


**weather report**

**46°**  
10:30 a.m.  
Thursday



**Today**  
• Sunset, 7:02 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
• Sunrise, 6:43 a.m.  
• Sunset, 7:03 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**  
• Soil temperature 48 degrees  
• Humidity 70 percent  
• Sky mostly cloudy  
• Winds light out of the northwest  
• Barometer 29.94 inches and steady  
• Record High today 81° (1967)  
• Record Low today -2° (1897)

**Last 24 Hours\***  
High Wednesday 58°  
Low Wednesday 40°  
Precipitation 0.59  
This month 0.60  
Year to date 1.73  
Below normal 0.90 inches

**The Topside Forecast**  
Today: Sunny with a high near 68, winds out of the south at 5 mph and a low around 40. Saturday: Sunny with patchy fog after midnight, a high near 77, winds out of south at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 45.

**Extended Forecast**  
Sunday: Sunny with a high near 79 and a low around 52. Monday: Mostly sunny and breezy with a high near 83 and a low around 49. Tuesday: Sunny with a high near 70 and a low around 36. Wednesday: Sunny with a high near 67.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

## Charges filed in local man's death

By Steve Haynes

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The driver of a pickup involved in a fatality last week in Brewster could face charges of drunk driving, negligent homicide and child endangerment, says Thomas County Sheriff Rodney Taylor.

Taylor said his office has been investigating possible criminal charges in the incident, while the Kansas Highway Patrol did the accident investigation and report. An autopsy answered some ques-

tions about the death, he said, but many conflicting stories have been circulating in the small county-line town—and in Colby and Goodland as well.

That's one reason, he said, that both agencies have put extra time in on the case. Officers were comparing reports and notes Tuesday afternoon.

"There's probably part of it that we'll never know what happened," the sheriff added, "unless it comes out in a civil suit."

The patrol's accident report, done by Trooper Adam Medicott, says a 2003 Ram pickup driven by James Allen House, 44, Brewster, backed from a parking space on Main Street near Kansas Avenue about 9:50 p.m. Sunday, March 10. The victim, Val G. Gallentine, 44, Goodland, approached the truck, the report says, then moved in front of the vehicle. The truck moved forward, striking the pedestrian, who by that time was in the middle of the street.

The report said Gallentine lost his

balance and fell, hitting his head on the street. At first, Taylor said, officers thought the blow might have been the main injury. However, the sheriff said the autopsy showed the man died of a crushed chest and internal injuries from being run over by the pickup. The head injury, while severe, apparently was not fatal, he said.

Taylor said the two men were long-time friends and had been drinking together before the accident. There was no indication of foul

play, he said, though earlier reports indicated the truck struck Gallentine while backing up.

"We know that Val did not suffer," the sheriff said. "We can say there were two grown men who, if they had it all to do over, and they were sober, they would do it differently."

"It's a bad deal."

The victim, a long-time salesman at Herl Chevrolet in Goodland, was widely known around the area.

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Firefighters used a small hose to wet down parts of a house in Brewster after a fire damaged the interior. Firefighters responded quickly and were able to get the fire under control, but the house is likely a total loss. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

## Brewster house catches fire Wednesday

By Kevin Bottrell

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A quick response from two Brewster firefighters brought a house fire under control Wednesday afternoon.

Brewster Fire Chief Willard Crumrine said occupant Deb Hatfield was not injured in the fire at 15 Nebraska Ave. — nearly under the Brewster water tower—but several dogs and a cat that had been inside the house were killed.

A neighbor called in the fire about 3:30 p.m. Volunteer fire fighter and City Manager Mike Shultz and another firefighter responded to the scene and were able to get the fire under control.

"I was really impressed with



The fire had been smoldering until the south-side window blew out, causing it to burst into flames.

those guys," Crumrine said.

The two fire fighters contained the fire to the living room and had it mostly out within the hour. Volunteers remained in and around the house wetting down hot spots. Both the city and rural fire trucks responded, as well as a Thomas County ambulance.

The cause of the fire wasn't know for certain yet, but Crumrine said it was probably electrical. The fire had been smoldering for some time, he said, and only flared up when it broke a window, allowing far more oxygen into the house. If the glass hadn't broken, he said, the fire might not have flared up.

