


**weather report**



**35°**  
10:30 a.m.  
Thursday

**Today**  
• Sunset, 5:33 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
• Sunrise, 6:26 a.m.  
• Sunset, 5:34 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**  
• Soil temperature 37 degrees  
• Humidity 54 percent  
• Sky cloudy  
• Winds northwest 25-35 mph  
• Barometer 29.74 inches and rising  
• Record High today 80° (1918)  
• Record Low today -16° (1960)

**Last 24 Hours\***  
High Wednesday 67°  
Low Wednesday 32°  
Precipitation none  
This month 0.42  
Year to date 0.51  
Below normal 0.23 inches

**The Topside Forecast**  
Today: Sunny with a high of 44, winds blustery out of the northwest at 15 to 30 mph and a low around 21. Saturday: Sunny with a high near 59, winds breezy out of the south at 15 to 30 mph and a low around 33.

**Extended Forecast**  
Sunday: Mostly sunny and breezy with a high near 45 and a low around 23. Monday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow at night, a high near 40 and a low around 25. Tuesday: Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain and snow, a high near 37 and a low around 21.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

## Latest fire agreement voted down

### Cooperative agreement rejected; consolidation issue still on table

By Kevin Bottrell  
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The Goodland City Commission voted down sending a new cooperative agreement to the Rural Fire Board on Tuesday, but the issue isn't quite dead yet.

City Manager Doug Gerber had brought the agreement for their approval, based on a majority consensus at the Feb. 7 meeting. Under the agreement, the city would make a three mill contribution – about \$76,000 – to the fire district and use of the city's vehicles and equipment, the fire district would provide fire protection for the city. Fire Chief Brian James would remain fire chief and be answerable to the fire board, which would be composed of four representatives of the city

and three of the county.

The agreement was only a draft, and Gerber said he wanted an official vote before he sent it to the fire district. City Attorney Jerry Fairbanks has reviewed the agreement, he said, and wanted to add some statutory references.

The commission voted down the agreement 4-1, with Annette Fairbanks the only yes vote.

Commissioner Bill Finley reiterated his concern about putting taxing and spending authority with a board, rather than keeping it with the city. He also asked about how well the cooperation between the two departments is working currently. James said there has been some hiccups, but it has been going well.

"I don't know that we've tested the waters enough," Finley said.

Commissioner Chris Zimmerman, who has supported full consolidation, said the contract looked like it made things more complicated than a simple joining of the two departments. He said he felt the contract had the potential to backfire. Fairbanks agreed that it makes the issue complicated, but said the contract clarifies some things in her mind. Commissioner Gary Farris said it is important to keep an eye on money and outlay, and that he was not ready to say yes to the agreement.

At the end of the meeting, Gerber brought the issue up again, asking if the commission wanted to let the issue die or keep working.

Mayor John Garcia said it was always the commission's intention to cross boundaries and initiate a good working relationship, and said he would like to see some kind of structural agreement between the two departments.

"I think the only concerns were: how do we do it," he said.

Fairbanks said she was surprised by the vote, and didn't know where to go now. Finley said he still had a problem with turning power over to a board. Gerber suggested altering the agreement so the board has to seek approval for its budget from the city and county commissions.

The commissioners agreed to let the fire board look over the agreement and give suggestions and to have Gerber run it by the city attorney again and bring it back to the commission at a future meeting.

In other business:

• Zimmerman said he will be leaving the commission soon. He and his wife are moving out of the county. Zimmerman said he doesn't know exactly what meeting will be his last.

The commission has 10 days after his last meeting to select a new commissioner.

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## County has trailer to help in disasters

By Kevin Bottrell  
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When disaster strikes, Sherman County has a trailer capable of delivering emergency supplies anywhere in northwest Kansas.

The Medical Surge Trailer contains medicine, medical equipment like oxygen bottles, and even body bags. In the event of a disaster, a county or city can call the Sherman County Dispatch and request the trailer. Dispatch will call the on-duty person at the Road and Bridge Department, and a Sherman County employee will drive the trailer to the disaster site.

The trailer was given to the county under an agreement with Homeland Security and Sherman County Emergency Management.

Under the agreement with Homeland Security, the county will have the trailer ready to go at all times. The next closest Homeland Security trailer is in Graham County.

The county has taken possession of the trailer and is housing it at the fairgrounds. The county commissioners approved a mutual aid agreement on Tuesday, which will be sent to the other 18 counties in the region. The county will charge reimbursement for time and fuel to get to the disaster site. When the trailer is returned, the county will restock the trailer and then send a bill to whatever county used up the supplies.



Austin Avelar, seen here wrestling an opponent from Lakin in the regional wrestling tournament last weekend, won by fall Thursday morning in the first round at the 3-2-1A State Tournament, advancing to the second round.

## Top-ranked Cowboys on the mat in Hays

Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling is underway at Fort Hays State University.

The Cowboys team is ranked No. 1 in the state by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association.

As of press time, 11 a.m. Thursday, two Goodland wrestlers had competed in the first round.

Austin Avelar, wrestling at 120, won by fall over Brendan Arnold of Lyons. Avelar dominated most of the match. He got up to an 8-0 lead in the first period, but Arnold was able to comeback with five points. Avelar had his opponent on his back several times in the second period, finally getting the pin with about 9 seconds left.

Avelar will face Jake Elbrader of Burlington in the second round.

