Volume 76, Number 29

Twelve Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735



Thursday

Today Sunset, 7:21 p.m. Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:14 a.m. • Sunset, 7:22 p.m.

### **Midday Conditions**

- Soil temperature 37 degrees Humidity 92 percent
- · Sky cloudy
- · Winds northwest 22 mph • Barometer 29.40 inches
- and falling • Record High today 87° (1916)
- Record Low today 11° (1997) Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday 42° Low Wednesday

Precipitation 0.49 This month 0.58 Year to date 1.51

Below normal 0.96 inches The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow with a high near 43, winds out of the north 25 to 40 mph, a low around 27. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 50, winds breezy out of the north 15 to 35 mph and a low around 31.

#### **Extended Forecast**

Sunday: Sunny with a high near 64 and a low around 37. Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 71 and a low around 41.

(National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.



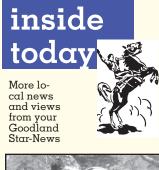
### Noon

Wheat - \$9.07 bushel Posted county price — \$9.13 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢ Corn — \$5.69 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.66 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢ Milo — \$5.29 bushel Soybeans — \$12.07 bushel

Posted county price — \$11.89 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢ Millet — \$7.00 hundredweight

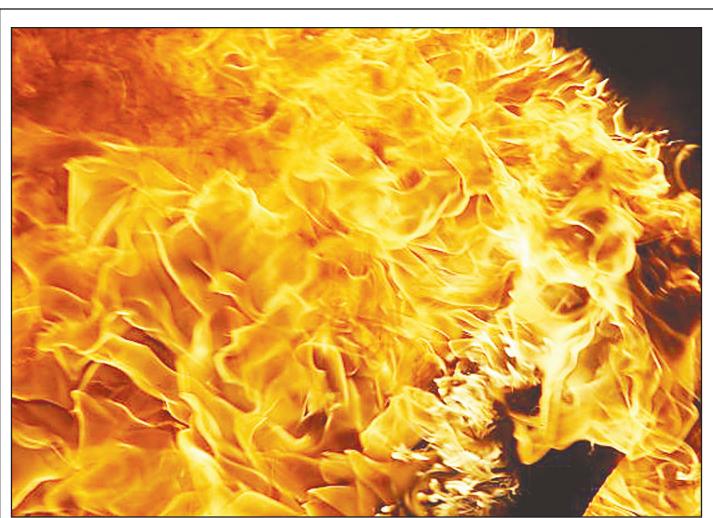
Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt. Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢ Confection — \$30/\$20 cwt. Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop) (Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)





### Cowboys take fourth

Cowboys junior Andrew Raile putted on No. 10, a par-three hole Tuesday. Twelve teams competing at Sugar HIlls Golf Club and Goodland finished fourth. See story, photo on Page



### Firemen smother flames

Flames roared from a pile of wooden crates (above) set on fire as part of training class Monday, March 31, for the Goodland Rural Fire Department. Volunteer firemen Brett McQuitty, John and Kenny Studer and David Avila (right) tested a foaming agent that acts to smother flames on "Class A" fires such as wood, paper, hay, grass, and "Class B" fuels such as gasoline, oil, diesel and alcohol, said volunteer Cary Amos, who took the photos. Instructors for the class were Rick Morley of Hazard Control Technologies and Don Spangler of Weis Fire and Safety of Hays.



# Burn ban is lifted

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

A countywide burn ban lasted only one week before Sherman County commissioners lifted it Tuesday after hearing from federal officials that many Conservation Reserve Program fields still need to be burned this

Dennis Mote, executive director of the Sherman County office of the U.S. Farm Service Agency, and Fred Wedel, district conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, came to discuss the burn ban and the problem with dirt blowing of some of the fields after burning. Commissioner Chuck Thomas said he had

suggested that the two come to the meeting to tell everyone what they had told him on Monday. Basically, they said, the blowing problems

seemed to affect fields where the grass isn't well established or those with "Colby type" soil, which is a silt-loam soil Under the federal program, farmers con-

tract to plant grass or trees on "highly erodable" land, taking it out of grain production. Every so often, they're supposed to burn or till the grass to keep it healthy. Wedel said Dan Meyerhoff, assistant

state conservationist from the area office in Hays, had come out and looked at some of the fields here. He agreed some need to be re-evaluated to see if the grass is established "If anybody has a question about a field,

I will be doing the reviews this week," he said. "Fields that are established, we can burn those in sections so we have smaller areas, and there are some other options to look at for these fields.

