

weather report



51°

10:30 a.m.
Monday

Today

• Sunset, 6:59 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:48 a.m.

• Sunset, 7 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 52 degrees
- Humidity 20 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds west 10 mph
- Barometer 29.56 inches and rising
- Record High today 90° (1907)
- Record Low today -17° (1965)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	80°
Low Sunday	40°
Precipitation	none
This month	0.01
Year to date	0.652
Below normal	0.91 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 56, winds breezy out of the north at 15 to 30 mph and a low around 27. Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 62, winds out of the north at 5 to 15 mph, a 50 percent chance of rain at night and a low around 42.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers, a high near 61 and a low around 38. Friday: Sunny with a high near 72 and a low around 44.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local markets



10:30 a.m.

Wheat — \$6.49 bushel	Posted county price — \$6.50
Corn — \$6.40 bushel	Posted county price — \$6.57
Milo — \$6.16 bushel	
Soybeans — \$12.30 bushel	Posted county price — \$12.96
Millet — \$11.50 hundredweight	
Sunflowers	
Oil current crop — \$26.20 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



Cowgirls lose two to Hays

The Goodland High School girls softball team lost their opening doubleheader to the Hays Indians on Thursday. They play again at home at 3 p.m. March 30.

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Dangerous Weather



Smoke darkened the skies over Yuma County, Colo., on Sunday afternoon as a grass and crop fire burned hundreds of acres. The fire was mostly contained Monday. Photo by Tony Rayl/Yuma Pioneer

Wind whips up Yuma County grass fire

Fed by wind and lack of moisture, a large fire burned up grass fields and corn stubble in nearby Yuma County, Colo., on Sunday.

The *Yuma Pioneer* reported investigators are still unsure what caused the fire, which started about 1:30 p.m. Sunday in a field about 10-15 miles south of U.S. 34 and eight miles east of the town of Yuma.

Authorities evacuated an area 13 miles long and 14 wide, including the 300-person town of Eckley. Evacuees are being housed in Wray and Yuma. Parts of U.S. 34 have been closed to traffic as well as many county roads in the area. Some were closed because the

reduced visibility from smoke was causing accidents.

Winds gusted anywhere from 50 to 70 mph, allowing the fire to jump over roads. *Pioneer* editor Tony Rayl said at least two homes and several farm buildings have been damaged or destroyed. Rayl said three firefighters were injured and were taken to Yuma District Hospital.

Firefighters have been able to get control of the fire. NBC News in Denver reported the fire was 50 percent contained Sunday night and 90 percent contained Monday morning. The wind died down early Monday morning, which helped stop the spread of the fire.

Evacuees from Eckley were allowed back about 9:15 p.m. Sunday night.

Area sees record highs from March heat wave

By Steve Haynes

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Hot enough for you?

This unseasonably warm March has now set two new record high temperatures. Thermometers read 78 degrees in Goodland last Tuesday, beating the old record of 77, set in 2007. On Saturday, Goodland beat the old St. Patrick's Day record of 83 with a new high of 85.

The temperature also reached 78 on Wednesday and Thursday, but record highs for those days are in the 80s. It reached 80 degrees Sunday. The record for March 18 is 88 degrees. Winds in Goodland gusted as high as 53 mph.

Jesse Lundquist, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said records tumbled across the area Tuesday. Burlington had 77, passing 75 in 1945; and Tribune posted 79, compared to 78 in 2005.

Why the warm temperatures? Lundquist said an upper-level ridge, or high-pressure area, was over the area.

"Some good south winds should bring up warm air from the south," he said, adding that a trough, or low, was expected Saturday and should cool things a bit.

"For this time of year, it's pretty strong," he said. "The dry air allows us to warm up pretty good. Low relative humidity will continue into next week."

That combination, wind and dry air, could cause the fire danger to spike over the weekend, he added.

"With hot and dry conditions, it's not the best time to be burning," Lundquist said. "The relative humidity is 10 to 15 percent."

"Any sort of a wind can quickly get a fire out of control."

Some relief was expected with a cold front today. The service had predicted a 20 percent chance of thunderstorm Monday through Wednesday with highs falling into the 60s, but as of Monday morning, the Service changed its prediction

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Yard burns in north Goodland



A mysterious grass fire quickly burned through the yard belonging to Vera Beneda at Second Street and Caldwell Avenue on Wednesday afternoon. Beneda said she was in the yard at the time, she grabbed the hose and got most of the fire out before neighbors heard her calling and came to help. The fire got near to her garage, but the only damage was to the yard. Beneda said she doesn't know what caused the fire. Photo by Vera Beneda

County burn ban still in place

The Sherman County commissioners put a burn ban in place last Tuesday, which will remain in effect until the county gets some significant moisture.

The ban was put in place on the recommendation of the Sherman

County Rural Fire Board because of the lack of moisture, high temperatures and high winds over the past several weeks.

Much of the tri-state area has been under Red Flag Warnings — meaning significant fire danger.

Sherman County treasurer resigns post

By Kevin Bottrell

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Sherman County Treasurer Iris Scheopner has submitted a letter of resignation after a meeting with the county commissioners.

The commissioners called Scheopner into their meeting last Tuesday to talk about mistakes and improperly done calculations in the paperwork coming out of her office. County Clerk Janet Rumpel said her staff was having to spend work hours on fixing mistakes,

and with an election coming up, they will no longer have time to spend on that.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad asked if Scheopner had enough staff to cover the work since one employee recently retired, but came back part-time. Scheopner said she had enough staff. Strnad also suggested Scheopner get additional training.

The commissioners called in the staff from the clerk and treasurer's offices. Commissioner Larry Enfield suggested both offices

close for a day to have extra training so all the staff would be doing things the same way.

Following the meeting Scheopner turned in a letter of resignation to the Sherman County Republican Committee. The committee thanked Scheopner for her years of service.

The committee will hold a convention next week to choose a new treasurer, who will serve the remainder of the term, which lasts until the end of the year. Any Republican is eligible for nomination, and those interested

in the position should contact Chairwoman Jeannie Schields at 899-5851 or 821-1446.

The treasurer's position is up for election this year. So far no one has filed.

In other business: Donna Terry, county health administrator, told the commissioners that she had hired a part-time employee to do a community assessment for chronic disease risk reduction.

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Legion honor guard



The American Legion Riders provided a motorcycle honor guard on Friday during services for J. Darel Graves, who died Feb. 15. Graves had served in the U.S. Army. The Legion Riders, based in Colby, provide honor guards for veterans on request. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Goodland students elected to state office

By Kevin Bottrell

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After a grueling competition, two Goodland High School sophomores have been named president and first vice president of the Kansas FCCLA.

Ian Bonsall was elected president and Amber Smith first vice president.

Smith said the election is a long process that begins with advisor Sarah Short approving their candidacy. The candidates go to a district competition, where they have to write a speech and answer a lengthy list of questions.

The candidates went on to the state competition in Hesston on March 3, where they had to go through two separate interviews, a 100-question test, give a speech and draft a business letter. An election panel chose eight students for the leadership positions. Smith said 15 students were vying for the eight spots.

The inauguration will be April 3. Bonsall and Smith will also preside over the State Leadership Confer-



Ian Bonsall and Amber Smith

ence, which will include many of the 5,000 Kansas FCCLA members.

"We're honored and super excited," Bonsall said. "We've had a number of officers over the years from Goodland and two national presidents."

Both students have been in FCCLA since they were eighth graders. That year they went to the national conference in Chicago. This year's conference will be in Orlando, Fla.

FCCLA students do community service as well as student leadership training. Bonsall said it is funded by the students themselves.

