

Third snowiest March day helps break dry spell

SNOW, from Page 1

closed between Colby and Goodland because of the blizzard and icy conditions.

I-70 was closed eastbound from Goodland and westbound from Colby. Officers said the highway was open west into Colorado, but it was closed at Burlington.

"If they head west, we might find them by June," a trooper joked.

Sheriff's deputies and Goodland police kept busy checking on reports of cars stuck in the snow or sliding off the road.

Parking near the Interstate was packed with trucks waiting for I-70 to reopen. The Kansas Department of Transportation reopened the freeway about 3:30 a.m. Tuesday.

No injuries were reported in any of the accidents, and city street crews were out about 2 a.m. Tuesday clearing the storm routes, then other streets.

The crews plowed the streets and then hauled piles of snow out of the downtown.

"The street crews did a wonderful job," said City Manager Wayne Hill. "We closed down the city building because I felt it was better to get people home, and we weren't having anyone come in to the offices."

Moisture gives wheat crop 'great boost'

WHEAT, from Page 1

"When the wheat begins to grow, it can be more vulnerable, but with this shot of moisture and the snow will slow it down a bit.

"This is the best thing that could have happened to us. It will get everything off to a good start this spring.

Crop condition reports from the Kansas Department of Agriculture last week showed just .07 of an inch of moisture for February, and Belshe said the next report or two should change quite a bit.

He said the reports showed topsoil moisture at 50 percent short and 44 percent very short in February.

"This was a good snow all the way across Kansas," Belshe said. "This will give the guys something to think about if they are planning spring crops. "Maybe we can get into a more normal level of moisture."

Meteorologist Scott Blaier said the National Weather Service office in Goodland recorded 13.5 inches of snow between 3:30 a.m. and midnight on Monday.

The snow was wet, with a liquid content of 1.73 inches. That brings March's total to 1.91 inches and

total moisture to 2.49 inches for the year, .86 inches above normal.

"This was not a record," Blaier said, "but it was the seventh snowiest day. It made it into the Top 10."

He said the snowiest day ever recorded here was Oct. 25, 1997, when 19.3 inches fell.

For March, the storm was the third heaviest on record. He said the top storm was on March 22 in 1897, when 14 inches fell. Blaier said the storm Monday was just a bit shy of moving in to second place, which was on March 1, 1940, when 13.6 inches of snow fell in a 24-hour period.

He said there might be a little more snow this week, but the area should be looking at sunny skies by today.

"It should start being a whole lot nicer, with a high Friday in the mid 40s," he said, "and a little warmer on Saturday with the high in the mid 50s."

Blaier said the office put up a web page dedicated to the storm with maps of the snow levels in northwest Kansas, and photos from many area towns.

Go to www.nwkansas.com/gldwebpages/gsmmain.html and click on National Weather Service, Goodland. Once at the main weather page, click on winter storm March 20.

"I kept calling Rich Simon (public works director) and asked him if there was anything I could do to help. I asked him when he went to

work, and he said 11 p.m. Monday. "There wasn't any sense in trying to plow the streets until the snow stopped. I feel there should be a

great thank-you to the men for their work. I know they had a very long day and are dog tired." Chief Ray Smee said his officers

Seniors hear details of joint road program

ROADS, from Page 1

the state will step in and fix it, said Rasure. Another option is to pay for the road work with property taxes. That would mean a 33 percent increase for 15 years. The one-cent sales tax would spread the impact out, he said.

There will be a lot going on this summer, Dechant said, including repaving I-70 from Goodland to the state line, rebuilding K-27 going south, construction at the Goodland Energy Center and the all-school reunion. Having the sales tax in place will mean money from the extra business and people, he said.

Rasure said, the Kansas State Legislature passed a bill allowing

the tax in near-record time. The tax rate would rise to 7.55 percent if the issue is passed. The road work will start as soon as possible once the tax is passed, he said, as soon as the engineering is done and the contracts are approved. The tax will end when the road work is paid for.

Some of the roads will have asphalt removed and then an overlay applied and some will be completely rebuilt, Dechant said.

Projects include:

- Replacement in concrete of the intersection of Eighth and Caldwell.
- Asphalt mill and overlay on Caldwell north from Eighth to the bridge north of the airport.
- Asphalt mill and overlay of

Eighth Street from D'Lao to Cattle-trail.

- New concrete on 17th Street from the railroad crossing at Cherry to Main, including storm sewers and water lines.
- Old U.S. 24 from Colorado to the Thomas County line, mill three inches or more and repave with new asphalt.
- Eighth Street from K-27 to County Road 14, mill and asphalt overlay.
- County Road 14 from Northern Sun Industries to Eighth, rebuild with concrete.
- County Road 16, which runs by the golf course, pave with asphalt. "More than golfers use that facility," said Rasure. The Goodland

Activities Center, Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter, Goodland Regional Medical Center and the Northwest Kansas Technical College have used the club for fund raising, he noted. The high school golf team uses the course and this year will host the state tournament for Class 2A schools.

He said the roads were picked because they needed fixing and had high volume traffic.

