

Downed power line causes corn field fire

A downed power line started a field northwest of Levant on fire about 11:20 a.m. Thursday, and wind gusts up to 60 mph whipped flames through stubble and grass, threatening several structures.

A call came in at 11:20 a.m. that a power line three miles north and a mile west of Levant on Thomas County Road U had set a corn field on fire. The Colby and Brewster fire departments were called out, and a line crew from Midwest Energy came to help.

The National Weather Service in Goodland said wind speeds were expected to continue at up to 40 to 50 mph through sunset. Gusts up to 60 mph whipped corn stalks, tumbleweeds and trash around.

By 11:30 a.m., the fire had spread to grass in the same area, with two to three buildings in its path. Around noon, firemen reported that the original corn field fire was under control but a circle of irrigated corn, with a diesel pump and fuel tank,

was in danger.

By 12:30 p.m., Colby firemen had several units and every available firefighter on the scene while Thomas County had a tanker and Brewster firemen had at least two units. Several farmers showed up with tanks and discs to help corral the blaze.

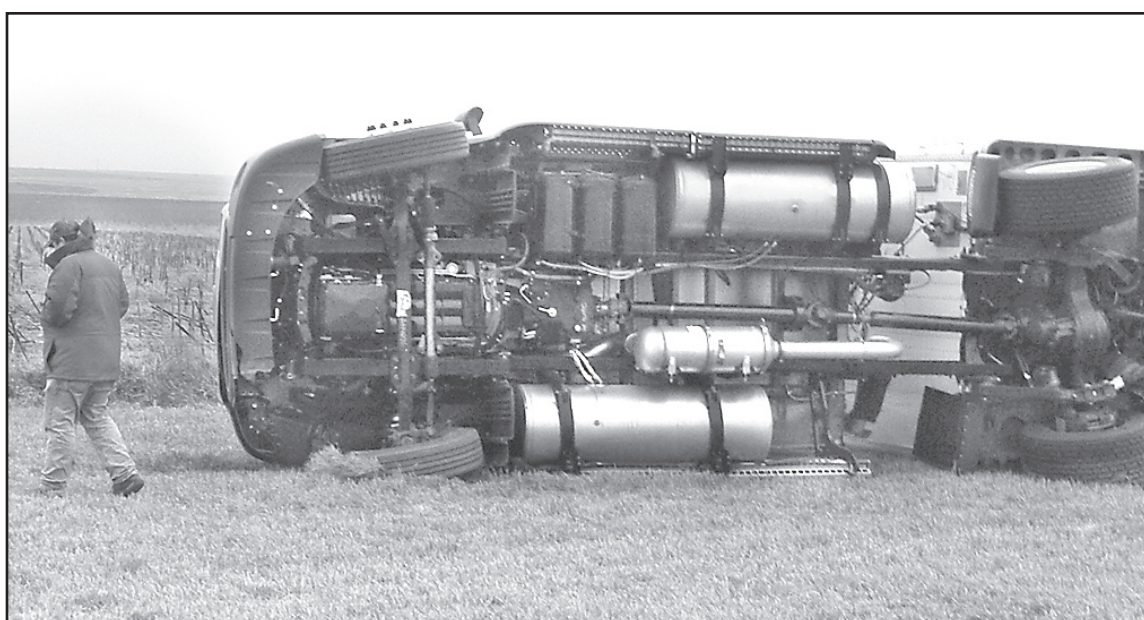
One resident reported that people were trying to move several combines out of a shed near the flames. The fire jumped into a windbreak, but firemen got it out. Other than the wind, one problem firemen faced was running out of water in pumbers and brush trucks, which had to be replenished from tankers and a city flusher truck.

County Commissioner Paul Steele said the county had declared a "state of emergency" until the fire was out, giving Emergency Management Director Susan McMahan authority to deal with the situation. By 1:30 p.m., firemen reported that the fire was under control.



Brewster fireman Tom Aschenbrenner (above) sprayed foam on a leaking diesel tank from a 2007 Freightliner that was blown over on top of the eastbound overpass on I-70 at the Brewster exit about 1 p.m. (Mountain time) Thursday. Assisting on the truck was fireman Mike Schultz. Earlier, a U.S. Express Leasing truck from Oklahoma (right) was blown off the road about a quarter of a mile west of the interchange. The driver, Christina L. Shirley of Duncanville, Ala., surveyed the damage to her brand-new rig.

Photos by Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News



Brewster Firemen watch rig flip, slide

By Tom Betz

nt.betz @ nwkansas.com
Brewster fire chiefs checking on a semi-trailer rig which had been blown into the ditch along I-70 south of town Thursday got to watch another rig blow over and skid to a stop, then rescue the driver and a passenger from the cab.

Assistant Chief Rex Jamison said Friday he and Chief Willard Crumrine were coming back from a field fire north of Levant when they got a call about a truck rolled over down on I-70.

"We whipped around and went to the first truck accident, but the

driver was out and there was no fuel leaking," Jamison said. "We started to head back to Brewster when we saw the second truck go over right in front of us."

"We followed it until it stopped and saw the diesel fuel was spilling all over. We got out an axe and got the driver and passenger out of the cab where they were trapped."

