


weather report

63°
10:30 a.m.
Thursday



Today
• Sunset, 7:09 p.m.

Saturday
• Sunrise, 6:32 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:10 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil temperature 52 degrees
• Humidity 53 percent
• Sky clear and sunny
• Winds northwest 20-30 mph
• Barometer 29.85 inches and steady

• Record High today 87° (1943)
• Record Low today 2° (1987)

Last 24 Hours*
High Wednesday 75°
Low Wednesday 35°
Precipitation none
This month .60
Year to date 1.11
Below Normal .69 inches

The Topside Forecast
Today: Sunny with a high near 79, winds out of the southwest at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 46.
Saturday: Sunny with a high near 85, winds out of the southwest at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 47.

Extended Forecast
Sunday: Sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 80, winds breezy and a low around 39.
Monday: Mostly sunny and breezy with a high near 59 and a low around 36.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.



Sherman County Rural firefighters sprayed water on a burning motor home Monday afternoon on Exit 12 at Caruso. The couple from Hot Springs, Ark., escaped without injury and unhooked their car they were towing. For more pictures, see Page 5. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Department busy with multiple fires

A motor home traveling east on I-70, stopped at exit 12 at Caruso caught fire Monday afternoon and was soon engulfed in flames. Winds fanned the flames. The call for help was answered by police, Sherman County Rural Fire Department and an ambulance from Goodland Regional Medical Center.

The home was driven by Thomas Taylor of Hot Springs, Ark., with his wife and their two dogs. The couple and their pets were not hurt and they had the presence of mind to unhook a car that was being towed behind the motor home. Their destination was Oklahoma City, Okla.

The motor home was a complete loss. The couple said they had just put new batteries in the vehicle and were having problems with a slide-out when they stopped at the exit to check.



The Sherman Rural Fire Department was called to the scene of this Conservation Reserve Program grass fire several miles northwest of Goodland Monday morning, just a few hours before the motor home caught fire on I-70. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Earlier that day, Sherman County firefighters responded to a grass fire northwest of Goodland. The call came in about 11:30 a.m. that grass fire in a Conservation Reserve Program field north of County Road 13 was on fire. Firefighters had the fire out within a few hours.

local markets

10:30 a.m.
Wheat — \$6.14 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.38
Corn — \$5.87 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.22
Milo — \$5.63 bushel
Soybeans — \$12.31 bushel
Posted county price — \$12.93
Millet — \$11.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$26.25 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.)

Democrats to caucus in Oakley on April 14

Kansas Democrats may have fewer sites and only one dominant candidate, but they still plan to caucus on Saturday, April 14.

The Kansas Democratic Party holds caucuses by State Senate district except for the more populous eastern areas. The 40th District, which includes Sherman County, will caucus at noon (Mountain Time) on Saturday, April 14, at Northwest Kansas

Educational Services, 703 W. Second St. in Oakley.

The party had a two-tier caucus system. The April 14 Local Unit Conventions, delegates to the Congressional District caucuses are selected. These delegates can support a candidate, or go as uncommitted. Anyone who is a registered Democrat, 17 or older

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County plans ambulance building

The Sherman County Commissioners are moving ahead with a new building for the ambulance department, aiming to have it done in advance of taking the service over from the hospital next year.

Final plans haven't been set yet, but the commissioners have been planning for some time. The current plan is to build a new building on an empty lot less than a block west of the current fire truck bays on West Eighth Street.

The site was chosen for its easy access to K-27, and because the county already owns the land.

The county may be able to pay for the new building using already available reserves or a lease-purchase agreement, but County Clerk Janet Rumpel said she will need a final answer on how much the building will cost before financing can be worked out. Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said the goal of the commissioners is to get the building without having to raise taxes.

Eventually, the building may also house the Sherman County Rural Fire Department. The building



This tank sits on county land at Eighth Street and Cattle Trail, which the commissioners are considering for a new fire and ambulance station. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

would be designed so that truck bays for the fire department could be easily added later. Rumpel said the two departments are different taxing entities, so the fire department portion will have to be looked at separately. In the meantime, the central offices and ambulance bays will be built first so that the ambulance service can move in right away when the county takes it over on Jan. 1.

Some details have yet to be decided, such as which direction the truck bay doors will face. The commissioners considered getting state or federal grants to help with construction, but they were told they would have to spend a lot more money to comply with the grant requirements. Norton County built their new fire building for several million dollars using grants.

The commissioners took a trip to St. Francis several weeks ago to look at Cheyenne County's new joint fire/ambulance building. That building cost about \$500,000, and was partially built using volunteer labor from the community. The commissioners plan to use the plans for that building as a basis for the new Sherman County building.

inside today

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Players recognized

Three students from the Goodland High School boys and girls basketball teams have been given All-League honors.

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Motorcyclist flown to Denver after crash

A Colorado man had to be airlifted to Denver Wednesday after crashing his motorcycle in the construction zone on I-70.

A Kansas Highway Patrol report said Mark Parker, 27, of Thornton, Colo., was driving west on I-70 near the Colorado border when he slammed on the brakes, causing him to lose control. He drove onto the shoulder of the road where the bike went onto its side and skidded into the ditch.

The Kanorado ambulance was called and Parker was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center before being airlifted to Denver.

The report said the reason Parker slammed on his brakes is unknown. I-70 from Caruso to the state line is now a construction zone, with lanes closed while crews work on a resurfacing project. The speed limit has been reduced to 60 mph through much of the 13-mile stretch.

Students to attend national DECA gathering

By Pat Schiefen
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Three students from Goodland High School DECA will be going to the DECA International Career Development Conference from Saturday to Tuesday, April 28 to May 1, at Salt Lake City the Goodland School Board heard on Monday night at their regular meeting.

The three, Mikail Freeman, Corey Davis and Josh Whisnant, took third at the Career Development Conference the first part of March in Kansas City, Mo.

They competed in the entrepreneurship event which includes research, 30-page paper and presentation. When the second place team did not want to go to Salt Lake City the Goodland team gets to go. They said they made up a fake business and researched on what difficulties a new business has.

Advisor Chase Topliff said he took nine boys to the competition. He said the Goodland chapter is the smallest club in their division.

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Flowers blooming



The yard of Tim McGrath at 11th and Broadway has many daffodils blooming with the tulips not far behind. The warm weather has produced an abundance of spring flowers and blooming trees. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News