"That we will be working with the farmers on this is the basic thing I wanted to share

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he thought there would only be about a week left in the burning program because it was to end on

Wedel said that was not totally correct, because it depends on the soil type. He said

See BAN, Page 9

## County sends letter to support at-large bill

By Tom Betz

More than a dozen people crowded into a courthouse meeting room Tuesday to save a bill allowing the people to decide whether everyone should be able to vote in Sherman County Commission

Before they left, commissioners all signed a letter asking for passage of the proposal, allowing an election this fall. If approved, though, the sure asked Tiede why he had change would not take place told legislators in Topeka for another two years.

With a room full of taxpay-Commissioners Mitch Tiede and Chuck Thomas about their apparent opposition to the bill. The taxpayers said they wanted a chance to put ballot to let the voters decide. we passed it in March," Tiede

"The people want a unified said. "I asked him at that time ntbetz@nwkansas.com effort," said Alan Townsend if we could keep the districts. county farmer.

> Commissioners today are selected from districts. They must live in the district they represent, and only voters in that district get a ballot in commission elections. The bill now stuck in a House-Senate conference committee would allow voters to authorize atlarge elections.

Commissioner Kevin Rahe wanted the bill changed to keep the commissioner ers present, people questioned districts when that was not what the commissioners had voted to support after two

"Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer (Rthe issue on the November Grinnell) called me the day

It was my mistake to ask.

"I talked to the person writing the bill and he said we could not do that, and I told him to go on with the at-large language. I did not intend that to cause a problem. I will take responsibility for that."

The bill (HB2307) passed what appeared to be its last major hurdle when the Senate approved an amended version 40-0 on March 27, but the House asked for a conference committee because of the Senate changes. The Legislature went into recess Friday with the bill in limbo.

Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer (Ropen meetings this year and Grinnell) said last Friday the bill is not dead, but that Rep. Mike Burgess (R-Topeka),

See BILL, Page 9

## Nebraska firm awarded road striping contract

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

Crews will paint a yellow center line and white edge stripes on old U.S. 24 across Sherman County this summer after county commissioners approved a painting contract with a Nebraska firm on Tuesday.

Curt Way, county public works manager, said he had two bids for the painting, from Kolbe Striping of Castle Rock, Colo., and Straight Line Striping of Grand Island,

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he was surprised Way had found smaller firms that

were willing to handle the project. The figures from both firms are estimates,

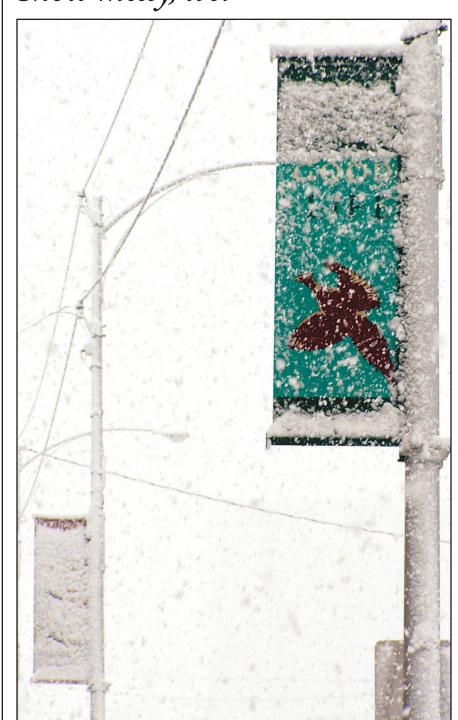
Way said, based on how many gallons of paint the project would take. He said he gave both firms measurements from the Kansas Department of Transportation, including the no-passing zones.

Straight Line's estimate was \$19,000 for both the yellow "skip" line, no-passing lines and the white edge lines. Kolbe's estimate was \$34,000, plus \$1,500 to mark the center

The commissioners considered whether to have both the yellow and white stripes done, and decided to do both.

Way said on a two-way road, the yellow See STRIPING, Page 9

## Snow messy, wet



Wet snowflakes stuck to the banners on Main Avenue on Thursday as a spring storm hit northwest Kansas. The National Weather Service said the snow might last through the day and most of Thursday night, dropping three to five inches, with winds qusting to 40 mph in the afternoon. Goodland schools closed at 11 a.m., and Brewster schools were to open an hour late, but were closed before noon. Sheriff deputies were called to several slide-offs on I-70.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News