

## weather report

35°

at noon



### Today

• Sunset, 5:09 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:50 a.m.  
• Sunset, 5:11 p.m.

### Middy Conditions

• Soil Temperature 34 degrees  
• Humidity 31 percent  
• Sky sunny  
• Winds north 15 mph  
• Barometer 30.47 inches and falling  
• Record High 68° (1935)  
• Record Low -15° (1985)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 50°  
Low 21°  
Precipitation none

### Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy; low 15-20; winds light and variable. Tomorrow: Partly sunny; dry; high 50-55; winds southwest 10-20 mph; low 15-25.

### Extended Forecast

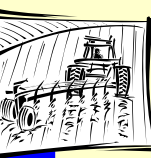
Sunday through Tuesday. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday: dry; high 50s; low 15-25.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets



### Noon

Wheat — \$2.21 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.02  
Loan deficiency payment — 43¢  
Corn — \$1.74 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.81  
Loan deficiency payment — 18¢  
Milo — \$2.67 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.26 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.25  
Loan deficiency payment — 64¢  
Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$5.95 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.50  
Confection current — \$13/\$8 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)  
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

## afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press



1 p.m.

## Plane's key pieces found

PORTHUENEME, Calif. — With startling speed, investigators have located three key pieces of evidence in the crash of Alaska Airlines Flight 261: both “black boxes” and the tail control singled out by the pilots before the jet’s plunge into the Pacific Ocean.

The flight data recorder was recovered from the ocean floor by the Navy on Thursday, not far from where the cockpit voice recorder was found a day earlier. Also spotted was a large piece of the tail, complete with the airline’s distinctive logo of a smiling Alaskan native.

All were in about 650 feet of water some 10 miles from shore. It is where the MD-83 crashed Monday, killing all 88 people aboard.

A Navy submersible sent up video images of a piece of the fuselage with four windows, several pieces up to six feet wide and numerous smaller pieces, said John Hammerschmidt, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board.

# Motion to dismiss water lawsuit denied

Nebraska lost a major battle Friday in the legal war with Kansas over the use of water from the Republican River basin.

Kansas Attorney General Carla J. Stovall said Special Master Vincent L. McKusick has recommended to the United States Supreme Court that Nebraska’s motion to dismiss the Kansas versus Nebraska water lawsuit be denied.

“This is a huge victory for the State of Kansas and its citizens. I am pleased the special master agreed with our argument that ground water does effect stream flow in the Republican River,” Stovall said.

Kansas filed a lawsuit in 1998, accusing Nebraska of violating a 1943 interstate compact by allowing farmers to divert more than their legal share of the river’s water for private use.

Nebraska has maintained that ground water use is not regulated by the compact, which was also signed by Colorado, because it was signed before deep-well irrigation was used in the river basin.

Special Master McKusick ruled that the compact does regulate ground water because its use depletes flow in the river.

Nebraska is expected to appeal the decision. Nebraska Attorney General Don Stenberg said, “Even if the Supreme Court would agree that ground water is included in the compact, we do not believe that Kansas can show overuse of the water.”

“The burden will be on Kansas to prove we did lose water,” Stovall said. “We were confident in our position the whole time.”

Kansas says Nebraska breached the compact by allowing the proliferation and use of thousands of wells connected to the river and its tributaries along the state’s southern border.

Stenberg has said Kansas officials sued even though they knew irrigators in northwestern Kansas were using more than their allotted share of water.

Nebraska says Kansas has received its full allocation of water from the Republican River.

# Book by former publisher tells about labor strife, conflict

By Patty Decker

*The Colby Free Press*

Jim Davidson, former publisher of *The Goodland Daily News* and former editor of the *Colby Free Press*, has published his first novel, “Mine Work,” a tale of labor strife and racial conflict that turns murderous in a small, 1950s Colorado mining town.

The book’s main character, Markus Cottin, trying to learn more about his family, turns up a shameful history of race politics and union troubles. And when Markus finds his own family involved in bombings and the murder of a Navajo man, he won’t



Davidson

stop pursuing it until the story leads him link by link to his grandfather, his father, and ultimately back to himself.

“It’s been a long haul,” Davidson, 56, said about the book. He said he decided to write his first novel in March 1994 and it was finished by the end of that year.

“My first effort was a disaster,” he said. “I sent the book to a friend in Tucson and after reading it she said, in so many words, ‘it stunk.’”

After his friend’s critique, Davidson said, he scrapped nearly all of his first 75,000 words, salvaging only 5,000 words from the original effort.

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## What’s this about six weeks of winter?



