

**weather report**

**31°**  
 noon  
 Monday



**Today**

• Sunset, 5:15 p.m.

**Wednesday**

• Sunrise, 6:43 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:20 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil temperature 31 degrees
- Humidity 52 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds south 17-24 mph
- Barometer 30.02 inches and falling

• Record High today 76° (1943)  
 • Record Low today -22° (1936)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High Sunday	34°
Low Sunday	22°
Precipitation	trace
This month	.02
Year to date	.41
Below Normal	.08 inches

**The Topside Forecast**

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 90 chance of snow, a high near 6, winds breezy out of the northwest at 13 to 30 and a low around -7.  
 Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 20, winds out of the northwest at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 0.

**Extended Forecast**

Thursday: Sunny with a high near 29 and a low around 14.  
 Friday: Sunny with a high near 43 and a low around 21.  
 Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 47 and a low around 23.  
(National Weather Service)  
 Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.  
 \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**

**Noon**

Wheat — \$8.22 bushel
Posted county price — \$8.22
Corn — \$6 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.33
Milo — \$5.85 bushel
Soybeans — \$12.45 bushel
Posted county price — \$13.43
Millet — \$5 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$29.85 cwt.
Confection — no bid
Pinto beans — \$18
<small>(Markets by Scouler Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)</small>

**inside today**

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



**Cowboys win league**

Cowboy Tyler Fisher at 285 pounds worked for a win at the Great West Activity Conference championships Saturday at Colby. The Cowboys won the title. See story, photos on Page 12.



## Attempted murder charges filed

By Tom Betz

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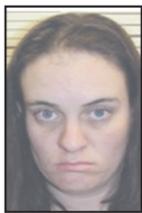
A man and woman who were arrested after a chase on Interstate 70 last month where the passenger shot at pursuing Kansas Highway Patrol troopers have been charged with two counts of attempted first degree murder by the Kansas attorney general's office.

The chase started Sunday, Jan. 16, about eight miles east of the Colorado line and ended on a county road about two miles north of Brewster when a trooper returned fire and hit the man driving the fleeing vehicle.

Anthony Douglas Patrick, 30, driving a blue Toyota Scion, was stopped about 7:20 p.m. because the car did not have any license plates. His passenger was Piper Lacey Stout-Briese, 30, and the Toyota



Patrick



Stout-Briese

belonged to her grandfather from Colorado.

Trooper Perry Frey reported he stopped the vehicle. When he asked for the registration, the man took off. Frey followed with his lights on, and the Toyota stopped again about a mile later. As Frey started toward the vehicle, the driver took off.

The trooper told the dispatcher he was in pursuit and asked for help from Sherman County deputies to

set up "stop sticks" to deflate the car's tires at the west Goodland exit.

Frey reported following the Toyota at speeds of up to 90 mph as they approached the exit. He said a man was driving with a woman passenger that he could see.

Sherman County Deputy Asa Stiles had stop sticks ready, but the driver swerved to avoid them and the chase continued east with the trooper and two Sherman County officers behind.

Trooper Charlie Brattin had stop sticks set up at the Edson exit and Trooper Terry Kummer was waiting with another set at the Brewster exit.

As the Toyota went past the Goodland exit, a sheriff's deputy said he saw something sticking out of the window on the passenger side.

As the car sped east, officers said, the passenger began firing at Frey's car. He reported his car had been hit, but he continued following the Toyota. Frey's car took a bullet in the windshield.

As the chase approached the Edson exit, Frey warned Brattin to take cover. The Toyota hit the stop sticks but continued east at a slower speed. Brattin's car was hit by a bullet near the gas filler cap.

The chase continued to the Brewster exit, where the Toyota turned off and went north toward Brewster with the trooper closely behind.

Permission was given for the troopers to use "intervention tactics" with their cars to stop the car after it had hit the stop sticks at Edson, and finally permission was given for the trooper to use "deadly fire." Trooper

Frey was able to shoot the driver in the shoulder, and he stopped about two miles north of Brewster on Thomas County Road 2.

By that time, a Thomas County deputy and two Colby police officers has joined the patrolmen and Sherman County deputies in the chase. Ambulances from Goodland and Colby were called.

