

weather report

55° noon

Monday

Today

Sunset, 7:22 p.m.

Wednesday

Sunrise, 6:12 a.m.

Sunset, 7:23 p.m.

MIDDAY CONDITIONS

Soil temperature 48 degrees

Humidity 41 percent

Sky partly cloudy

Winds north 20-30 mph

Barometer 30.19 inches

and steady

Record High today 81° (2003)

Record Low today 5° (1997)

Last 24 Hours\*

High Sunday 82°

Low Sunday 37°

Precipitation .13

This month .15

Year to date 2.47

Below Normal .70 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 76,

winds breezy out of the south at 15 to 30 mph and a low around 37.

Wednesday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers at night,

a high near 57, wind breezy out of the north at 15 to 30 mph and a low around 35.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers, a high near 56 and a low around 33.

Friday: Mostly sunny and breezy with a high near 60 and a low around 28.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$7.90 bushel

Posted county price — \$8.25

Corn — \$6.97 bushel

Posted county price — \$7.15

Milo — \$6.84 bushel

Soybeans — \$12.38 bushel

Posted county price — \$13.03

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$12.38 cwt.

Confection — no bid

Pinto beans — \$32

(Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowgirls keep winning

The Cowgirl softball team won a doubleheader on Friday against Hugoton. The Cowgirls are 6-0 for the season. Ashley Archer pitched the first game. See photos on Page 9.



Gov. Brownback stops in Colby

By Kevin Bottrell

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Gov. Sam Brownback stopped at the Colby Municipal Airport Monday morning to sign a bill creating incentives for people to move to 50 Kansas counties, including Thomas and Sherman, that have bleeding population over the last decade or more.

About 75 people turned out for the ceremony, the second of four the governor planned across the state. The first was in Belleville, with others planned at Yates Center and Wichita State University.

Brownback was accompanied by his secretaries of commerce, labor and revenue. Officials from Colby attended the event along with representatives from Thomas, Decatur, Sherman, Rawlins and Trego counties, as well as board members from Colby Community College and administrators from the Northwest Kansas Technical College.

Three of the area's state legislators, Reps. Rick Billinger of Goodland and Don Hineman of Dighton, and Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer of Grinnell, all turned out.

The law provides a five-year state income tax exemption to anyone who moves to one of the rural counties. Former Kansans must have lived outside the state for five years. A person has to live in the county for the entire tax year, starting in



Diana Stiles, assistant vice president for student affairs at Northwest Tech College and recently elected to the Goodland School Board, talked with Gov. Sam Brownback during his stop at the Colby airport on Monday about the iPad program at the college.

Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Colby Free Press

2012, file their taxes on time and sign an affidavit confirming their residency.

Counties that sign on can participate in a state matching program to help pay down student loans up to

\$15,000. Brownback said this covers anyone who moves to one of the "rural opportunity zone" counties,

including those who move from inside Kansas.

Brownback said small towns like Colby and Goodland have good quality of life and great community. The bill is designed to be a recruiting tool to combat the population decline, he said.

Concentration of the rural economy in agriculture and young people moving away were some of the primary culprits, he said.

"Well, I'm the governor and I'm not going to stand around," he said. "We need to turn that trend around, and I think we can do it."

Brownback himself originated the bill. He said the idea came out of a campaign stop in Winfield while he was running for office.

"There were about six people there, and four were from southern California," he said.

He said he asked the Californians why they had moved to Kansas, and they told him while on a motorcycle trip through the area, they decided they liked that town and wanted to retire there.

"If this can happen in Winfield, why couldn't it happen everywhere?" he asked. "We gotta do more; we gotta attract people."

Brownback said the state hasn't done enough to sell itself in the past, and now has to be aggressive. The

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Run For The Wall to stop overnight in May

By Tom Betz

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The 23rd annual Run for The Wall veteran's motorcycle group will spend Saturday night, May 21, in Goodland and parade out on Sunday morning, May 22.

Wahrman said she is looking for civic organizations who would like to help with the event or the parade on Saturday and Sunday. She said it was great to have the streets lined with people as the riders paraded through town last year, and she said many of the riders were impressed with the reception in Goodland.

Plans are being organized for the motorcycle group's arrival on Saturday evening

with a supper at the old national guard armory. Joe and Jo Ann Wahrman, who have been part of the Run for The Wall for the past several years are gathering volunteers to put on the dinner on Saturday, May 21.

Joe and Jo Ann Wahrman said plans are starting to come together for the supper with an agreement with Steve Evert to cook the meat. She said more volunteers are needed, and people willing to help pay for the dinner would be appreciated. She said people interested in helping can call her at (785) 890-3277 and leave a message or e-mail to wahrman@st-tel.net.

Wahrman said the plan is to have some light entertainment at the armory on Saturday. She

said they are looking for someone to sing the national anthem.

