

weather report



42°
noon
Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 7:14 p.m.
Saturday
• Sunrise, 6:24 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:15 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 44 degrees
• Humidity 89 percent
• Sky cloudy
• Winds northwest 17 mph
• Barometer 29.93 inches and rising
• Record High today 86° (1942)
• Record Low today 8° (1920)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 61°
Low Wednesday 40°
Precipitation 0.04
This month 0.04
Year to date 0.97
Below normal 1.22 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 60, winds out of the west at 10-15 mph and a low around 32.
Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 70, winds out of the south at 10-30 mph and a low around 32.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 62 and a low around 29.
Monday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent rain at night, a high near 67 and a low around 38.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$9.20 bushel
Posted county price — \$9.51
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$5.54 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.58
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$5.20 bushel
Soybeans — \$10.83 bushel
Posted county price — \$11.21
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$7 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Confection — \$30/\$20 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)
(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



Cowgirls win 3 games

Freshman Ashley Archer pitched against the Liberal Redskins Monday at Centennial Park. The Cowgirls won 17-9. Goodland had a 3-1 record, and were in Scott City Thursday and play in Colby today at 3 p.m. Photos, story on Page 12.

County now under burn ban

By Tom Betz

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Sherman County commissioner declared a countywide burn ban at a brief special meeting Tuesday morning because dry and windy conditions were allowing dirt to blow from some of the Conservation Reserve Program lands that have been burned.

Commissioners Kevin Rasure and Chuck Thomas were present, but Commissioner Mitch Tiede was unavailable for the meeting. The ban will be reviewed when commissioners meet again Tuesday.

Lonnie Whiteker and Lynn Ihrig, members of the Sherman County Conservation District board, said they favored at least a temporary

burn ban to give them some time to have people from the local and regional offices of federal agencies look at the blowing areas.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has told farmers to burn off old grass on Conservation Reserve land, but the board members said, as dry as it is, that just allows wind erosion after a burn.

Whiteker said he understands how beneficial burning can be, but that what he has read says it depends on having good soil moisture. He said the land in Sherman County does not have much moisture.

Rasure said he could see putting a temporary burn ban on until the commissioners meet Tuesday morning.

Whiteker said the area supervisor for the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service is to be in the county Thursday to look at the blowing areas. He said Dennis Mote, executive director of the Sherman County office of the U.S. Farm Service Agency office, had been out to look at them already.

"We are trying to address this," Whiteker said, "and we should have an answer by your meeting on Tuesday."

Ihrig said he has some land along K-27 that has to be burned and worries about having dirt blow across the highway.

Rasure made the motion for a burn ban effective immediately, to be reviewed Tuesday. Thomas seconded and the vote was 2-0.

Whiteker asked if the ban could be limited to the Conservation Reserve Program land and not affect everyone else in the county.

Rasure said the county resolution calls for a total burn ban, and there is no way to pick and choose who is affected.

"We need to get the federal people to understand what this is doing out here," he Whiteker.

"If we had the moisture like we had last year, it would not be a problem," Thomas said.

The meeting began at 8 a.m. and adjourned at 8:06 a.m. County Clerk Janet Rumble said it had to be the shortest meeting she had seen in the more than 20 years she has been in office.

Cowboy poet entertains, challenges audience

By Tom Betz

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Mixing cowboy poetry and a message about the future of rural Kansas, Ron Wilson, who calls himself the "poet lariat" from Manhattan, entertained and challenged the audience at the annual Farm-City Banquet on Tuesday at the Goodland Elks Lodge.

Wilson called his topic "CSI Sherman County," but it wasn't about crime scene investigation.

He said "C" was for collaboration, and said he was pleased to see the cooperation shown in Sherman County by the annual banquet bringing farmers and business people together. He said in today's high-tech world, collaboration is what makes rural Kansas a good place to live.

In a poem called "Getting Down to Basics," Wilson talked about a nuclear submarine. When a Texas Congressman asked how long the submarine could stay submerged the admiral giving the talk said the exact figures were classified, but told the congressman the submarine could stay submerged as long as it had food for the crew.

He said the "S" was for seizing homegrown opportunities and being ready to look for ways to expand on and grow efforts found in our communities.

Wilson urged the audience of more than 180 to be true to rural values. Being true to ourselves is what rural Kansas is all about, he said. The quality of life is a tremendous asset out here.

The "I" stood for a daily commitment to improvement, Wilson said, and with a commitment to improvement, the people of rural Kansas can continue to prove to the rest of the state the country that this a great place to live.

He told a story about a man who had died after a long life and when he was taken to Heaven, he asked St. Peter what Hell was like.



Cowboy poet Ron Wilson was speaker, entertainer at the annual Farm-City Banquet Tuesday.

St. Peter said he would show him, and took the man down to Hell, where the man sees big banquet tables with lots of food and beautiful surroundings. He said that wasn't what he thought Hell would be.

