

weather
report

52°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 4:26 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:03 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:26 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 30 degrees

• Humidity 11 percent

• Sky clear

• Winds west 12 mph

• Barometer 30.01 inches

and falling

• Record High 64° (1941)

• Record Low -14° (1924)

Last 24 Hours*

High 36°

Low 17°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy with possible flurries, low 20, northeast winds 20-30 mph. Tomorrow: Cloudy, high 25-30, low 10, northwest 20-25 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: dry, high 20s, low 10. Friday: dry, high 30s, low 5-15. Saturday: dry, high 40s, low 10-20.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.77 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.59

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$2.00 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.92

Loan deficiency pmt. — 7¢

Milo — \$3.20 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.52 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.42

Loan deficiency payment — 48¢

Millet — \$9.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.95 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.86

Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$15

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Frontier

Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean.

These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon
wire

Late news
from the
Associated
Press

1 p.m.

Tire design
led to failure

WASHINGTON — Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. on Tuesday blamed a rash of tire failures on a faulty design and manufacturing processes at its Decatur, Ill., plant, but also put some blame on the Ford Explorer.

After a four-month investigation of tread separations the government linked to 148 deaths, the tire maker cited the shoulder design of the 15-inch ATX tires and the unique way the rubber was processed at Decatur.

Another factor was the lower inflation pressure and higher vehicle load limits recommended by Ford, the company said. Ford says the Explorer isn't the problem.

Nashville, Tenn.-based Bridgestone/Firestone said its research shows its recall of 6.5 million tires is sufficient, despite calls for it to be expanded to include more tires.

Wal-Mart asks for lower trash fee

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

The Wal-Mart manager told city commissioners Monday that trash removal is costing his store way too much and asked them to review the figures.

"When I talked with the mayor and Commissioner (Curtis) Hurd last year when this came up, they said they would almost be willing to waive the fee," Wal-Mart manager Scott Schroller told the council at its regular meeting.

Wal-Mart has had an agreement with Kevin Butts to remove their trash since

the store was being built in 1997, said City Manager Ron Pickman. The city contracted out the trash pick-up because its crew couldn't handle all of the metal and wood produced during construction or the number of dumpsters necessary for the site.

Scholler said the city charges Butts \$450 a month, which amounts to \$5,400 a year, just to allow him to dump the store's trash at the transfer station. The city then pays to have it hauled off to a landfill in southwest Kansas. The store has to pay Butts to haul the trash and reimburse him for the city's fee.

"Wal-Mart always donates to the city. We gave \$20,000 in donations last year," he said, "and a number of trees and shrubs. I won't say we aren't going to donate because our trash bills are too high."

Scholler asked the city to consider removing the fee they charge Butts. Pickman said he thought they had looked into it when the contract came up last year and had decided that it would put them in the hole.

"Hauling trash isn't a profitable business," said Mayor Chuck Lutters.

Wal-Mart has no written contract

with Butts for hauling the trash, said Schroller, and he has no attachment to the service. He said, he would be willing to consider having the city pick up his trash if they would be willing.

Pickman said the store would have to have someone available to unlock the dumpsters and they wouldn't be able to pick up metal or wood.

A special meeting was scheduled for noon Thursday, Dec. 28, so the contract between the city and Butts can be discussed with Butts and Wal-Mart.

The commissioners also met with Doug Jackson and Eric Yonkey from

The Goodland Daily News about putting an ad for the city in the Sherman County Visitors Guide. The commission had turned down the offer at the last meeting.

"I think there was a misconception about what the visitors guide is," said Jackson, noting that the publication is being done for the county Convention and Visitors Bureau.

He said the guide is going to be printed on glossy paper and distributed to all the motels and be at the

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Winds cause accidents

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Blowing dirt caused at least two accidents north of Goodland on K-27 on Monday, sending a Goodland man to a Wichita hospital, while a semi-trailer rig flipped onto its side on I-70, possibly hit by strong winds.

North of town, the wind was blamed for two wrecks as drivers slammed into vehicles stopped on the roadway. Witnesses said 10-11 vehicles were stranded at the scene, though most were not involved in the crashes. The road had to be closed until 4:30 p.m., however.

Ryan Scheopner, 26, Goodland, was injured when he ran into the rear of a '92 Peterbilt semi driven by Luverne I. Larson, 71, Greeley, Colo. Scheopner works for Scheopner Water Conditioning of Goodland and was driving a company vehicle south on K-27 about 14 miles south of Wheeler, the Kansas Highway Patrol reported, when the accident occurred. Larson was uninjured.

Scheopner was taken by ambulance to the Cheyenne County Hospital in St. Francis. He was to be flown to Denver, but the flight was diverted because of winds. He was eventually taken to Via Christi Medical Center in Wichita. Hospital officials said his condition was stable when he left St. Francis.

