

People work to save Bonnie lake

By Tom Betz

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Saving Bonnie Reservoir is coming down to the wire, and people in northeast Colorado and northwest Kansas are trying to find a way to stop the plan to drain the reservoir after Labor Day.

Bonnie Reservoir was created by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as a flood control project following the 1935 flood on the Republican River that killed more than 100 people and produced wide devastation from northwest Kansas into Nebraska and back into Kansas as the river rolled past Concordia and down to Salina where it joins the Saline River.

Bonnie has been a Colorado State Park for many years, a good fishing lake and stopping place for migratory birds, but the reservoir has become a contentious point in the Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas Republican River

Compact.

Farmers in northeast Colorado have been looking for options other than shutting down irrigation wells to satisfy the water allocation under the compact, and draining Bonnie is something suggested as one measure.

Colorado is in the process of building a pipeline to bring water to the allocation point, but the pipeline will not be completed for at least another year.

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback has been asked by people from Colorado and northwest Kansas to stop the effort to drain Bonnie Reservoir.

In a letter on July 6, written to Audrey Hase of Kirk, Colo., Gov. Brownback said the decision to drain the reservoir has been made by Colorado, and Kansas has not requested this action.

"While there are several other options for

Colorado, Colorado has chosen to drain Bonnie, even though that draining will not benefit Kansas," Brownback said in his letter.

Brownback suggests people contact the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation office in Grand Island, Neb., to ask for this to be stopped.

"Finally, I would like to stress Kansas has filed suit against Nebraska regarding its noncompliance with the compact, not Colorado," Brownback said. "Because Colorado is a party to the compact, it is a named party in the lawsuit, but Kansas seeks no relief against Colorado at this time."

Hase wrote back to Brownback last week saying she was pleased to read he and Kansas are not really in favor of draining Bonnie Reservoir.

"It was very eye opening and pleasing to be advised Kansas does not support the draining of Bonnie Reservoir," Hase wrote.

Hase said people in Eastern Colorado have formed a grassroots group of around 1,100 members, in the last four weeks, trying to save the reservoir. The group's information can be found on Facebook at Eastern Colorado Irrigation/Water Issues.

She said from talking to Alexandra Davis of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources the sticking point appears to be the evaporation from Bonnie lake being held negatively against Colorado's Compact Allocation. She said this amounts to about 5,000 acre feet a year, and the suggestion being made is to allow all three states to subtract 5,000 acre feet off their debit allocation page each year.

Hase urged Brownback to negotiate the evaporation option with Colorado Gov. John

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weather report

93°

noon
Monday

Today

• Sunset, 8:10 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 5:37 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:09 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 78 degrees

• Humidity 30 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds south 15-20 mph

• Barometer 30.15 inches

and falling

• Record High today 106° (1934)

• Record Low today 45° (1897)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 99°

Low Sunday 70°

Precipitation none

This month 2.27

Year to date 11.74

Below Normal .59 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny and hot with a high near 102, winds breezy south 15-22 mph and a low around 70.

Wednesday: Sunny and hot with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon, a high near 102, winds out of the south at 10-15 mph and a low around 68.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny and hot with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 98 and a low around 69.

Friday: Mostly sunny and hot with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night.

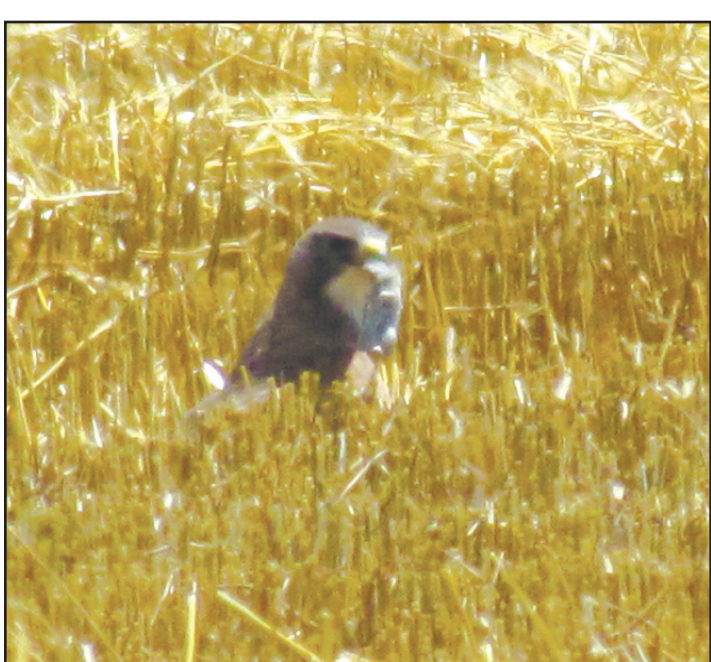
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.



