

weather report

33°

noon Monday

Today

Sunset, 5:07 p.m.

Wednesday

Sunrise, 6:52 a.m.

Sunset, 5:08 p.m.

Midday Conditions

Soil temperature 30 degrees

Humidity 56 percent

Sky sunny

Winds northwest 15 mph

Barometer 30.13 inches and rising

Record High today 72° (1934)

Record Low today -13° (1989)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 29°

Low Sunday 7°

Precipitation .05 1" snow

The Topside Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high near 34, low around 13, winds north northwest 6-13 mph. Tuesday: cloudy with 20 percent chance of snow, high near 36, low near 21, winds south 13-29 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: cloudy with 60 percent chance of snow, high near 29, low around 15, winds east northeast 18-30 mph, low around 15. Thursday: cloudy with 20 percent chance of snow, high near 29, low around 15.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Pile of clothes causes house fire

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

A Goodland woman lost her home to a fire Friday after a pile of clothes around the water heater ignited, and the fire department came twice to fight the blaze.

Carol Pummer's house at 1202 Montana was damaged to a point that it probably can't be repaired, officials said.

Efforts to fight the fire faced some obstacles. A dispatcher had to send police officers to find the fire when the call to report it was disconnected. After fire fighters thought they had the fire put out, it came back, and they were called back for another fight.

Fire Chief Dean Jensen said someone called the fire department service number rather than 911 on Friday, and the phone went dead before they finished the message. Dispatchers looked up the name Pummer and sent police officers to each house listed in that name to look for the fire.

"I felt dispatch did the right thing," Jensen said, "to get the police officers to go to the houses."

Fire fighters went to the scene expecting to rescue someone, but no one was in the house. The message said there was someone sleeping in the basement, Jensen said, but there wasn't.

The fire appeared to have started by clothes being around the water heater, the chief said, adding that there should be at least six feet of clearance around a heater.



Mike Rubio listened to another fireman outside the house at 1202 Montana, where they were fighting a fire Friday. The firemen had to

make two trips to the house, as the fire made a comeback shortly after they left.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Jensen said he doesn't believe the house can be repaired.

"The fire did an awful lot of damage," he said. "I don't foresee them being able to move in."

Though the house was badly damaged, the chief said his firefighters did a good job.

"Our firefighters are volunteers," he said. "They did a fantastic job."

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.61 bushel

New wheat — \$3.47

Posted county price — \$3.64

Corn — \$2.58 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.55

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$2.40 bushel

Soybeans — \$7.29 bushel

Posted county price — \$7.68

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$11.25 cwt.

NuSun — \$11.50

Confection — \$16/\$9 cwt.

Pinto beans — Withdrawn

(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News

Dead trees come out of Chambers Park



The weather was cool, but the city crew moved into Chambers Park on Thursday and cut down seven dead trees. The trees were gone by the weekend, with stump removal to follow. The tree rings gave this honey locust an age of 83 years.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

Health Fair Saturday at Activity Center

Kids, adults and seniors can find out just how healthy they are at the Sherman County Health Fair from 8-11 a.m. Saturday at the Goodland Activities Center.

Area organizations will provide information on nutrition, child care, child abuse, breast cancer, mentoring opportunities and other topics.

Free blood pressure checks will be available, along with strength/flexibility testing, height/weight evaluation, oxygen saturation testing, posture analysis, testing for colon cancer, and hearing and vision screening.

There will be drawings for prizes donated by area businesses and individuals, and babysitting will be provided.

Parents can get a picture ID for their children from the Goodland Police Department as part of the Ident-a-Kid program. Smart Start for Kids will have a "make a brain" project to show how fragile the brain is.

The Northwest Kansas Prevention Center will have information

about child abuse and neglect, thumbprint magnets and information about Internet safety and shaken baby syndrome.

Goodland Regional Medical Center will have pulmonary function screens and results of blood profiles prior to the fair. Those who had blood profiles can talk to doctors about their results.

The Regional Prevention Center and Harvest America will have information about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and information on family health. Big Brothers/Big Sisters will have information on mentoring. And the host will have information on memberships and the Walk Kansas program. There will be tours of the building.

Other organizations who will have booths are Med Link Mobility, the Kansas Highway Patrol, American Cancer Society, Golden Chiropractic Clinic, the Neighborhood Watch Program, Tender Love Home Care, Sherman County Extension and the Kansas Breast and Cervical Cancer Initiative.

Search nets two for drugs

A search warrant Thursday led law officers to a house in Kanorado, where they arrested a man and a woman on drug possession charges but failed to find the meth lab they thought was in the house.

Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson said the search was conducted Thursday evening at 208 Locust in Kanorado, and Melesio Hernandez, 39, and Dinia Ledesma,

36, were arrested on charges of possession of meth, cocaine and drug paraphernalia.

He said their bond has been set at \$10,000. Both were being held in the Bastille.

"This was part of an ongoing undercover investigation," Whitson said, adding deputies were assisted by the KBI, the Quad County Drug Task Force and Goodland Police.

County leader in regional recycling program

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Goodland collected a total of 1,412 cubic yards of recyclable material last year, the top total tonnage in the East Central Recycling group, county commissioner heard at their meeting on Friday.

Dave Daniels, the county representative on the recycling board and a city commissioner, said he had received the recycling figures at a meeting in Las Animas, Colo., earlier in the month.

Daniels said Goodland was third in the entire program behind La

Junta and Lamar, Colo., which are twice the size of Goodland. In the East Central group, Burlington is second with 1,029 cubic yards.

Daniels said the recycling board talked about baling cardboard at the last meeting. He said Lamar has a cardboard program and is selling the bales to Stone Container Corp. for its paper mill in Snowflake, Ariz.

He said the counties in the group were interested to hear about the large baler Sherman County was looking at, and that it might be possible to work with the recycling group to bring cardboard here to be

baled.

Looking at the figures for recycling, Daniels said the total looks good, but when that is compared to the amount per person being recycled, Goodland is at 27 percent while many of the smaller Colorado counties are at 60 to 70 percent. He suggested the county should consider an educational program to remind the people where the recycle containers are and what can be recycled.

"If we can increase the amount we recycle, it benefits us in more than one way," Daniels said. "We help

the recycling program and would have to add more containers, but everything we keep out of the landfill saves money and space."

Most of what Goodland collected was newspaper, with 1,198 cubic yards, but there was 18 yards of clear glass, 14 of brown glass and 183 of tin and aluminum cans.

The commissioners agreed it would be good to encourage more recycling, and Commissioner Kevin Rasure suggested getting community organizations involved with some kind of challenge.

On a related matter, Commis-

sioner Mitch Tiede said he Kenny Griffith and Daryl West had gone to a household hazardous waste meeting in Hays and the next scheduled collection date for Sherman County is April 3. He said the counties were all represented at the meeting. They plan to have someone from Sherman County take training before the collection day, he said, or someone will have to come out from Hays to supervise the collection again.

The problem is that the state has turned the training over to a private company, which is working on the dates for the class.

Cowboys drop Cougars

Junior David Livengood (No. 23) pressed to keep a Burlington player from passing the ball during the Cowboys' 90-68 victory over the Cougars on Thursday night at Max Jones Fieldhouse. See Photo and story on Page 9.