Fourth grade students at Central School played outside Wednesday during physical education class as the temperature climbed into the 60s, with a high of 69 for the day. The forecast for this weekend is calling for dry conditions and temperatures in the 50s. Forrest Trachsel (above) was crowded by boys while playing basketball late Wednesday afternoon. Cassandra Sandoval, (below) Madeline Robinson, Ashley Christians, Holly Kibel, and Meghan Webber (left to right) cheered for the boys as they played basketball.

Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News



# High Plains ‘triangle’ subject of severe weather study

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Daily News*

It’s not “the Bermuda triangle,” but meteorologists and scientists will be gathering in Goodland and Burlington this summer to study a triangular area where severe storms develop and where there is a high percentage of positive lightning strikes.

Kevin Lynott of the National Weather Service in Goodland said as many as 100 scientists, instructors, meteorologists, graduate and undergraduate students will be in the Goodland and Burlington area from May 22 to July 17 to assist in the Severe thunderstorm Electrification and Precipitation Study 2000 (STEPS2).

The High Plains of eastern Colorado and western Kansas is one of the best

areas to study or chase severe storms during the late spring and summer Lynott said. Reasons for this include the wide open terrain, unrestricted visibility, sufficient moisture, an unstable airmass and the seasonal dry line.

The dry line is a boundary separating moist air coming from the Gulf of Mexico and dry air descending from the Rocky Mountains said Llyle Barker of the National Weather Service in Goodland. The dry line frequently is positioned near the Colorado-Kansas border and is where thunderstorms develop and become potentially severe when they move east into the deeper Gulf of Mexico moisture.

This area is also historically known to have a high percentage of positive charged cloud-to-ground lightning

strikes within thunderstorms Lynott said.

Lightning data gathered by Colorado State University over the past 10 years by Dr. Larry Carey shows the area northwest of Goodland has one of the highest percentages of positive lightning flashes in the country.

Lynott says the vast majority of lightning strikes are of a negative electrical charge, but he also says the positive strikes are potentially more dangerous because they carry more charge and last longer than the negative variety. Studies in other parts of the country indicate that storms with high percentage of positive lightning strikes are more likely to produce severe weather.

The primary goal of the STEPS2 project is to better understand the inter-

actions between the air flow, precipitation production and electrification in severe thunderstorms on the High Plains.

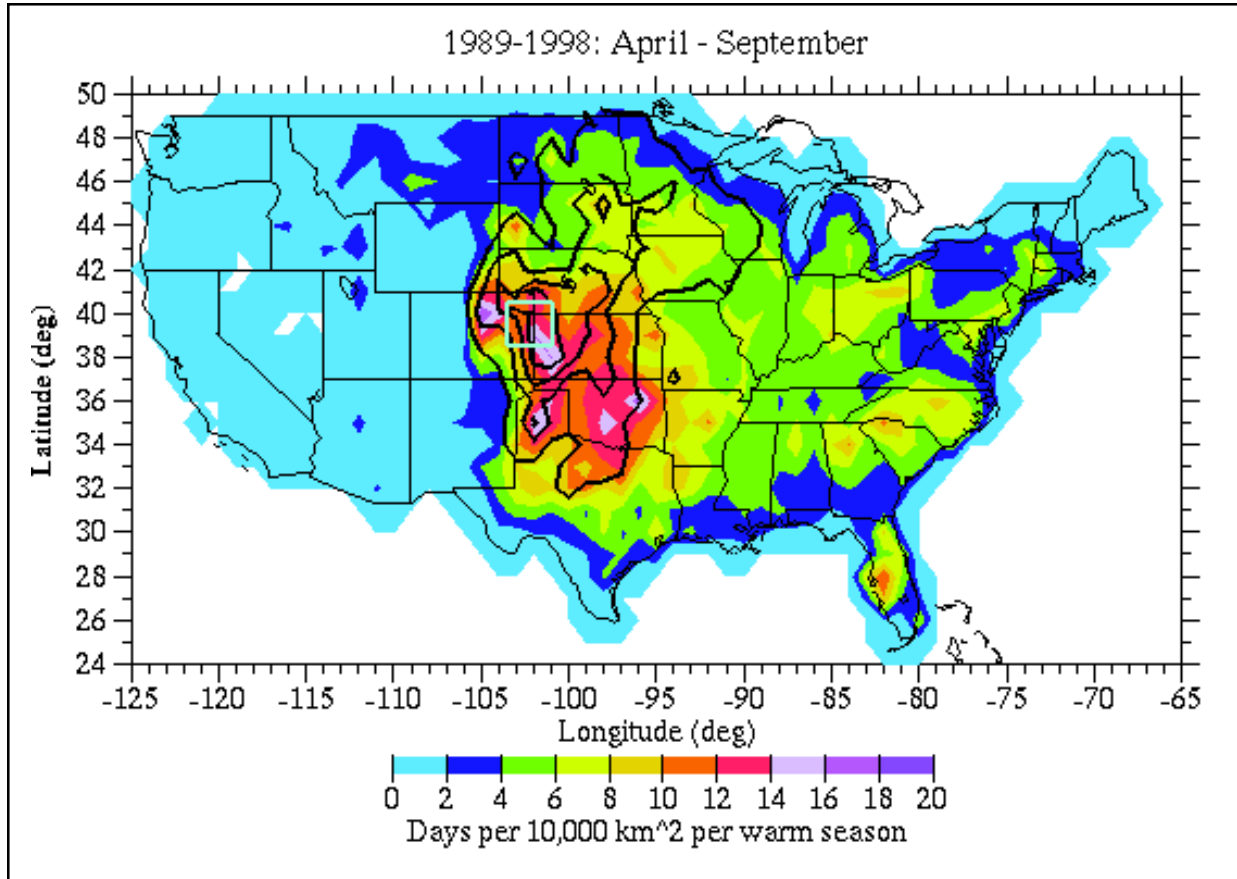
The National Center for Atmospheric Research, The National Severe Storms Laboratory, Colorado State University, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, The National Weather Service and other research organizations are joining together for the comprehensive field project this summer on the high plains.