St. Peter told him to look closer, and the man saw that all of the people had their arms bound to boards so they couldn't get to the food. The man said he understood and St. Peter took him on up to Heaven.

The man stared in disbelief, because he saw more beautiful tables with lots of food and the people had

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Retired banker named person of the year

By Tom Betz

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A highlight of the annual Farm-City Banquet was the announcement of the Sherman County Business Person of the Year, a retired Goodland banker who likes antique cars and radio controlled airplanes.

Mel Pfau, who retired from Bankwest of Kansas seven years ago, received a standing ovation when Steve Duell announced him as the winner. Duell read the nomination information on behalf of Carrol Mogge, last year's award winner.

Pfau said he was honored to receive the award. He had caught his wife Linda on the phone that morning but all he heard her say was "well, it is April Fools," getting a laugh from the audience.

"The time we have lived in Goodland has been a fantastic journey for us," he said. "We have gotten to know so many wonderful people and enjoy some good neighborhood



Pfau

get-togethers. Everything has been great.

"We had a chance to move away and we just decided this was our home and where we want to stay and be part of Goodland. Thank you very much for this."

The nomination said Pfau grew up as one of eight children and the youngest of six boys going to school in Holyoke, Colo. He attended Colorado A&M College (now Colorado State University) in Fort Collins, and after two years in the Army, graduated in May 1959.

While a senior at A&M, he met his wife on a blind date. They were married in her home town of Boulder, Colo. in 1961 and moved to his family farm near Holyoke.

Daughter Kelli was born in 1964 and son Jon was adopted in 1968. The Pfau family kept a foster home for

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Talent show to feature variety of entries

By Sharon Corcoran

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Get out your dancing shoes, warm up your guitar or polish up the comedy routine you've always dreamed of doing.

An upcoming amateur show will give you the chance to show off your talent, have fun, win prizes and raise money for scholarships.

If you don't have a talent you're ready to take to the stage, contestants will need an audience to cheer them and vote for "Best of Show."

The parents of a 5-year-old who died three years ago of a brain tumor have been planning the show to honor her and to raise money to perpetuate her memorial scholarship.

Brian and Janda Linin have been working with a committee to plan the show, "Goodland's Got Talent," to raise money for scholarships for Goodland graduates.

The performance will be at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 12, in the Goodland High School auditorium. Anyone wanting to compete can enter at the Goodland Activities Center, online at www.rightcombinationdance.com or by e-mail to Janda Linin at jlinin@st-tel.net

When Brianna died, her mother said, the Nu Phi Mu sorority set up a scholarship fund in her name.

"I knew that I wanted to do something that would perpetuate that fund," she said. "Personality-wise for Brianna, this is right up her alley. She liked performing and being in the spotlight."



Grace Cole and Cienna Brannick practiced Tuesday for their performance at the Goodland's Got Talent competition Saturday, April 12.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

A talent show is something the community didn't have, Linin said, that can be done every year. She said they plan to have the talent show each year and just build the fund up until 2017, when Brianna's class will graduate. Then the first scholarship will be awarded to one of her classmates.

The goal for the first show is 25 acts. They'd like to see all kinds of talent entries, she said, including singing, playing an instrument, dancing, comedy, magic and skits. Although the scholarships are for Sherman County students, she said, talent entries can be from anywhere.

Linin said there is a \$25 entry fee for each act and tickets will be \$5 for adults and \$3 for students, or \$15 for a family.

They are also raising money with votes for the "fan"-tastic finale. Voters can put money in jars at each of Goodland's four banks, Frontier Ag, any Goodland school or the school district office.

Three groups have agreed to perform, Linin said, and whichever one raises the most money will close the show. Jessica Kannady, owner of the Right Combination Dance Studio, will choreograph a piece next week for the winner to perform.

The groups are the Blues Brothers, four guys from Frontier Ag, Josh Dechant, Dan Duell, Garton Slovacek and Ben Brandvick; the

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Brianna Linin enjoyed having her face painted.

Kindergartner's life remembered through special scholarship

Friends and family of a kindergartner who died of a brain tumor have planned a talent show to raise money for her memorial scholarship and to keep her memory alive.

Goodland's Got Talent will be at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 12, in the high school auditorium, raising money for a memorial scholarship for Brianna

Linin.

Brianna was born April 20, 1999, in Shawnee, the daughter of Brian and Janda Linin and was a kindergartner at West Elementary School when she died March 4, 2005. She was diagnosed with cancer June 9, 2004, at Children's Hospital in Denver and over the next six months underwent

two surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation.

In January 2005, she got sick again, and scans showed that her tumor was growing. After considering the options, including experimental treatments, her father said, the family decided Brianna should spend her last days at home. She had an aggres-

sive type of brain tumor that doctors told the family probably only started growing a few months before she was diagnosed.

Anyone who wants to make tax-deductible donations to her scholarship fund can do so through the Sherman County Community Foundation, Mrs. Linin said.