

weather report

49°

10:30 a.m.
Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 5:41 p.m.
Saturday
• Sunrise, 6:16 a.m.
• Sunset, 5:42 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 37 degrees
- Humidity 30 percent
- Sky clear and sunny
- Winds north 16-26 mph
- Barometer 29.70 inches and steady
- Record High today 76° (1974)
- Record Low today -15° (1960)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 60°
Low Wednesday 27°
Precipitation none
This month none
Year to date 0.51
Below normal 0.36 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of snow before 11 a.m., a high near 42, winds out of the north at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 20. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 48, winds out of the west at 15 to 30 mph and a low around 27.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny with a high near 58 and a low around 32. Monday: Sunny with a high near 67 and a low around 35. Tuesday: Sunny with a high near 67 and a low around 36.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.



Dried up Bonny Reservoir on fire

By Karen Krien

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A fire has been burning at Bonny Dam now for more than a week and firemen are still trying to put it out.

The fire started at the river bridge west of Bonny on Highway 385 on Feb. 22 and Idalia firemen responded. Firemen thought the fire was contained, then high winds hit

the area and it started back up on Saturday. It burned east toward the reservoir, which has recently been drained of water.

The National Weather Service out of Goodland, on Tuesday, reported strong winds and very dry conditions have caused several days of fire at Bonny Dam. The service's new radar system is capable of

tracking the smoke plume, which has billowed as much as 200 to 300 feet in the air. A looped animation of the radar data is available online. The service reported that the loop spanned nearly five hours on Sunday. Winds on that day were from the northwest and the animation showed the smoke being carried to several counties downwind.

The fire has burned about a half-mile of the river bottom and burned grass, dry brush and trees around the west and north part of the old lake. The Yuma County Pioneer reported Wednesday that the fire has affected about 1,800 acres.

Along with the Idalia volunteers, firemen from Wray, Joes, Kirk, Hale and Armel have joined in fighting

the fire. Besides the wind hampering their efforts, there is rough terrain, soft ground and some pools of water. Area farmers have also been helping by using their equipment to disk around the fires in hopes of stopping it from spreading further.

The cause of the fire remains unknown.

Schools to add security after scares

By Pat Schiefen

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The Goodland School Board met at noon Monday instead of their usual 7 p.m. time so board members would be free for the substate high school boys basketball game.

Due to the recent bomb scares at Goodland High School, Superintendent Bill Biermann said that setting up security at the high school and Max Jones Fieldhouse has been moved up as a priority issue. The first part would be to install security cameras in the buildings, he said. The first firm to look at the high school and recommend how many cameras would be needed was Key-Rite Security of Denver.

1995 Goodland High School graduate Dustin Kaufman came out from Denver for Key-Rite. Biermann said it was helpful because he knew the school. Kaufman recommended that the school would need around 30 cameras inside and several outside. He planned to give Biermann an estimate. Key-Rite also does electronic locks where key fobs took the place of keys. A computer keeps track of who is in the building. The superintendent also said that if anyone would lose the fob the computer could invalidate it. Currently if an administrator loses a set of keys the locks would have to be replaced.

Biermann said that he also had S&T Communications come and look at what would be needed with security cameras. S&T sells that equipment, and while the company does not do the electronic keys, it has a contractor for that work. The company is also preparing an estimate for the high school and Max Jones.

Neighborhood Watch is planning on donating some money to the district and that using it for security cameras would fit in with what they do, Biermann said. He did not know how much they would be giving yet. The superintendent said he thought they could use some of the Quality

See SECURITY, Page 5



I-70 resurfacing now under way

Workers from APAC-Kansas have begun shoulder work on I-70 between Brewster and Edson. The project will include milling and inlaying of two inches on the existing lanes of I-70 and then a 1 1/2 inch overlay of the road, including the shoulders. The project also includes milling and overlay on the Edson ramps.

Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News



Crashed car search turns up marijuana stash

Marijuana was found at a wreck south of Wheeler on Thursday.

A Cheyenne County Sheriff's officer responded to a single vehicle accident at the intersection of Cheyenne County Roads B and 20—just a few miles from the Sherman County border—at 9:10 p.m. (Mountain Time).