Heat helps wheat harvest; hot to continue this week

Warm sunshine had farmers out on Sunday trying to wrap up the wheat harvest. This farmer was cutting wheat along County Road 17 about a mile north of County Road 65 on the east side with the weather service radar dome in the background. The driver had a grain cart helping to keep him cutting while they waited for the semi truck to deliver a load to the elevator. A hungry hawk took advantage after the combine passed by to pick up lunch. The hot, dry weather is expected to continue this week as wheat harvest continues to wind down.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



Foundation awarded tax credits for dialysis

The Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation was one of 22 nonprofit groups awarded Community Service Tax Credits last week by the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation was awarded \$246,226, and will use the tax credits to purchase and install equipment for a dialysis unit at Goodland Regional Medical Center.

With the closure of the nearest dialysis unit in Burlington, Colo., there is no longer a viable dialysis option within 2.5 hours of Goodland, said Dale Schields, foundation chairman. This lack of service could mean the possible loss of 10 families in Goodland alone.

Goodland Regional Medical Center has been working to get federal and state approvals for the design of a dialysis clinic, and expects to begin construction soon.

These future Kansas income tax credits are a major fundraising tool for community organizations engaged in services for children and families, health care or crime prevention said Commerce Secretary Pat George. Businesses and individuals who contribute to the awarded organizations are eligible for a 70 percent tax credit in rural areas or a 50 percent tax credit in urban areas.

"I want to congratulate these very deserving organizations and the work they do to make our state a better place to live," said Sec. George. "This program helps attract investment in community improvement projects throughout the state."

The Community Service Tax

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Navy Country band plans concert in Goodland

"Country Current," the United States Navy Band's Country band from Washington, D.C., will present a free concert at 7:30 p.m., on Saturday, Sept. 10, at Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland.

The concert is sponsored by *The Goodland Star-News* and the Goodland School District.

Country Current is the Navy's premiere country and bluegrass ensemble. Under the direction of Senior Chief Musician Keith Ameson, Country Current is nationally renowned for its versatility and "eye-popping" musicianship, performing a blend of modern country music and cutting-edge bluegrass.

This seven member ensemble employs musicians from diverse backgrounds with extensive high-profile recording and touring experience in the music scenes of Nashville, Tenn., New York City, New Orleans and more.

In the tradition of country music, each member is a skilled performer



Country Current led by Senior Chief Keith Ameson.

on multiple instruments. The band utilizes banjo, acoustic guitar, elec-

tric guitar, mandolin, fiddle, electric bass, upright bass, dobro, pedal steel guitar and drum set.

The concert is free, but tickets are required. Free tickets are available by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: COUNTRY CURRENT Concert, 1205 Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735

Tickets may be picked up beginning on Monday, Aug. 1, at *The Goodland Star-News*, 1205 Main, Goodland. Any unclaimed seats will be available to non-ticket holders just prior to concert time.

Doors at Max Jones Fieldhouse will open at 7 p.m. and ticket holders are asked to be seated by 7:20 p.m. Seating to non-ticket holders will be opened at 7:20 p.m. The concert is to begin at 7:30 p.m.

For more information about the Goodland event call (785) 899-2338.

Country Current will be performing a concert at 7:30 p.m., on Sunday, Sept. 11, at Colby High School

Auditorium as part of the West Plains Art Association program. For ticket information call (785) 460-5518.

Country Current

Formed in 1973 by legendary banjoist Bill Emerson, the band has a rich legacy of notable alumni including Wayne Taylor, Jerry Gilmore, and Frank Sullivan. They have performed at the Grand Ole Opry, for presidents Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, and overseas in Stockholm, Nova Scotia and Beijing.

With a fun-filled and family-friendly stage show, Country Current has been delighting its fans for nearly 40 years with their musical virtuosity and humor.

A staple of the bluegrass scene, Country Current has shared the stage with music luminaries Rhonda Vincent, Dailey and Vincent, Mountain Heart, Little Roy Lewis, Third Time Out, The Lonesome River

Band, Josh Williams, The Seldom Scene, J.D. Crowe, Doyle Lawson, Ned Luberecki, Chris Jones, and many others.

Country Current routinely performs at bluegrass festivals such as Darrington, Windgap, Gettysburg, Lake Havasu and Grass Valley. In 2011, Country Current became the first military band to perform at the South by Southwest music festival.

Country Current performs regularly for the president, vice-president, the secretary of the Navy, the chief of naval operations, the chairman and vice-chairman of the Joint Chiefs Of Staff, the master chief petty officer of the Navy and numerous other dignitaries. Reaching out to communities both locally and nationally, they regularly perform for veterans, elementary schools, and in support of our active-duty Sailors.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$6.89 bushel

Posted county price — \$7

Corn — \$6.82 bushel

Posted county price — \$7.17

Milo — \$6.56 bushel

Soybeans — \$12.82 bushel

Posted county price — \$13.31

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$32.20 cwt.

Confection — no bid

Pinto beans — \$28

(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



Youth meet held Saturday

Logan McCartney set a new mark for throwing a tennis ball at the second annual Goodland Youth Track Meet Saturday morning with a throw of 75 feet 7 inches. See photos on Page 11.