Ballots are ready this week for early voting, said Rasure.

"A yes vote supports the project," he told the seniors.

"It will be a boon if it passes," said Donna Swager, administrator for Wheatridge Acres.

"Good things are happening in Goodland," Fairbanks said, "and we need to support them."

Hotel investors ask city for help with project

HOTEL, from Page 1

County Commissioner Kevin Rasure said it is possible the hotel would not fit under the abatement program, but there is a higher level of tax rebate for this size of project.

Froggatte said the bond issue is an option under a state law which allows a city or county to issue industrial revenue bonds to help with economic development projects.

City Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said it looked like a great project, but asked if the percentage of abatement could be negotiated.

Froggatte said that could be discussed before the public hearing. "We always ask for 100 percent," he said. "We can do something dif-

ferent than 100 percent, but that would be up to the investors and the city. Woofter is asking as a partner with the Irvins to find out what he can expect from the city to determine if he can come here and build this hotel."

Dechant asked if there would be any expense or risk to the city. Froggatte said there would be no expense to the city to issue the bonds, and the city would not be obligated to pay or guarantee them.

Les Frazier, a retired businessman, said he thinks industrial revenue bonds are a great thing, and that he and his partners had that support when they built the original Husky truck stop on the same site.

"I think these are great things when properly handled," Frazier said. "We want to make it work. We need it. These are good things, but I want to caution the commission to be sure they are handling this properly."

March 24 -30

The Shaggy Dog
PG

PG: Some mild rude humor

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SPORTS TELEVISION SCHEDULE

Saturday
9 a.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn.
10 a.m. ESPN NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament Semifinal #1 from San Antonio
11 a.m. CBSNCAADivision II Basketball Championship From Springfield, Mass.
12 p.m. ESPN NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament Semifinal #2 from San Antonio
NBC Golf Players Championship
1 p.m. ESPN2 Tennis Masters Series NASDAQ 100 Open: Early Rounds from Key Biscayne, Fla.
FOX Auto Racing NASCAR Busch Series in Bristol, Tenn.
WGN MLB Baseball Spring Training Oakland Athletics vs Chicago Cubs from Mesa, Ariz.
2:30 p.m. CBS NCAA Basketball Tournament Regional finals
3 p.m. ESPN2 CITGO Racing to the Kentucky Derby Lanes End/Rushaway from Florence, Ky.
4 p.m. ESPN2 NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament Division II Championship from Hot Springs, Ark.
6 p.m. ESPN2 Tennis Masters Series NASDAQ 100 Open: Early Rounds from Key Biscayne, Fla.
7 p.m. ESPN NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament Semifinal #1 from Albuquerque, N.M.
9 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn.
9:30 p.m. ESPN2 NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament

Semifinal #2 Albuquerque Semifinal 2 from Albuquerque, N.M.
10 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter SportsCenter at the Players Championship Third Round Highlight Show from Ponte Vedra, FL
11:30 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn.
Sunday
10 a.m. ESPN NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament Semifinal #1 from Cleveland
11 a.m. ABC NBA Basketball 76ers at Pacers
UNIV Fútbol UNAM Pumas at Toluca Diablos from Bambonera
11:30 a.m. FOX Auto Racing NASCAR Nextel Cup in Bristol, Tenn.
NBC Golf Players Championship
12 p.m. ESPN PBA Bowling PBA World Championship from Indianapolis
ESPN2 NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament Semifinal #2 from Cleveland
12:30 p.m. CBS NCAA Basketball Tournament Regional finals
1:30 p.m. ABC Auto Racing IRL IndyCar Series in Homestead, Fla.
2 p.m. WGN NBA Basketball Chicago Bulls at Boston Celtics from The FleetCenter
3 p.m. ESPN2 Tennis Masters Series NASDAQ 100 Open: Early Rounds from Key Biscayne, Fla.

5 p.m. ESPN2 NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament Semifinal #1 from Bridgeport, Conn.
5:30 p.m. ESPN NBA Basketball New Jersey Nets at Detroit Pistons from The Palace of Auburn Hills
7:30 p.m. ESPN2 NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament Semifinal #2 from Bridgeport, Conn.
9 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn.
Morning
8 a.m. ESPN2 Cold Pizza from New York
Monday
11 a.m. ESPN2 Tennis Masters Series NASDAQ 100 Open: Early Rounds from Key Biscayne, Fla.
1 p.m. ESPN Baseball Tonight Fantasy Draft Special
ESPN2 Tennis Masters Series NASDAQ 100 Open: Early Rounds from Key Biscayne, Fla.
4 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn.
5 p.m. ESPN NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament Regional Final
ESPN2 Tennis Masters Series NASDAQ 100 Open: Early Rounds from Key Biscayne, Fla.
7 p.m. ESPN NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament Regional Final
9 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn.
8 a.m. ESPN2 Cold Pizza from New York

borrowed four-wheel-drive trucks to get around and help people who were out getting stuck.

"We really didn't have much trouble," Smee said, "once we had the four-wheel-drive trucks. Our cars were getting stuck, and the only way to get around was the four-wheel drives."