Crumrine said the house appeared to be a total loss.

"Because it's so old, I think it won't be repairable," he said.

## Projects to alter traffic on I-70

Significant changes in the normal traffic pattern of I-70 began this week as one construction project continues and a second project gets underway along the corridor in Sherman and Thomas Counties.

The first project begins at the Colorado/Kansas state line and extends east to the Caruso Interchange (Exit 12). The second project starts at Edson (Exit 27) and extends eight miles east to the Sherman/Thomas County line.

Starting at the Colorado/Kansas state line and extending east to the Caruso Interchange (Exit 12), workers will close the eastbound passing lane and start the prep work required to switch traffic to a head-to-head configuration on or around April 2.

"The pavement markings along this stretch will significantly change in order to eventually place the east and westbound traffic in the eastbound lanes," said Department of Transportation Area Engineer Eric Oelschlagler.

The contractors' schedule calls for the westbound lanes to close on April 2. At that time, workers will begin removing the existing pavement before paving the 12 miles of driving lanes with 11.5 inches of new concrete material. The shoulders will be comprised of eight inches of new concrete material.

Along with the westbound lane closures, the westbound safety rest area will be closed from approximately April 2 to October 15. The westbound Ruleton interchange (Exit 9) will also be closed. The Caruso interchange, Kanorado port of entry weigh station and the eastbound safety rest area will all remain open and accessible to the traveling public.

County Roads 5, 8 and 10 will also be closed for up to a maximum of 90 days to repair the deck of the concrete boxes that carry traffic

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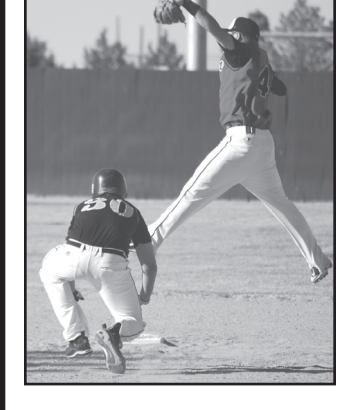
**local markets**

10:30 a.m.

Wheat — \$6.27 bushel  
Posted county price — \$6.42  
Corn — \$6.11 bushel  
Posted county price — \$6.47  
Milo — \$5.87 bushel  
Soybeans — \$12.07 bushel  
Posted county price — \$12.90  
Millet — \$11.50 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$26.10 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

## Cowboys lose opener

The Goodland Cowboys lost their opening game with the Burlington Cougars 4-3 after battling back to tie the game. They will play again next Friday at 3 p.m. at Scott City.

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## Wednesday, Thursday rainfall helpful for wheat crop

By Kevin Bottrell

*The Goodland Star-News*  
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Northwest Kansas saw its first significant precipitation in months over the past two days, something that will be a big boost to the fast-growing wheat crop.

Reports vary, but so far weather stations in Goodland and in the north of the county reported anywhere from .55 to .79 of an inch from 7 a.m. Wednesday to 7 a.m. Thursday.

The National Weather Service was predicting 60 to 70 percent chance of showers Wednesday and 40 percent Thursday, with a 10 percent chance of isolated thunderstorms Thursday night.

"That would sure help," said Larry Enfield, who grows wheat in northern Sherman County.

The wheat has just broken its winter dormancy, he said. The mild winter sped up the growth and did not produce much winter kill. Rain at this stage will bring up the subsoil moisture, in the layer underneath

the topsoil.

According to the weather service's unofficial reports, Goodland has received .64 of an inch of precipitation so far this year up to Wednesday night. Normally by this time the area has gotten 1.54 inches. Thursday's rain was not included in that figure.

Despite that dry weather, the wheat is looking good. Enfield said he had a pretty good stand last fall and a good root system so far this year. However, with a fast-growing crop, farmers may have to worry about a late freeze.

Jim Shroyer, K-State Extension crop production specialist, said in a March 6 release that the wheat could also be vulnerable to early-season insects and disease problems such as army cutworms, grain mites or greenbugs.

Shroyer recommended topdressing fields with nitrogen before the jointing stage. Enfield said many farmers have already done that, and he plans to apply his topdress soon.

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This storm was one of several that brought light rainfall to Sherman County on Wednesday afternoon. Rainfall totaled more than .79 of an inch in some areas. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News