivity of my audience as to effect practical limitations on what I say;

I will remember at all times the inherent dignity of humans for that is more important than any other concern; and

I will strive when speaking publicly to be adequately informed for I have no right to disseminate ignorance, to think straight for I have no right to promote confusion, to be fully honest both in letter and spirit, and to be socially responsible as I bear in mind the welfare of those who may be affected by my speaking."

But neither can I condone the over-the-top reaction of the Kansas Board of Regents, who have embraced an ill-advised set of guidelines that stifles responsible criticism in the name of collegiality. There are many other Board policies in bad need of critical input and discussion.

At the university level, both faculty and students should have learned that no issue is black-and-white — that no "principles" are absolute. A polarized cat fight between faculty and regents can overshadow the other serious problems that the BOR needs to address.

One mission of universities should be to develop young ladies and gentlemen. Hopefully the faculty and the Board can address this issue as ladies and gentlemen as well. This issue is not black-and-white.

State has new system for commercial vehicles

VEHICLE, from Page 1

gross combination vehicle weight of 10,001 pounds or more

- Is designed or used to transport 15 or more passengers, including the driver
- Is used to transport hazardous material in a quantity requiring placarding.

If a vehicle meets any one of the three criteria, it is considered a commercial vehicle.

More information is available in the commercial vehicle registration section of www.truckingks.org, there operators can also check if their county treasurer's office offers commercial vehicle registration or to register for a Department of Transportation number.

Prominent northwest Kansan retires

KANSAN, from Page 1

of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, a position she took in 1997.

In this role, she represented Kansas' 19 community colleges, which were incorporated into the state's higher education structure while she was held that job.

She served as executive director until 2009. In 2005, she became a member of the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority, a group that focuses on work-force training for students of all ages. It was this group from which Frahm just retired. For the first time in many years, she said, she now has no reason to travel to Topeka.

Frahm said she and her husband, married for

48 years, are retiring from farming. They plan to travel and spend time with their three daughters and two grandchildren.

"My husband has been extremely supportive," she said, adding that this is another transition of many they have experienced.

"What a ride I've had," she said. "I wouldn't trade it for anything."

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Farm and Ranch News

Seminars to cover winter ranch management

A two-way verbal exchange between Kansas' cattle producers and extension specialists is the new approach to K-State's 2014 Winter Ranch Management Seminar Series, set to kick-off in January and conclude mid-February.

One seminar will be at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 28, at the 4-H building in Colby. Another will be in the evening that day at Community Bank of Midwest in Ness City.

The series has a history of being a successful stretch of meetings, which are hosted throughout the state of Kansas, said Bob Weaber, beef breeding, genetics and cow/calf specialist for K-State Research and Extension. Unlike previous years

where the program has had a Web-based delivery for part of the content, originating on campus or at a particular ranch, this year the specialists will deliver the series in a face-to-face "town hall" meeting format.

Weaber, along with other state, district and local extension staff, will take part in the series to help answer producers' questions about beef cattle issues surrounding animal health, nutrition, management, genetics and reproduction.

"Because of the wide range of topics and variety of climatic conditions over the past year in Kansas, there are many different issues facing producers," Weaber said. "This is a great opportunity for us as state special-

ists to take our expertise out in the country and do a series of 'town hall' format meetings, where we don't have a specific agenda. We want to be responsive to the questions and needs of our producer clientele."

Weaber said producers should come to the meetings prepared with questions. Some of the hot topics he foresees discussing include drought management and recovery, winter feeding and cow management, preparation for calving season, and, as the bull buying season approaches in the spring, new trichomoniasis regulations (www.asi.k-state.edu/species/beef/research-and-extension/finaltrichrules.pdf), bull selection and genetics issues.

Although most of the questions will probably focus on winter issues, Weaber said extension staff is open to questions regarding producers' plans next year for breeding, calving and weaning.

"January is always a great time for producers, when the weather is bad and after they get chores done, to sit back, think and plan for the coming year, the calves that will be born in the spring and how they might manage those," he said. "Certainly think about business strategy opportunities moving forward in terms of expansion."

