

### weather report

27°

noon  
Wednesday



#### Today

• Sunset, 4:27 p.m.

#### Friday

• Sunrise, 6:40 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:27 p.m.

#### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 41 degrees
- Humidity 75 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds north 13 mph
- Barometer 30.33 inches and rising

- Record High today 72° (1925)
- Record Low today 0° (1941)

#### Last 24 Hours\*

High Tuesday	52°
Low Tuesday	24°
Precipitation	.03
This month	.03
Year to date	13.92
Below normal	5.25 inches

#### The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow, a high near 34, a low around 16 and winds south at 10 mph. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 38 and a low around 20.

#### Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 51 and a low around 23. Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 51 and a low around 23.

(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

### local markets

#### Noon

- Wheat — \$7.55 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$7.29
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
  - Corn — \$3.47 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$3.51
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
  - Milo — \$3.26 bushel
  - Soybeans — \$9.31 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$9.90
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
  - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
  - Sunflowers
  - Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
  - Confection — \$30/\$19 cwt.
  - Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

### inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



## Veterans honored for service

About 100 Sherman County residents celebrated Veterans Day during its annual Veterans Day service on Nov. 12. See photos and story on Page 9.

# Recent fires lead to burn ban

By Ramona C. Sanders and Sharon Corcoran

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After fires destroyed several hundred acres and two businesses in one week, the Sherman County commissioners instituted a burn ban Tuesday, effective immediately until the county gets some moisture.

On Monday, more than 600 acres burned on property owned by the Cherry family on County Road 76 near County Road 25, said Sherman County Fire Chief Alan David.

Fire departments from Goodland, Brewster and Cheyenne County spent more than six hours controlling the blaze, which started about 12:20, David said. Around 10 fire trucks were involved in putting the fire out, David added.

David said the fire started from burning trash in a can. It got into nearby buffalo grass before spreading to weeds, a row of trees, a pasture and corn stalks. No one was injured and the fire did not spread to any buildings, David said.

Last Thursday, firefighters spent over three hours putting out a blaze at a farm owned by Rex and Sandi Murray on the Sherman-Cheyenne county line. More than three miles of field burned before the fire was put out. The family lost their shop, a new hunting lodge and several personal items.



Volunteers had time to talk Monday after a fire which raced through northeast Sherman County fields was mostly out. Trucks from Goodland, Brewster and Cheyenne County fought the flames, on

land owned by the Cherry family, for more than six hours. Private tankers, farmers with disks and firemen came together to stop the blaze. Photo by Ramona C. Sanders/The Goodland Star-News

See BURN BAN, Page 11

## Fire warning had been issued

By Sharon Corcoran

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The National Weather Service — which issues “fire weather watches” and “red flag warnings” to let people know when weather conditions indicate a high risk of fire — had a red flag warning out last week.

A fire weather watch alerts people that a red flag warning is coming, said Katie Burtis, a meteorologist at the Goodland office of the weather service.

The red flag warning is issued when the relative humidity is 15 percent or lower, wind is expected to blow at or gust to 25 mph or higher for three hours and dry fuels are available for a fire, she said.

This time of year, the area is usually dry, she said, with the crops harvested and a lot of dry stubble in the fields, so if the wind and relative humidity are in the range where fire risk is high, the service will issue a red flag warning.

If the crops were still pretty green, she said, there wouldn’t be a need for the warning. The last warning was issued Thursday, Nov. 15.

Rex and Sandi Murray’s shop and lodge caught fire that day, and firefighters spent over three hours putting out a blaze that spread 3 1/2 miles through pasture and fields.

“It wasn’t over Thursday,” Mrs. Murray said. “We fought it all weekend. We ran sprinklers to keep smoldering spots from starting up again.”

The cause of the fire hadn’t been determined, said Sherman County Fire Chief Alan David, but it may have been electrical.

The weather service recommends that people avoid burning trash during a red flag warning, Burtis said, and that they not throw cigarettes on the ground or out of a moving vehicle.

They should keep vehicles on driving surfaces, she said, not driving through tall grass and avoid activities that may produce outdoor flames or sparks.

People need to realize, she said, that accidental blazes can grow into dangerous wind-driven wildfires when conditions are right.

In areas with a lot of trees, she said, the wind can pick up embers and blow them and start another fire a mile away, which happens with a lot of wildfires in California.

