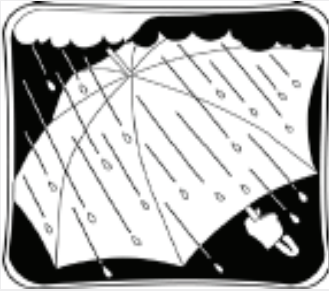


Weather Corner



Tonight...Mostly cloudy. A chance of thunderstorms in the evening...Then a chance of light rain showers after midnight. Lows in the upper 40s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the south after midnight. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly sunny. Cooler...Windy. A chance of light rain and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Highs around 60. North winds 15 to 25 mph increasing to 25 to 30 mph in the afternoon. Gusts up to 40 mph. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Colder...Breezy. Patchy frost after midnight. Lows in the lower 30s. North winds 15 to 25 mph becoming northwest around 10 mph after midnight.

Sunday...Mostly sunny. Patchy frost in the morning. Highs in the upper 60s. Light winds becoming southwest around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Not as cool. Lows in the lower 40s.

Monday...Mostly sunny. Warmer. Highs in the upper 80s.

Magazine photographer displays work in Goodland

By Sharon Corcoran

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If you’ve always thought of Kansas as a flat land with nothing to look at, *National Geographic* photographer Jim Richardson wants to prove you wrong. Some of his best evidence is displayed at the Carnegie Arts Center this month.

Richardson’s photos of the Kansas Flint Hills, many of which appear in the April 2007 edition of the magazine, will be displayed at the center through Sunday, May 25.

A Kansas native and Lindsborg resident, Richardson took photos for the 22-page feature section “The Flint Hills: A Kansas Treasure.” The exhibit includes 32 large-scale photographs.

The rolling hills, carpeted with lush emerald-green grass, fire snaking across the prairie, smoke clouds billowing over the burned ground, fireflies flitting over an alfalfa field, spiderwort blossoms, primrose, prairie chickens, “amber waves of grain,” red sumac leaves, even the Milky Way sparkling in the night sky, were all captured in glimpses of divine beauty by Richardson’s camera.

“I come from Kansas, so I’ve always known that my state suffers from an inferiority complex,” Richardson says in his notes on the magazine’s web site (ngm.nationalgeographic.com).

“I went out determined that the Flint Hills ... wouldn’t be playing second fiddle to other, more famous American landscapes in the pages of *National Geographic*. So this story was a mission of sorts.”

He provides a bird’s eye view of the hills and a man’s eye view of birds.

“Having the luxury to do aeri-



Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Sam Galden (above), a freshman at Goodland High School, found that “Under the Milky Way,” one of 32 large-scale photographs by *National Geographic* photographer Jim Richardson at the Carnegie Arts Center, is taller than her arm span as she looked at the exhibit Saturday.

al photography ... was the high point of this assignment,” he said, “from a professional as well as a personal point of view.”

He said the hills were difficult to photograph on the ground, that what he saw with his eye simply wasn’t captured by the camera. But once he got up in the air, he could see the contours of the hills, the soft, rolling tops, jutting edges of the valleys and “waves” of grass.

Richardson nearly lost his telephoto lens in the soot while shoot-

ing the fires and came face to face with a prairie chicken at the “booming grounds” where they mate.

He said he gave the bird a slap on the rear to get it out of his way. And he learned the value of fire in maintaining the grasslands.

Each spring, he said, the ranchers burn off the winter overburden of dried grass to make way for new spring growth.

If they don’t do this, he said, the prairie could turn to forest.

“Without human intervention,”

wrote Verlyn Klinkenborg in the article that accompanies Rich-

ardson’s photos, “the Flint Hills would burn more randomly than they do now, creating a broader range of habitats than frequent burns allow.”

But without the burns, he said, trees would take over the grasslands.

Seen from the air, Richardson said, the fires were beautiful, but on the ground, they were real and potentially dangerous.

But that danger is short-lived. Within days, one of the picture captions says, the black earth shows green again, as new shoots grow from roots unscathed by the flames.

Within weeks, showy evening primroses spread their petals, joining a wildflower pageant 650 species strong.

The primroses are joined by purple spiderwort blossoms, but slow down, the caption says, they are only one inch wide and close to the ground and last only one day..

The Flint Hills extend from near the Nebraska border south into Oklahoma. The heart of the region is bordered by I-70 on the north, I-35 and K-177 on the east and K-15 on the west. A national scenic byway runs for 48 miles from Council Grove to Cassoday.

Winter wheat harvest exceeds expectations

WICHITA (AP) — Surpassing expectations, the 2008 winter wheat harvest in Kansas was forecast to top 379.1 million bushels, industry leaders said Thursday.

That was the consensus of about 60 farmers and others trade officials who spent three days checking fields across the state as part of the Wheat Quality Council’s annual winter wheat tour.

The announcement was made at the end of the tour on the floor of the Kansas City Board of Trade.

“While not by any means a

bumper crop, it is an average to above-average crop that beat everybody’s expectations,” said Aaron Harries, director of marketing for Kansas Wheat.

Yields averaged 43.3 bushels per acre statewide. The best wheat fields were in Dickinson, Morrison and Saline counties on his leg of the tour across the state, Harries said. He added that participants also reported good stands of wheat around south-central Kansas.

Last fall, 9.9 million acres of winter wheat were planted.

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