Smee said he felt the way the storm came in made it easier on Goodland.

"Colby was getting hit before we were," Smee said, "and they were closing the road down before we thought about it. Colorado was getting hit as well, and had the roads closed."

"We did not have to open any shelters, but then we did not have the traffic we faced in November. I think we can handle storms like this, especially with the help of the four-wheel-drive vehicles."

Hill said the city crew hauled the snow away from town and piled it along the railroad right of way south

of the city shop. "I know there was a huge amount of snow," Hill said.

The manager estimated that for each block of Main, the city cleared 133 cubic yards of snow, about 15 truck loads per block.

For the length of Main from First to 17th, that meant moving 2,261 cubic yards of snow, and at least 255 truckloads to carry it away.

The pile of snow is getting larger as the city clears the side streets, and Hill said the total would be three or four times what was taken from Main.

"We have to get the piles of snow off the streets," he said, "because of the potential for long-term damage from repeated thawing and freezing."

The street crews made a second sweep up Main on Wednesday, hoping the weathermen were wrong about the potential for another two inches overnight.



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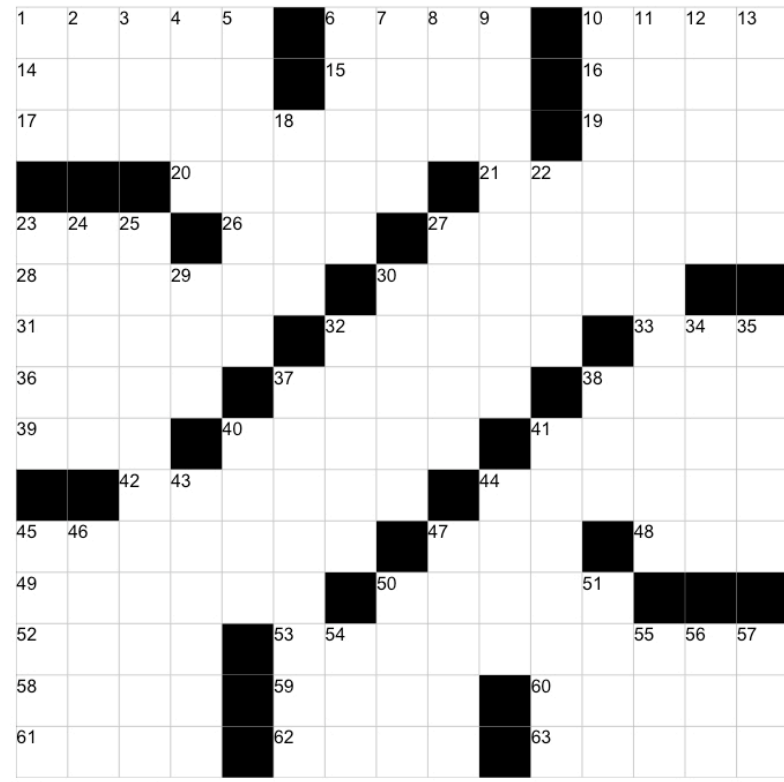
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Crossword Puzzle

Where's Johnny?

ACROSS

1. Moonshiner's setup
6. Side order with a burger
10. Lends a hand to
14. "M*A*S*H" land
15. Mrs. Dithers, in "Blondie"
16. Pusher pursuer
17. Inside trader in '80s headlines
19. One-named New Ager
20. Barely adequate
21. Elke of film
23. Pas' mates
26. Tram load
27. Myna's forte
28. Gladiators' workplaces
30. Alaskan brown bear
31. Braid of hair
32. Car parker
33. Ambulance letters
36. Pre-Easter period
37. Gogol's "___ Bulba"
38. Pigsty fare
39. Upper-left key
40. Coffee add-in, for many
41. Shire of "Rocky" films
42. Beat to the finish line
44. Writers of bad checks
45. Aspirant, informally
47. Break a Commandment
48. '60s-'70s war locale, briefly
49. Climate-affecting current
50. Alerts via pager
52. Pub pints
53. Mythical coffee farmer in ads



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52. Pub pints
53. Mythical coffee farmer in ads
58. Pink, at the chophouse
59. Ticklish Muppet
60. Urban pollutant
61. River of Hades
62. Sorrowful drop
63. Knight's mount
12. Utility room appliance
13. Like a haunted house
18. Dinghy propellers
22. Skip over
23. Bowling pin wood here
24. Van Gogh painted here
25. James Bond portrayer
27. Back tooth
29. Coll. hoops event
30. DKNY's Donna
32. Clear as mud
34. Ballerina Shearer
35. Muscle cramp, e.g.
37. Kind of airplane engine
38. Minded baby
40. Spider-Man creator Lee
41. Some kitchenware
43. Like many hair salons
44. Ukraine's capital
45. Becomes frayed
46. ___ once (suddenly)
47. Ventriloquist ___ Wences
50. Crimson Tide, for short
51. Parking meter opening
54. Suffix with glob
55. Go kaput
56. Language suffix
57. Z, to a Brit

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