

weather report

41°

10:30 a.m.
Monday



Today

• Sunset, 4:42 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 7:06 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:43 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 34 degrees
• Humidity 52 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds northwest 20 mph
• Barometer 30.21 inches and falling
• Record High today 74° (1990)
• Record Low today -14° (1962)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 40°
Low Sunday 22°
Precipitation trace
This month .02
Year to date .02
Below normal .08 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near 59, winds out of the west at 5 mph and a low around 23. Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with a high near 30, windy with winds out of the north at 25 to 35 mph and a low around 9.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Sunny with a high near 33 and a low around 19. Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 42 and a low around 22.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local markets

10:30 a.m.

Wheat — \$6.45 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.34
Corn — \$6.34 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.25
Milo — \$6.06 bushel
Soybeans — \$10.86 bushel
Posted county price — \$11.19
Millet — no bid
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$27.70 cwt.
Confection — no bid
Pinto beans — \$28
(Markets by Scouler 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



Wrestlers lose at home

The Goodland High boys lost a wrestling match to Colby on Thursday. They will travel to Hoxie this week.



Area sees record-high Thursday

By Kevin Bottrell

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It was shorts weather in Goodland on Thursday, and even the record books agree.

At 2:30 p.m. the Goodland airport recorded a temperature of 73 degrees, beating the previous Jan. 5 record of 71, set in 1927.

Several other records were set around the region. Colby set an unofficial record of 74 degrees on Thursday. The official record won't be determined until the report from a co-operative observer comes in. Yuma, Colo., also set a temperature record of 70 degrees, beating the old high of 66 from 1965.

Jerry Killingsworth, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said the High Plains region has been in an oscillating pattern for the past month. Early December was pretty cold, he said, with some sub-zero temperatures. But a high pressure system over the Rocky Mountains has made for milder weather since mid-December.

The warm weather didn't con-

tinue over the weekend, however. Friday saw a high of 48 and a low of 21. Saturday got down to 18 and some snow fell during the night, but it was mostly melted by Sunday morning. Sunday had a high of 40 and a low of 22.

Killingsworth said the normal temperature for this time of year is in the mid-40s.

The weather so far this winter has fit the La Nina pattern. La Nina is a period of lower-than-normal surface temperature that tends to create milder winters on the High Plains. More storms tend to develop on the southern plains in Texas and Oklahoma, but with less precipitation further north. However, he said, the La Nina is already starting to weaken.

The mild weather hasn't given the Weather Service many chances to test out its new Dual-Polarization Radar. This newly-installed system sends out both horizontal and vertical radio waves, allowing it

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The National Weather Service radar tower is a familiar sight on the Goodland skyline. The service now has a new type of radar, Dual Polarization, which, among other things, helps distinguish different types of precipitation.

Photo by Kevin Bottrell/Goodland Star-News

Facilities meetings to begin this week

The first Goodland school facilities meeting will be at 7 a.m. on Wednesday at the Administration Building, 1312 Main.

The meetings will be limited to 30 people. To reserve yourself a spot call 890-2397.

The district faces the challenges of too many buildings with uncertain funding levels. The Goodland School Board has sought feedback from people since the bond election last spring and would like more before making future plans.

The meetings will all follow the same format. The choices are at 7 a.m. on Wednesday; 11 a.m. on Thursday; 1 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 23; 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25; 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31; 8 a.m. 8 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 6; and 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9.

First-class stamps to cost more

By Brandi Diederich

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The price of stamps will be going up again this month as the U.S. Postal Service struggles with a financial crisis.

The rate for first-class letters will go up a penny, from 44 to 45 cents on the first ounce on Sunday, Jan. 22. The charge for postcards will go up 3 cents to 32 cents, for letters to Canada or Mexico, 5 cents to 85 cents and to other international destinations, 7 cents to \$1.05, the service says.

Prices will also increase for other mailing services, the service said, including standard mail (mostly advertising), periodicals such as newspapers and magazines, package services and extra services such as registered mail and return receipts.

For information, go to about.usps.com/news/national-releases/2011/pr11_factsht_pricechg_1018.pdf. This will create a pdf file on your desktop. Click on the file icon to see the new prices.

Brian Sperry, Postal Service spokesman in Denver, said customers can continue to mail letters at today's price by buying "Forever" stamps before Jan. 22. He said these stamps were created to help consumers get through price changes.

Mr. Sperry said the overall average price increase across all mailing services is capped by law at 2.1

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College class progressing with house

Students from the carpentry program at Northwest Kansas Technical College were hard at work last week finishing the roof of the house on Broadway. The students had the frame up by Thanksgiving and have been working to complete the exterior. This week they will be starting on the electrical work on the interior of the house. Much like the refurbished Betz-Saint house the college worked on two years ago, this new house will be energy-efficient, but unlike the previous project, it has been built from scratch.

Photo by Kevin Bottrell/Goodland Star-News



Postal Regulators find fault with closing study process

The Postal Regulatory Commission has recommended the U.S. Postal Service take another look at its approach to closing post offices, supporting many criticisms made by National Newspaper Association in its fall testimony.

The regulatory commission released its opinion in the U.S. Postal Service proposal to close retail offices, laid out in the case Retail Access Optimization Initiative. The Postal Service is required to seek the commission's input whenever it embarks upon major service changes.

The National Newspaper Association participated in the case to argue that although it did not categorically oppose small post office changes, the selection of offices to be closed and the manner in which the postal service sought public feedback were flawed. The commission agreed with National Newspaper Association and strongly suggested the postal service revise its plans.

Commission Chair Ruth Goldway was particularly critical in a separate opinion, saying the proposals "reveal a pattern of inaccurate and overly optimistic economic savings calculations and of careless disregard of community concerns."

Newspaper Association President Reed Anfinson, publisher of the *Swift County Monitor-News* in Benson, Minn., said the association had achieved its goals through evidence offered to the commission.

"We said at the outset we were not opposing post office closings, but we saw major gaps in the Postal Service's approach," Anfinson said. "Through the expert testimony of our Postal Committee chair, Max Heath, we pointed out flaws. We are gratified the commission was able to use our information in its final opinion. Now we hope to support the Postal Service in a more rational approach to this problem."

Among the problems were:

- The Postal Service decision to count only front-counter stamp and package sales as incoming revenue when deciding whether an office is unprofitable, while ignoring the bulk business mail revenue essentially coming through that office from newspaper, shopper and direct mail business.

- Inadequate development of plans to allow newspaper mail to be entered at alternative facilities being developed as post offices closed, such as the much publicized "Village Post Offices" intended to replace some post offices in rural areas.

- Poor transparency in conducting community meetings before a closing.

Heath said the commission unanimously found problems with the postal service analysis

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