Patrick and Stout-Briese were arrested and taken to Goodland, Patrick in an ambulance. The driver was flown to a Denver hospital to have the trooper's bullet removed from his back left shoulder and then returned to the Sherman County Bastille.

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation was called in because the officers had been involved in the chase

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## Commissioners ponder employee insurance changes

By Tom Betz

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Employee health insurance was the agenda topic on Friday for two Sherman County commissioners looking for information on what the future holds and options the commissioners may face as they balance cost against protecting a valuable employee benefit and the commissioners were expected to approve renewal of the existing insurance plan at today's meeting.

Commissioners Larry Enfield and Cynthia Strnad met Friday morning to go over the insurance options with Rhonda Fernandez of Professional Insurance Consultants of Dodge City, who was hired last year to review the county benefits and recommend possible changes.

The special meeting was held because Enfield was not available for the commission meeting on Monday when Charles Krull, area representative of Blue Cross and Blue Shield, presented figures for a possible partial self-funded program for Sherman County.

Strnad said she wanted the county employees to understand it is not the intent of the commissioners to dump a new plan on them.

"We want to protect our employees," she said. "We do not pay high wages, and the health insurance is an important part of their benefits."

Fernandez said she agreed any changes are not designed to hurt the employees, but it is taxpayer money and it is important for the commissioners to look at the options.

"I know it can be a small step process to make the changes that might help in the future," she said.

Krull had presented the insurance renewal figures in January

showing a 6.6 percent increase, and mentioned the possibility of a partial self-funded option the county might consider. Monday Krull had presented the self-funded option to Commissioner Max Linin and Strnad.

Friday Fernandez reviewed the various options including the Blue Cross and Blue Shield self-funded option.

She said one of the problems her consulting company is having is not getting the renewal information from Blue Cross and Blue Shield early enough to make good comparisons.

She recommended the county have County Clerk Janet Rumpel write a letter to Blue Cross asking for the renewal information to be delivered by December 15 to give her time to do a good review and develop other options.

She said Rumpel had written and asked Blue Cross and Blue Shield for a utilization report the county had not been getting. She said the report lets her company know what the employees are actually using. She said the county should get two reports a year, but has to ask for them. She said the reports do not give names, but do provide a lot of good information.

Fernandez said she felt the Blue Cross and Blue Shield renewal figures were not bad, but wants the county to look at other options as well to see what might be available.

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield self-funded option appeared to be a small savings \$829,968 over the fully funded costs (\$836,841).

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## Storm spotter classes planned for March

Ground Hog Day has come and gone, and spring can't be far away as the National Weather Service has a series of storm spotter and safety classes planned through the month of March around the area.

For Goodland and Sherman County the storm spotter and safety class will be at 6:30 p. m. on Monday, March 14, at the Northwest Tech Murray Center, 1315 Eustis.

The classes are free and open to anyone with an interest in helping their local community by reporting severe weather events to the National Weather Service.

This program is conducted once a year by National Weather Service meteorologists, so consider attending one of these fun and educational training sessions in your area.

The class will discuss thunderstorm formation, organization and evolution, associated clouds

and their meaning, thunderstorm hazards, safety, and what and how to report.

For more information, contact the Goodland weather service office at (785) 899-7119.

**Calendar for area storm spotter classes**

March 1, Hill City, 5:30 p.m. (all times mountain time), Frontier Stage 321 E. Main St.

March 2, Atwood, 5:30 p.m., Prairie Developmental Center 208 S. Fourth.

March 2, Oakley, 5:30 p.m., Courthouse Downstairs 710 W Second.

March 7, Colby, 5:30 p.m., Community Building Downstairs 285 E. Fifth.

March 8, Norton, 5:30 p.m., Prairie Land Electric Coop Downstairs

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## Colorful bubble fun!



The sound of laughter could be heard outside of the Carnegie Arts Center on Saturday morning as a group of 28 kids were making art with absorbent paper and bubbles from colored liquids. Vonna O'Brien (left) and Pette' Stewart got in on the fun. Peyton Fenner (wearing a Green Bay Packer jersey) and Jazlyn Fenner (wearing a Pittsburgh Steeler jersey) were having more fun blowing the bubbles than making artistic creations. The Center has art classes twice a month for elementary students. The next class is Saturday, Feb. 26. This class was taught by Hannah Schlosser. Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News