The highway patrol wasn't sure if either man was wearing a seat belt.

Bumpers and other parts littered the roadway and ditches following the two accidents. Janice DeGood, St. Francis, said she was on her way to work in Goodland when she came on the dirt storm. She said she barely missed a truck which was in the middle of the highway. She had called 911 to report the blocked highway when another car coming from the south almost hit the truck.

The driver of this car reported that a van had hit the truck blocking the road. Because of the blowing dirt, DeGood said, she was unable to see the van, but trained as an emergency medical technician, she made her way to the van where there was an injured man.

In a short while, there were numerous cars stranded on the highway and one traveler said it was like a maze in a dense fog as the ambulance driver tried to weave his way to the injured man.

One of the men stranded by the accident was a postman and the postmaster had to make her way out to his vehicle to retrieve the mail.

Another accident on K-27 involved two St. Francis men, Tad Neitzel and Lanny DeGood. Neitzel ran into the rear end of DeGood's car. Their accident occurred about four and a half miles south of Wheeler.

In the accident on I-70, Vernie Stillings of Salina was driving a '99 International semi tractor-trailer rig eastbound when his vehicle went off the

road onto the shoulder. Stillings apparently overcorrected and the vehicle came back onto the road, where it rolled on its passenger side. It then slid to a stop on the road, blocking both eastbound lanes of traffic.

Stillings was taken by ambulance to the Goodland Regional Medical Center. His injuries were minor and he was released, said Brenda Cunningham, nursing director.

The accident happened at mile marker 12, near the Caruso exit, about five miles west of Goodland. The Sherman County sheriff's department directed traffic off the exit and kept traffic from backing up until a wrecker from Kleine Motor Co. of Goodland could move the semi off the highway.

The officer who worked the accident said the winds might have sent the truck out of control.

Meteorologist Kevin Lynott of the National Weather Service office in

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Fair board asks county for help with keeping cattle comfortable

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

The Sherman County Fair Board hopes the county can beef up the electrical lines at the fairgrounds so cattle can stay cool and roast beef will be warm.

Steve Duell, fair board president, came to a county commission meeting last week to ask about adding more electrical service in the livestock barns. He said the breakers blow all the time during the fair when it's hot and people need to run fans to cool the animals. He would like to have electricians look at it and get bids.

"Fifty amps is just not enough," Duell said.

Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld asked William McKnight, county building supervisor, if other work was needed at the fairgrounds and McKnight said electricity was the only thing.

Another area at the fairgrounds that needs more electrical power is by the agriculture building, where food and craft vendors set up during the fair. McKnight said they have to run extension

cords into the agriculture building to keep from blowing fuses.

"It wouldn't hurt if we had an increase," Duell said.

Duell said he would like to get a price to do the work and asked if he should get bids from B&B Electric, Marty Electric and Shad's Electric. The commissioners told him to go ahead.

Duell gave copies of the tentative fair schedule for next year and list of fair board members to all the commissioners. The proposed dates for the fair are Aug. 4-11.

This year's officers include Terry Taylor, vice president; and Lori Leonard, secretary/treasurer. Other members are Shawna Anderson, Fritz Duke, Brian Kling, Brad Cowan, Sam Zelfer, David Dorn, Colleen Smith and Neil Schritter. Zelfer and Schritter are new to the board, Duell said, and the board has room for two more members.

Roger Snethen, president of the Sherman County Racing Association, asked commissioners to switch the water meters at the fairgrounds from the association's name back into the

county. He said the racing group would pay the county for the water they use to wet down the track.

Snethen said they wind up paying for water they don't use because other organizations use the fairgrounds. He said McKnight could read the meter before and after the races.

Frankenfeld said the thing that concerned him was that the meter would be shut off most of the time.

"Would the rural fire department have a need to fill out there?" Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked.

"I suggest we turn the meter on and leave it on and then charge the racing association a set fee," Frankenfeld said.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said they could just set a fee from last year's meter reading and then make adjustments at the end of the year. McKnight would still do the meter reading, he said. Snethen agreed and so did the commissioners.

Rumpel said that Snethen and Mary Ann Snethen, deputy clerk, would need

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Larry Kleine (top) of Kleine Motor Co. in Goodland hooked a cable to a '99 International semi Monday afternoon about five miles west of Goodland on I-70. The driver of the truck suffered minor injuries when it flipped onto its side. Two wreckers (above) pulled the semi off I-70 Monday afternoon. It was blocking both eastbound lanes.

Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Wind-blown debris



This tree limb was lying in the driveway of 710 E. Eighth on Monday afternoon, apparently blown down by winds which were gusting 60-65 mph.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News