Meeting times may vary by location. Evening events with start at approximately 5 p.m. with registration, dinner at 6 p.m.

and program 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mid-day meetings will begin with registration at approximately 11:30 a.m., lunch at noon and program 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Participants are asked to RSVP for a selected location by the close of business the Friday before the event. Registration fees, which cover a meal, vary by location. Interested participants should reach out to their local host contact for registration and RSVP details.

For more information, visit at www.ksubeef.org.

Alfalfa study examines returns in water-scarce area

In a perfect world, alfalfa might be considered the perfect crop. It's packed with nutrients, is highly digestible, can use precipitation efficiently because it roots deeply into western Kansas soils, and produces high economic returns. But the semi-arid climate of southwest Kansas coupled with a depleting Ogallala Aquifer, is not a perfect world for alfalfa because it needs more water than other annual crops.

To help farmers evaluate the potential economic returns of growing alfalfa in that region even as the water supply is diminishing, Kansas State University researchers conducted a five-year study to better understand how alfalfa would fare with a limited water supply.

"Alfalfa creates the most economic return by far, compared with other crops for irrigators when water supplies are adequate for full irrigation," said recently retired K-State Research and Extension water resources engineer, Norman Klocke,

who cited consistent demand from the dairy and beef cattle industries, in particular. "As water resources in this region decline, the question is whether or not alfalfa production is possible with limited irrigation—especially when the crop is stressed because of a lack of water during part or all of the growing season."

Klocke along with researchers Randall Currie and John Holman designed a field study conducted at the Southwest Research and Extension Center in Garden City.

What they found was that yield response to the same amount of irrigation was highest during 2007 when the maximum yield was 9 tons per acre and lowest in 2011 when the maximum yield was 4.5 tons per acre. These maximum yields came from 24 inches of irrigation applied in all years.

Dryland yields were 4.5 tons per acre in 2007 and zero yield in 2011. The drought in 2011 certainly impacted yield, but precipitation filled

the soil profile in 2006 and alfalfa benefited from this extra water in 2007 because its roots extended to a depth of at least 8 feet. After that, precipitation could not fully replenish the soil.

Results of the study have been published in Transactions of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. More information is available at: tinyurl.com/kmyvaze.

K-State's Crop Water Allocator, which can be accessed at www.mobileirrigationlab.com, also helps producers evaluate economic returns, not only from alfalfa but also corn, wheat, sorghum, soybeans, and sunflowers getting zero to 24 inches of irrigation.

"Results show alternatives through crop selection and irrigation management to compensate for less irrigation, but water is still essential for crop production and unfortunately less water means smaller yields," Klocke said.

Lender survey predicts farm valuation to increase

Agricultural lenders indicated that 2013 credit conditions held, but they look for future conditions to soften, according to the results of the September 2013 K-State Agricultural Lender Survey. Respondents expected loan interest rates to rise, non-performing loans to increase slightly from their current low level and farmland value gains to slow and then dip in the longer term.

Allen Featherstone, interim department head and professor of agricultural economics and program director of the Master in Agribusiness degree at Kansas State University, said this survey gives farmers an idea of what the current and future state of agricultural credit conditions. As with the survey conducted in the spring of 2013, the purpose of the fall K-State Agricultural Lender Survey is to not only answer questions about the evolution of agricultural credit conditions, but also to provide a broader overview of all agricultural lenders.

There were noticeable differences among the spring and fall survey responses, Featherstone said.

• Unlike the spring results, fall survey respondents expected interest rates to increase in the short term and long term for operating, real estate and intermediate loans.

• Non-performing loans during the past three months for the crop sectors of corn, soybeans and wheat experienced a decrease; however, non-performing loans are expected to increase in the long term for these sectors. One reason for the increase in non-performing loans in the long run is that currently many lending institutions have few, if any, non-performing loans.