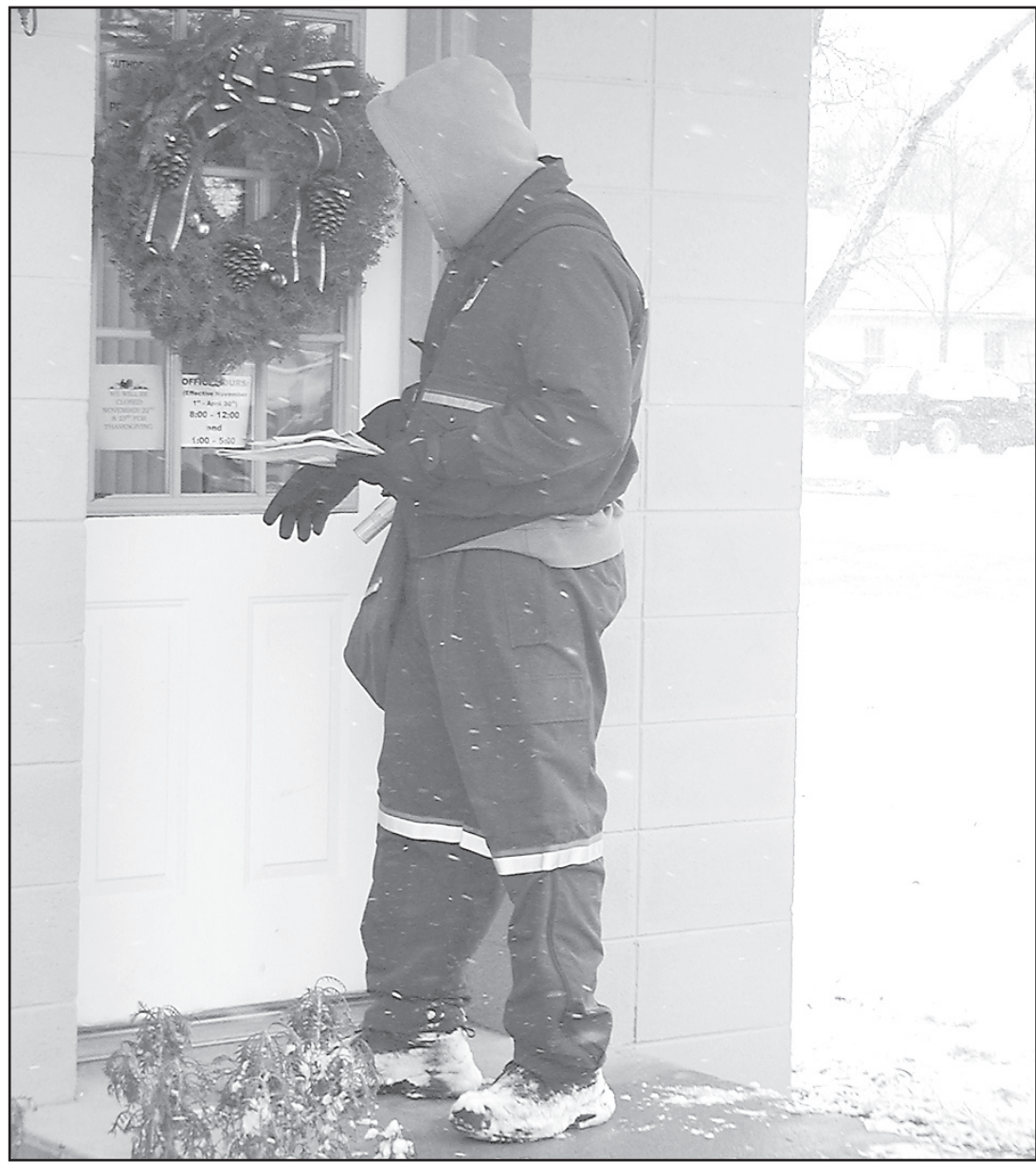
That’s not as big of a problem here on grassland, Burtis said; there are more ground fires here.

“If you see it’s windy and pretty dry out,” she added, “it’s best not to burn trash.”

Fire weather watches and red flag warnings are issued on the service’s web site, she said, and on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radios.

To find them on the web site, she said, go to [www.weather.gov/goodland](http://www.weather.gov/goodland) and to the right of the map, click on the link “hazardous weather outlook.”

## Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow



Harvey DeLaRosa was out in the wind and snow Wednesday morning to deliver mail. The National Weather Service reported .8 of an inch of snow by 10 a.m. with .03 of an inch of moisture.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

## Grieving mother’s plea may lead to stripes on roadway

By Ramona C. Sanders

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An emotional plea from a grieving mother at a meeting Tuesday prompted Sherman County commissioners to consider striping on Old U.S. 24 across the county.

“That was my son that was killed on that road,” said Sandra Bagley, referring to Rex Bagley, who died in a wreck earlier this fall. “That road is so dark, it’s horrendous. When you pass a car, you can’t see it until you’re right up on the car.”

Rex Bagley, of Kanorado, was killed in the early morning hours of Oct. 22 when his car went out of control on Old U.S. 24 and he was ejected near County Road 13. Bagley, 27, was a student at Northwest Kansas Technical College, where his mother is the cafeteria supervisor.

“I’ll never have another son,” Bagley said tearfully, “and I sure don’t want other people to go through this.”

Bagley and her daughter, Amber Bagley, asked the commissioners why the road wasn’t stripped when it was repaved. The women said a middle line and side lines were needed for drivers to stay focused on the road.

“All we’re asking is that you put new lines on that road so people can see,” said Amber Bagley.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede agreed that visibility is limited on the road.

“I’ve driven it at night and when you meet somebody, it’s tough,” Tiede said.

Both County Attorney Bonnie Selby and County Clerk Janet Rumpel said their offices have received several complaints about the lack of visibility on the old highway.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said it was

an issue that the commissioners had been looking at.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure made a motion to make a commitment to do the striping next year.

Thomas and Tiede said they want to look at the cost before making a commitment. Tiede said they might want to consider a center stripe not the side lines to save money. He also noted that the road is going to be chip sealed, which require the markings to be redone.

“If (striping) is there now, when you cover that up, do you have to continue it?” he asked.

The commissioners asked Selby for her opinion. Selby said she doesn’t believe striping the road once would lock the county into having to do it every time it is repaved.

Selby said Darin Neufeld, an engineer with Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associ-

ates, that the Kansas Department of Transportation may have a striping machine available for private contracting to keep costs down, but he was not sure.

She said he had concerns about measuring and marking no-passing zones, which would be required by state law. She added that there is no law requiring striping.

Tiede said he wanted to look into the matter before deciding.

“I really hate to put a motion out right now,” he said. “Let’s wait until the Dec. meeting.”

Thomas, the commission chairman, asked Rasure if he was comfortable with that.

“I don’t think it’s too much to ask for a commitment,” Rasure said. “I’m not withdrawing my motion, if that’s what you’re asking.”

Thomas then said the motions stands but there would be no action on it without a second.