

# FRIDAY FOOTBALL

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COMPLETE COVERAGE IN SPORTS, D1

COVERING THE BETTER PART OF KANSAS

# THE HUTCHINSON NEWS

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## DA: Heckel, robbery cases may have tie

By Darcy Gray  
The Hutchinson News  
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The Reno County district attorney acknowledged Friday that law enforcement officers are investigat-

ing a connection between the June 14 murder of Hutchinson resident Jennifer Heckel and a conspiracy to commit aggravated robbery alleged to have occurred the same month.

In an interview Friday with The News, District Attorney Keith Schroeder said witnesses in the two

cases "may have a common connection."

He also talked about why withholding details from the public is important as the investigation continues. Three Hutchinson residents were arrested Aug. 25 and subsequently charged with conspiracy to

commit aggravated robbery, but authorities have released few details on the allegations.

But numerous investigators, including several Hutchinson police detectives and Kansas Bureau of Investigation agents, are working on both the robbery conspiracy case

and the homicide case.

"Clearly, a link between the conspiracy to commit robbery case and the Jennifer Heckel homicide investigation is being fully explored," Schroeder said.

See HECKEL / A4

## WHEAT FOUNTAIN'S BACK AT FAIR AFTER LONG ABSENCE



Sandra J. Milburn/The Hutchinson News

Tricia Vogel holds her son, Sam, 3, up to the wheat fountain on Friday afternoon in the Pride of Kansas Building at the Kansas State Fair. The wheat fountain was refurbished and brought to the fair by the Kansas Wheat Commission in honor of Kansas' 150th birthday. Below: This is a 1961 courtesy photo of the wheat fountain at the fair.

## The 'gold' flows again

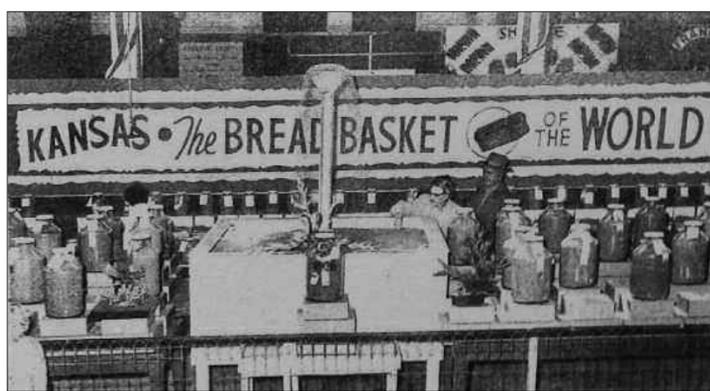
By Edie Ross  
The Hutchinson News  
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An old but new exhibit at the Kansas State Fair is bringing smiles to the faces of old and young alike, and at the same time commemorating the 150th anniversary of the state.

A wheat fountain, which made its first appearance at the fair in the early 1960s, was re-debuted this year by the Kansas Wheat Commission. It was a big draw in the Pride of Kansas Building on Friday morning – even before the fair officially started.

"I got here at 9:30 this morning and there were already people waiting to see it," said Aaron Harries, with the

See FAIR / A4



"There are going to be so many people who come in and say, 'I remember this.' It's pretty neat."

Fair Manager Denny Stoecklein

## Fiscal fears lead Dow to drop 300-plus

■ European debt, specter of another US recession drive plunge; top ECB rep quits.

By Daniel Wagner  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK – The problems that have weighed on investors all summer – European debt and fear of a new recession in the United States – hammered the stock market Friday. The Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 300 points.

The plunge erased the week's gains for stocks and sent the Dow below 11,000. It had not closed below that level since Aug. 22, after several weeks of extraordinary volatility.

The European Central Bank said a top official, Juergen Stark, was resigning almost three years before the end of his term in 2014, revealing deep disagreement over how to solve economic problems in Europe.

Traders fear that one of the continent's heavily indebted economies could default, an event that would ripple through the global banking system and make it difficult for other European countries to borrow money.

Such an outcome could tip the world economy back into recession. In the U.S., economic growth is already slowing, and unemployment

See DOW / A2

## POSSIBLE TERROR PLOT

## Details on two suspects surface

By Eileen Sullivan  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON – Government officials say at least two of the men suspected of being involved in a possible al-Qaida attack to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks are believed to be U.S. citizens or have U.S. traveling documents.

The officials say the information comes from a single source and it has not been confirmed.

One official says the would-be attackers' primary goal is to set off a car bomb, but if that proves impossible, they have been ordered to find some other way to cause violence. The tipster says the would-be attackers are of Arab descent and may speak Arabic as well as English.

The officials say the tips reached the CIA by way of a long-term source in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region who has proven reliable in the past. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the investigation.

Meanwhile, a senior Afghan official predicted Friday that the United States and Afghanistan will soon sign a broad deal for U.S. use of Afghan soil for counter-terrorism missions and U.S. obligations to the fledgling democracy it has sponsored since toppling the

See WHEAT / A2

## Brain-eating amoeba likely killed Sedgwick resident

By John Hanna  
Associated Press

TOPEKA – A Kansas resident died this week from what was likely a rare infection by a brain-eating amoeba, giving the state its first documented case, public health officials

said Friday.

State and local officials warned residents to avoid activities in warm rivers, lakes and other bodies of heated, fresh water, including ponds near power plants. They said people shouldn't dig into or stir up sediment or put their heads

under water in such places.

Single deaths from such infections also have been reported this summer in Florida, Louisiana and Virginia. The Centers for Disease Control has said about 120 cases, nearly all of them fatal, have been reported since the early 1960s.

The Kansas victim was from Sedgwick County, but health officials declined to release more information to protect the person's privacy. Sedgwick County spokeswoman Amanda Matthews said the person ap-

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### INTERCEPTED LETTER

Farmers who may see more acreage as result of failed crop

Dear friends,

The parched earth yields a kernel of hope.

Yours, Hutch



WHAT'S ONLINE

PLANNING YOUR DAY?

SEE OUR WEB CALENDAR BEFORE YOU HEAD OUT



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