The group of about 400 motorcycles will arrive in Goodland about 6 p.m., and will be camping and staying in hotels throughout the town.

Wahrman said if anyone is willing to donate to the gas stop they can call Dave Daniels (785) 890-6538. She said if people want to make donations to the cost of the meal or other parts of the program to contact her.

Sunday morning the Goodland Rotary will have an early morning breakfast for the riders at the armory beginning about 6 a.m. Dick Liess, Goodland Rotary member, is heading up the breakfast effort and can be called at

(785) 890-6357 if someone wants to help. Wahrman said it would be great to have some help cleaning up on Sunday morning after the riders leave.

A nondenominational church service is scheduled for 7:25 a.m. A riders meeting is scheduled for 7:45 a.m. and the riders will head out on Caldwell Ave. about 8:15 a.m.

The plan for Sunday is to parade down Caldwell Ave. to 17th Street, turn east to Cherry Ave., and south to Business U.S. 24 before heading east and out to I-70 where they will head for Oakley and to Junction City for the next evening.

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Tea Party plans rally Saturday

The Third Annual Tea Party will take place from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday at Gulick Park, and all citizens are welcome to come and participate said Ken Klemm, local organizer.

"The Tea Party will be held for citizens who are disgusted with government's free-spending, irresponsible, unconstitutional and heavy-handed ways," Klemm said. "These Tea Parties have become a nationwide phenomenon and provide a forum for peaceful, law-abiding citizens to express their concern, and even rage with our government's free-spending habits."

He said, people are encouraged to bring their signs and show Washington just how out of touch they are with Real America!

Rep. Rick Billinger, who was recently chosen to replace Rep. Morrison after his untimely death, will address the attendees.

Rep. Billinger's firsthand experience in the Kansas budget process should prove to be of interest to all Kansas voters, he said.

Following Billinger's comments, time will be allotted for interested folks to address the crowd as they see fit, Klemm said. The event will wrap up with a Freedom March around the County Courthouse.

This event is sponsored by the non-partisan High Plains Constitutional Society a group of like-minded citizens who are deeply concerned about the decline of America.

Call Klemm for more information. (785) 899-5804.



Sherman County rural firemen have been fighting grass fires around the county with the high winds such as this fire south of Edson at the

end of March that was being whipped along by high winds from the north.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County remains under burn ban

By Tom Betz

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Sherman County Commissioners will review the ongoing burn ban at their meeting today, but with the dry weather conditions being forecast it appears the burn ban will continue for at least the next week or more.

Rural fire fighters were called to a fire southwest of Edson on Friday. A sheriff's deputy was called to the scene as there was no burn permit, and with the burn ban in place a ticket may be issued to the property owner for the fire and the costs.

In the high winds on Saturday fire fighters were called back to the same fire location near Edson.

While the Goodland Rural Fire trucks handled the fire near Edson, a request for mutual aid from Wallace and Greeley County had a Goodland city fire truck heading south when

Fire Chief Brian James spotted a fire west of K-27 near County Road 55. He put in a call for more help and fire trucks were dispatched from Kanorado to assist.

Once the Goodland Rural firemen had apparently gotten the Edson fire under control two trucks were sent to assist on the fire south on K-27.

Tanker trucks from Sherman County Road and Bridge were requested, and Frontier Ag called to say they had a tanker of water that could be used if needed. That tanker was held on standby.

One Goodland rural fire truck had remained at the Edson fire, and when it flared up in the field two trucks were dispatched from Brewster to assist.

Winds were at 40 mph Saturday afternoon and gusts were measured as high as 56 mph at Renner Field

and 66 mph north of town.

Critical fire weather conditions will develop across much of the tri-state region on Tuesday the National Weather Service in Goodland is forecasting. The combination of warm temperatures, low relative humidity and strong southerly winds will allow for any fire which does start to quickly grow and become difficult to control. All burning is strongly discouraged.

With the dry conditions Governor Sam Brownback has included Sherman County in a drought warning and watch list issued last week.

Included in the drought warning are Finney, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Gove, Hamilton, Haskell, Kearny, Lane, Logan, Meade, Morton, Ness, Scott, Seward, Stanton, Stevens, Trego, Wallace and Wichita.

Counties included in the drought

watch include Barton, Cheyenne, Clark, Cloud, Decatur, Ellis, Ellsworth, Ford, Graham, Hodgeman, Jewel, Lincoln, Mitchell, Norton, Osborne, Ottawa, Pawnee, Phillips, Rawlins, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Sherman, Sheridan, Smith and Thomas.

Under the countywide burn ban no outside fires are allowed even if a permit has been issued and anyone starting a fire can be ticketed and fined. The burn ban includes the city of Goodland.

Sunday the county received .13 inches of rain, but is about .25 inches below normal for the month, and at 1.77 inches is .7 inches below the average for the year at 2.47 inches.

To date the snow for the year is 22.1 inches well below the average of 38.4 inches.