• Responses to a new question for the fall survey indicated that land prices increased during the past three months. While this upward trend is expected to stay in the short term, respondents believe land prices will start decreasing in the longer term.

For information about the outlook for agricultural credit conditions and commentary on areas of concern within agriculture, go to the K-State Agricultural Lender Survey.

This survey was developed by K-State's Department of Agricultural Economics' Brady Brewer, doctoral candidate; Brian Briggeman, associate professor and director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center; Allen Featherstone; and Christine Wilson, professor and assistant dean, Academic Programs, for the College of Agriculture.

K-State research team recognized by Department of Agriculture

The depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer has made headlines over the past several years and has been a big concern to many who live in western Kansas, as well as those living farther south in the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles. The aquifer in total lies beneath eight U.S. states and encompasses more than 170,000 square miles, which makes it a sizeable and vital water resource.

The importance of preserving the Ogallala Aquifer is why Kansas State University teamed up with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, as well as other universities, including Texas Tech University, Texas A&M University and West Texas A&M University, to study the aquifer in more detail.

For its work and dedication to finding water-saving solutions, this team of researchers involved in the Ogallala Aquifer Program recently won the 2013 Secretary's Honor Award in the category of enhancing economic vitality and quality of life in rural America. The award is the most prestigious departmental

award given by the secretary and was presented in Washington D.C. on Dec. 10.

Dan Devlin is a K-State Research and Extension faculty member, as well as the director of the Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment and the Kansas Water Resources Institute. He is part of the Ogallala Aquifer Program team and attended the Agriculture Department awards ceremony.

"It's an honor to receive the award," Devlin said. "It recognizes all the great work our faculty have conducted over a number of years."

The Ogallala Aquifer Program began about 10 years ago, Devlin said, because many people, particularly in Kansas and Texas, viewed the depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer as a major issue and worked to get funding through the Agricultural Research Service. A goal was to come up with solutions to help sustain the rural economies in those states.

"Our agricultural industry is vital not only in western Kansas, but the entire state of Kansas and even the

whole country," Devlin said. "But, it goes beyond livestock and irrigated production. It's about sustaining our communities in western Kansas."

The project has allowed for collaboration among many universities and the Agricultural Research Service, which Devlin said has been significant. In addition to the collaboration across entities, Devlin said all of the western Kansas agricultural research centers and many areas of academic specialty on the K-State campus, including animal science, agronomy, biological and agricultural engineering, civil engineering and agricultural economics, have come together for program research as well.

All of the combined work has helped to better understand water management and allow for the development of tools farmers and ranchers can use. The KanSched

(<http://mobileirrigationlab.com/kansched-microsoft-excel>) computerized irrigation-scheduling program is an example of a tool developed because of Ogallala Aquifer Program research, Devlin said.

It is amazing, he said, how farmers and ranchers in western Kansas understand the problem and are willing to do what they can to conserve water now so future generations will have it to use.

"They are living with it," Devlin said. "For many of them, it has already impacted them significantly."

Devlin said he is optimistic about the Ogallala Aquifer Program going forward, as the USDA has expressed that the program is one of the most important projects it funds.

"We've got a lot of work to do yet," he said. "One thing that we know for sure is that we will have less water in the future. Either we

use less now or we will have less to use as we go down the line."

Devlin said Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback's recent request for the development of a 50-year vision for the state's water will help determine future research areas.

"Whatever that vision comes up with, we are going to try to fit our research programs to it," he said.

For more information, log on to www.kcare.ksu.edu.



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Junior basketball



Junior Cowboys and Cowgirls basketball players practiced their fundamentals at the Max Jones Fieldhouse on Tuesday. The program, for first through sixth grades, includes practices and games in the morning this week as well as Saturdays – Jan. 11, 18 and Feb. 1 at 8 a.m.
Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Three Cowgirls named to All-League volleyball team

Three Goodland volleyball players were named to the Great West Athletic Conference all league team. Taryn Bedore, a senior was name to the first team and senior Ellie House was named to the second team. Getting an honorable mention was junior Kate-Lynn King.