A 1993 Ford Explorer, driven by Wesley Cline, 19, of Aurora, Colo., was eastbound on Road B. The vehicle went through the T intersection, through the ditch and collided with a concrete feed bunk. Cline was injured and transported to the Cheyenne County Hospital by emergency medical technicians. The vehicle was totaled.

Cline was wearing his seatbelt.

A large amount of marijuana was found at the scene of the wreck. The officer discovered over four pounds of marijuana with the vehicle. Charges are pending, said Sheriff Craig Van Allen.

Fire board recommends equal cost share for Brewster

By Kevin Bottrell

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The Sherman County Rural Fire Board wants to redo their contract for Brewster fire protection with Thomas County, and they have some ideas how.

Representatives from the fire board met with the Sherman County commissioners on Wednesday to brief them on their recommendations.

Board member Daryl Cloyd said the board is going to recommend

that Thomas County Rural Fire District 5 and the Sherman district each chip in \$18,000. The combined \$36,000 would serve as a budget ceiling.

"We want to maintain that \$36,000 limit," Cloyd said.

The board is suggesting the county clerk keep the Brewster expenditures as a line item in the budget so it can be tracked. Both parties would share in the costs of an unanticipated repairs if it goes above \$5,000.

Sherman County would provide the fire trucks, maintenance work, management, insurance, equipment and training. Brewster would supply personnel—who would be subject to Sherman County's training and certification requirements—and training would be done on-site in Brewster as much as possible. Brewster would also be responsible for providing the personal safety gear for its firefighters, and cover 50 percent of the costs of communications equipment and supplies.

The board is also suggesting this be a two- or three-year agreement that is evaluated annually, rather than the open-ended agreement its have now.

Cloyd provided the commissioners with a rough estimated of the annual operating costs of the Brewster Fire Station—about \$9,050. The district has also worked up a 35-year apparatus replacement plan, which needs about \$34,661 annually to replace a 1978 Ford pumper, a 1981 Ford tanker, a 2004 F550 rescue vehicle and 2010 pumper gradually over the next 35 years.

Cloyd said the district board wants to put money aside each year to buy the new vehicles, rather than have to finance them and pay back over time.

Cloyd said the board is planning to take these suggestions to the Thomas County Rural Fire District. Commissioner Cynthia Strnad suggested there should be a meeting with the Thomas County Commissioners, Thomas County township officers, officials from the fire districts and Brewster as well as any members of the public who want to attend. The meeting should be held in Brewster, she said, with all the parties present so that everyone is on the same page.

The board also discussed cooperation between the city and rural fire departments. Since full consolidation proposals and other forms of agreements have been voted down by the city commission, the board has decided to propose paying the city for Brian James' services as rural fire chief. James would have full hiring and firing authority as well as responsibility for rural firefighter training. He would also be able to take the city truck on rural fire calls. The payment would be to compensate the city for the time James spends working on rural matters.

The commissioners gave their support for the proposal by consensus.

In other business:

• The commissioners voted to

See BREWSTER, Page 5

local markets

10:30 a.m.

Wheat — \$6.54 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.40
Corn — \$6.33 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.35
Milo — \$6.05 bushel
Soybeans — \$11.77 bushel
Posted county price — \$12.17
Millet — \$11.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$25.70 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

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Piano student gets highest score at state



Three Goodland High School piano students participated at the Regional Piano Contest on Saturday, Feb. 5, on the Fort Hays State University campus.

Brianna White received a I and went on to play at State Piano Contest at Tabor College in Hillsboro on Saturday, Feb. 18. At state she also received a I. She played "Fantasia in D" by W.A. Mozart.

Berkley White and Kristina Stasser received a II at regional.

Sophomores Brianna and Berkley White are the daughters of Brandon and Denise White.

Freshman Kristina Stasser is the daughter of Fred and Rachel Stasser.

Goodland High School piano student Brianna White practiced for the state competition last week. White was one of three students who went to regionals. She earned a I, which got her into the state competition.



College rider gets to finals

Northwest Tech freshman Mikel Kinsbury made the "short go" at the Kansas State University rodeo on Feb. 19 in Manhattan.

See Page 10