Thursday's matches were the first several rounds, with the finals matches getting underway at 8 a.m. (Mountain Time) today with the consolation cross bracketing. The consolation quarterfinals are scheduled for 9:45 a.m. with semifinals at 11:15. Fifth place matches will be at 1 p.m. and consolation finals at 2 p.m. Championship finals will be 45 minutes after the consolation finals.

At 152, John Peden won 9-7 in overtime. He was behind in the second period before attempting a head lock that tied things at 7 going into overtime. He got a takedown to win.

Other wrestlers in the tournament are Tyler

Gastineau, Laine Herl, and Riley Oharah.

Gastineau won the 182-pound championship at regionals last weekend, beating Scott Heilmann of Thomas More Prep-Marion by fall.

Herl also got first at regionals at 195, pinning Jeff Shaw of Oberlin.


At 220, Oharah won by fall over Channing Fortin of Oberlin to get first place.

Peden got second place at regionals, losing a 7-0 decision to Dalton Snyder of Hoxie in the championship round.

Avelar beat Taylor Murphy of Oakley for third place at regionals.

Look for up-to-the-minute state results updates on *The Goodland Star-News* Facebook page.

**local markets**



**10:30 a.m.**  
Wheat — \$6.40 bushel  
Posted county price — \$6.39  
Corn — \$6.19 bushel  
Posted county price — \$6.26  
Milo — \$5.91 bushel  
Soybeans — \$11.45 bushel  
Posted county price — \$11.92  
Millet — \$11.50 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$25.70 cwt.  
Confection — no bid  
Pinto beans — \$28  
(Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

**inside today**



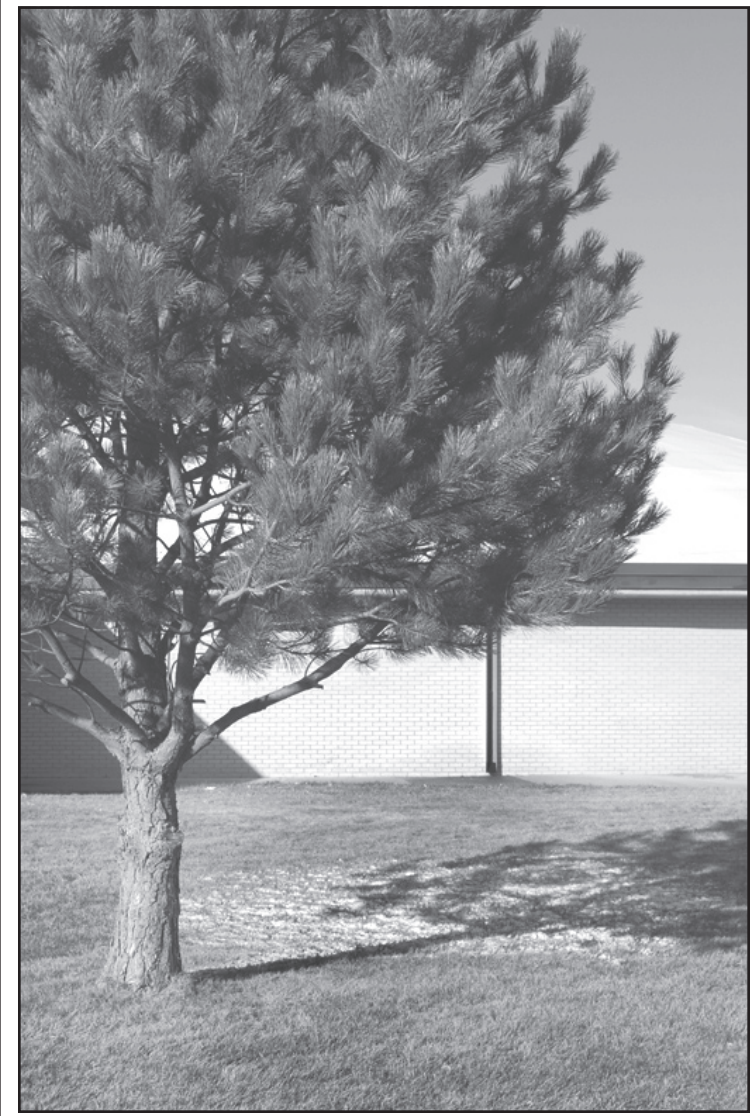
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## Mavericks sign golfer

A Valentine, Neb., golfer has signed to play on the Lady Mavericks golf team at Northwest Tech.

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## Wind causes visibility problems on Monday

It was the wind more than the snow that caused Monday's weather problems. Goodland received less than an inch of snow, but winds in the 30s, with gusts in the 40s, caused low visibility (above). Things were worse further west, which necessitated a closing of I-70 in the morning from Goodland to Denver. The snow did cause a cancellation of Grant Junior High Basketball games, scheduled for Monday afternoon. Most of the snow that stuck was gone by the afternoon, except for areas in shadow, such as behind this tree outside the Max Jones Fieldhouse (left).

Photos by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

## Republicans planning caucus on March 10

Sherman County Republican Party Chairwoman Jeannie Shields has organized a Republican Presidential Caucus at 10 a.m. on March 10 at the Sherman County Public Library.

"This year it looks like Kansas' Caucus will play a major role in the Presidential election process," Shields said, "By all accounts the race will stay competitive for some time and the Kansas' caucus will be the first event after Super Tuesday (March 6) and the only state on March 10."

"The Caucus will give all registered Republicans the opportunity to cast their ballots for the Republican presidential nominee of their choice and help determine which candidate receives the votes of Kansas' 40 delegates at the Republican National Convention."

The caucus will be held at the Sherman County Public Library in

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