The volleyball team had a winning record this season, but missed making the final four in Class 4-A state competition at Salina.


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Thursday, Jan. 9: Chicken Alfredo


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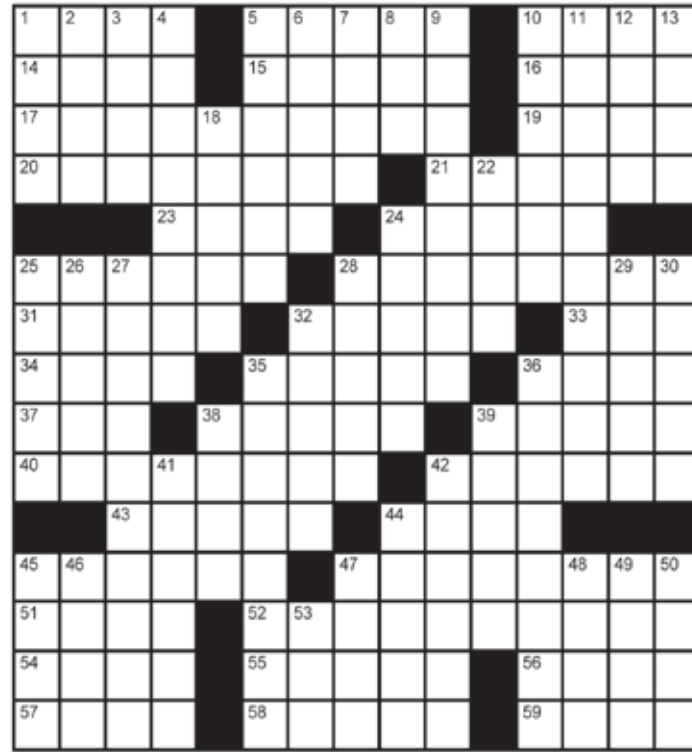
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Crossword Puzzle

Across

- 1 Laughter's sound
5 Scary snake
10 Thicke or Alda of TV
14 Frosted the cake
15 Like a smooth operator
16 Six, turned upside-down
17 Amorous gaze
19 Complete
20 Huge crowds
21 Like some owls
23 They hold hands
24 Cod and Canaveral
25 Thrill
28 Some church ceremonies
31 Enjoys Mark Twain or John Grisham
32 Gandolfini or Garfield
33 "Whazzat?"
34 Pre-
35 Doesn't just sip
36 Cooper or Oldman of Hollywood
37 Ship's plea
38 Big name in Chicago politics
39 Aesop's lesson
40 Puts in the envelope
42 How lowlifes operate
43 Hotel offerings
44 Totals
45 It's in your blood
47 Injured, as an ankle
51 Best Picture Nominee of 1981
52 Slow rate
54 Stare
55 "The Trial" author Franz



- 56 One of Seth's sons
57 ___ Tavern ("The Simpsons" locale)
58 Use a broom
59 Moist and cold

Down

- 1 Boo's partner
2 Pain in the neck, maybe
3 End of a loaf of bread
4 Australian city that's also a woman's name
5 Take for granted
6 Some love songs
7 24-hour periods
8 The night before
9 Gives new form to
10 Former Soviet president Gromyko
11 Most of something
12 "Breathing Lessons" novelist Tyler
13 The Beatles' "I ___ You"
18 Cities on the water
22 Makes a choice
24 Showy on purpose
25 Delete
26 Element in air
27 Kurt Vonnegut novel
28 Hay amounts
29 Painting on a wall
30 In a reserved manner
32 "Around the World in Eighty Days" author ___ Verne
35 Riot police gear
36 Talked at the back fence
38 Goner's fate

- 39 Ladies of the house, informally
41 Defeats
42 Sack cloth
44 Secretly put alcohol in, as fruit punch
45 Occasion to use a limo
46 Building blocks name
47 Bank vault
48 Grandma
49 College course, casually
50 Office furniture
53 "Nope"

This crossword puzzle brought by

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