The primary location of the field program is a triangle with points located at Goodland, Burlington and Idalia, Colo. These points coincide with three weather radars that will contribute to the experiment. A lightning mapping system will also be set up inside the tri-

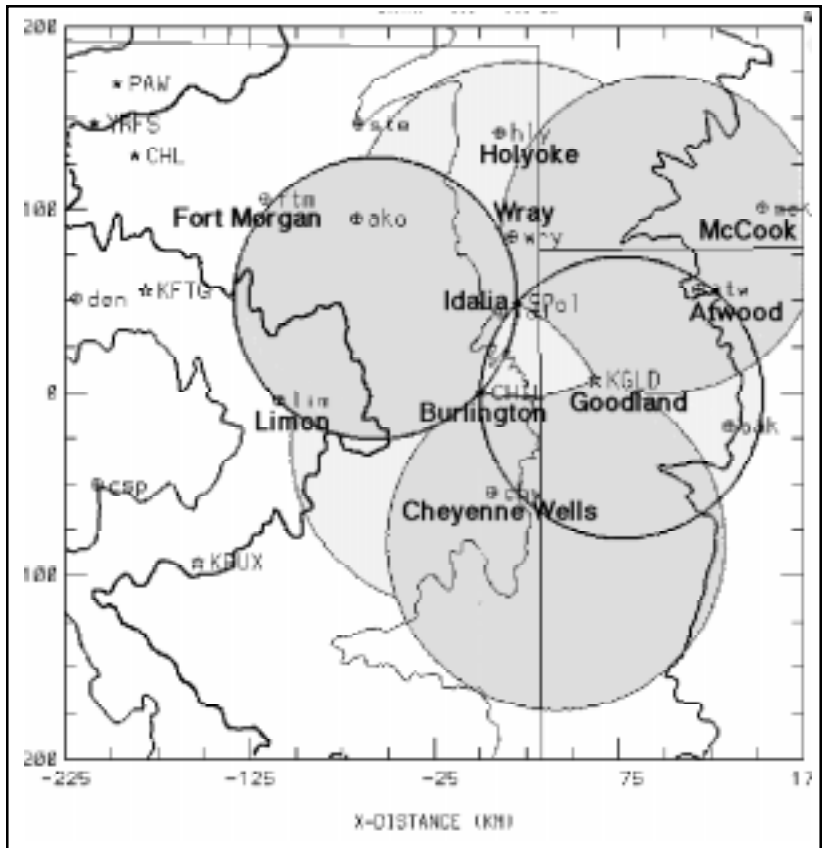
angle.

Crews for several of the research facilities, including the lightning mapping system, ballooning team and sounding units, will be based near Goodland. A T-28 storm penetration aircraft and mobile weather sensor crew should also position near Goodland during the month of May.

“This project will give some Emergency Coordinators and National Weather Service Skywarn Spotters the opportunity to participate with project leaders and the Goodland National Weather Service office,” Lynott said. “The trained spotters close to the Colorado-Kansas border will be a very important source for severe weather information and verification of supercell storms.”



Ten-year record of positive cloud-to-ground lightning strikes across the country. The map is courtesy of Dr. Larry Carey, Research Associate at Colorado State University.



Map shows overlapping radars which will be used to study storms and lightning in the triangle area between Goodland, Burlington and Idalia, Colo.