The National Weather Service office in Goodland reported wind gusts to 62 mph. Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper John McMahan, who worked the second accident, said the wind was the major factor causing the truck to roll over. It landed on a

guard rail, blocking the eastbound lanes.

The driver, Jimmie Lee Sellars, Jr., 46, of Aurora, Colo. was uninjured, but his wife, Heidi, 32, was taken to Citizens Medical Center in Colby by ambulance. McMahan said the 2007 Freightliner went over on top of the south overpass on I-70 at the Brewster exit about 2 p.m. Thursday.

The first accident involved a U.S. Express Leasing truck from Oklahoma blown off the road about a quarter of a mile west of the Brewster interchange. The truck was driven by Christina L. Shirley

of Duncanville, Ala.

Jamison said the driver was upset because it was a brand new truck with about 3,000 miles on it. Trooper Joe Greene worked the first accident, which happened about 15 minutes before the one on top of the overpass.

DCI COLBY DIGITAL Sherman 1203 Main - Phone 899-4103
Showing through Nov. 20
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (PG)
Nightly 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Matinee: 1:30 p.m.

The Goodland Star-News Ad Deadlines
For Tuesday papers Friday Noon
For Friday papers Wednesday Noon
For Country Advocate Friday Noon
You may call the ad in to (785) 899-2338 or stop by the Star-News at 1205 Main.

Santa is Coming to Town!
Saturday, November 15th, 1-3 p.m. at Central Elementary. Come down & Have your child's picture taken with Santa for \$5.
We need your opinion!
From 3 - 4 p.m. Vote on your favorite parade float. The floats will be parked in the parking lot across from the Post Office (Jubilee). The Christmas Parade of Lights will come down Main Street from 4-5 p.m.
Visit each of these stores & Register for a freebie!
El Dorado Western Wear & Fashion, Prairie Rose Floral, Co., Jeff's Junktiques, Applejacks Restaurant (Chester Fried Chicken), Mann's Jewelry, Smitty's Sports, Smitteo's Video's, The Almond Tree, Jacque's Hallmark, Word of Life Church - (1102 Main St. Location)
Brought to you by Word of Life Church & The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce.

SHORT & SON INC.
SINCE 1934
Hwy 24
Goodland, Kansas
(785) 899-2592
1-800-242-6939

Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.
719 W. Highway. 24
Goodland, Kan.
(785) 899-2177

The INSURANCE AGENCY Inc.
1020 Main
Goodland, KS
(785) 899-5011
(785) 899-5201 - fax
Roxann Kling Susan Doke

Quality Care
DAN BRENNER FORD-MERCURY, INC.
222 W. Hwy. 24
I-70 BUSINESS LOOP
GOODLAND, KS 67735
(Toll Free) 800-636-8770
(Business) 785-899-2316
(Fax) 785-899-2317

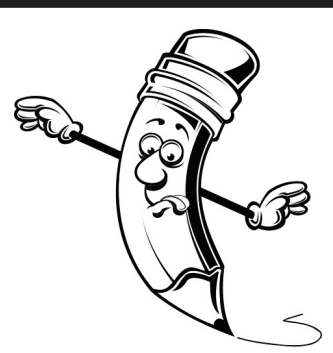
HIGH PLAINS Office Supply LLC
1118 Main Street
Goodland, Kan. 67735
Phone: 785-890-6900
Fax: 785-890-6902

FIRST NATIONAL BANK
www.fnb.com
MEMBER FDIC

School calendar for November 12-November 18

Wednesday-Black Day
Fall Buffer Week
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Wiffleball Tournament
Elementary Gifted Seminar in Oakley
4 p.m.-Central Site Council
7 p.m.-Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
Thursday-Gold Day
Central School Picture Retakes
North School Picture Retakes
Fall Buffer Week
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Wiffleball Tournament
7:30 a.m.-Math Relays at Fort Hays State University
3:30 p.m.-7th/8th grade basketball (home) versus Atwood
Friday-Black Day
Fall Buffer Week
Family, Career and Community Leaders of American Wiffleball Tournament

Boys Varsity Sectional Football
7 p.m.-Goodland High School Musical
Saturday-Fall Buffer Week
8 a.m.-Northwest Kansas Basketball Officials Clinic
9 a.m.-8th grade Basketball Clinic
7 p.m.-High School Musical
Sunday-Buffer Week
2 p.m.-Goodland High School Musical
Monday-Gold Day
First day of practice for High School basketball and wrestling
3:45 p.m.-Professional Development Committee Meeting
3:45 p.m.-High School Scholars' Bowl (here)
6:30 p.m.-Black and Gold Booster Club Meeting
Tuesday-Black Day
3:30 p.m.-7th grade basketball at Colby
3:30 p.m.-8th grade basketball (home) versus Colby



102.5 FM KKCI
Best of the 70s, 80s, & 90s
KWGB 97.9
KLOE 730am
Full Service Radio

The Goodland Star-News
1205 Main Goodland, Kan.
67735
785-899-2338

Gambino's Pizza
402 E. 17th, Goodland
(785) 890-5988

