

weather
report

68°

10:30 a.m.
Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 6:19 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:50 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:18 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 66 degrees

• Humidity 61 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds south 33-44 mph

• Barometer 29.66 inches

and falling

• Record High today 95° (1934)

• Record Low today 13° (1952)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 79°

Low Wednesday 55°

Precipitation none

This month none

Year to date 16.45

Below Normal .85 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 75, winds out of the south at 15 to 30 mph and a low around 47. Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a 60 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 59, winds out of the north at 10 mph and a low around 45.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Partly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 60 and a low around 44. Monday: Sunny with a high near 69 and a low around 47.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local
markets

10:30 a.m.

Wheat — \$6.33 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.37

Corn — \$5.76 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.68

Milo — \$5.46 bushel

Soybeans — \$10.39 bushel

Posted county price — \$10.65

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$29 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



Cowgirls
place second

Cowgirls Jazz Weis hits a shot from the fairway at the League tournament on Monday at Hugoton. Weis finished second as did the Cowgirls. See photos, story on Page 9.



Wind whipped fire engulfs truck

By Tom Betz

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A wind whipped fire started in a wheat stubble field north of Ruleton Tuesday afternoon and before it was stopped it had burned through about two miles of stubble and the center of a corn field, and engulfed two Kanorado firemen and the newest Kanorado fire truck.

The fire was accidentally started by a crew welding a bracket on a pivot in a field about County Road 76 and County Road 9 — or where they would be if they went through — about 1:45 p.m. on Tuesday and rural fire crews from Goodland and Kanorado responded as well as mutual aid was requested from Cheyenne County and Kit Carson County.

In the path of the fire was an uninhabited home and outbuildings along with a large windbreak.

Kanorado Fire Chief David Peterson and another fireman were in the Kanorado truck trying to attack trees on fire along the west side of the fire.

“When we pulled in there was no visible fire on the south end,” Peterson said on Wednesday. “We were attacking from the west where trees were burning. We had not taken many steps when we heard a roar and a boom. The cedar trees were engulfed and it was less than 10 seconds from when the first fire showed and it got to us.

“It engulfed us and we had no option but to turn tail and run. Luckily we had a safe zone to the west and we got out. We looked back and the trees and fire truck were fully engulfed.”

He said they were trying to make sure the fire did not spread out, and were trying to get ahead of it after it had jumped Road 77.

On the other side of the fire Good-

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A firefighter checked out the burned out Kanorado fire truck on the west side of the vacant home and trees that burned as part of the damage in one of two fires the Rural Fire Departments from Kano-

rado and Goodland put out in the high winds on Tuesday. The fire was started accidentally by welding a bracket on a nearby pivot.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Fire department consolidation on trial run

By Tom Betz

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A full room of people came to the city commission meeting on Monday to hear a discussion of possible consolidation of the Goodland Rural Fire department and the city fire department.

The city commissioners agreed to a temporary arrangement where City Fire Chief Brian James would serve as the Goodland Rural Department Chief in addition to his city duties while a proposed contract is developed to allow both departments to operate together.

City Manager Doug Gerber said he felt most of the people had come to talk about the fire department cooperation issue.

He said the commissioners knew there was a vacancy for the Goodland rural fire chief, and the Rural Fire Board met last week and voted to offer the position to Brian James.

“We talked about this before and we felt we could proceed down this path because it was a personnel issue,” Gerber said. “When it became reality we knew we needed to bring it to the commission for a policy decision.”

He said the big question is if the commission wants to move ahead with consolidation of these two departments. He said if the decision is to proceed it will take time to get the details worked out, but he said he felt the commissioners need to

focus on the key issues about the consolidation.

“I would say if the answer is ‘Yes’ we will work out those details,” he said. “If the answer is ‘No’ then I speak for Brian, this is a prime opportunity and we do not want to talk about it again. We feel we ought to take the opportunity or if not put the issue to bed.”

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said the years she has been on the commission the issue has come up many times, and the timing did not seem right. This time it appears to be a great opportunity to take the next step. I have talked to a lot of people who think it is the right thing to do, she said.

County Commissioners Larry

Enfield and Max Linin were present at the request of the rural fire board.

Fairbanks asked the commissioners if they felt this was a good decision.

County Commissioner Linin said the commissioners appoint the people on the fire board and feel the fire board are making the right decisions. He tried to emphasize that while the commissioners appoint the fire board it is an autonomous board with its own rules and taxing authority.

Commissioner Bill Finley said he had two questions. First was if the survey or feasibility study had

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KBI assists in downtown standoff, arrest

By Tom Betz

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Traffic and business in the 1200 block of Main was disrupted late Tuesday afternoon and through the night as Goodland police with the assistance of the KBI handled a standoff situation with a man who had a gun in an upstairs apartment on the corner of 13th and Main Ave.

Approximately 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, the KBI was contacted by the Goodland Police Department requesting assistance with a barricaded subject at 1220 Main Ave.

Goodland police officers had attempted to serve a court order on the subject, Ronald Calvin Kernal, 47, earlier in the afternoon at his upstairs apartment when the subject brandished a handgun resulting in the barricade situation.

Goodland Police Sergeant Greg Krosky and officer Cody Hanson had accompanied owner, Charlene Cole to the apartment to do a welfare check and attempt to serve a court order. When the apartment door was opened Kernal was holding a gun, and Krosky backed out and called for backup.

Sherman County Sheriff’s deputies Asa Stiles and Jason Showalter responded along with Wildlife Conservation Officer Mike Hooper who took up stations in the hallway and across the street at 13th to watch the back door.

The KBI High Risk Warrant Team and a negotiator, Mark Kendrick of Colby, was called in by Krosky.

Once the area was secure Krosky had the area blocked off and set up a command post at Central Elementary to await the arrival of the KBI and the negotiator.

City employees set up barricades on Main and 14th to keep the onlookers back, and Krosky asked Sherman Theatre owner David Branda to cancel the show for the night to reduce the amount of people in the immediate area.

Kyle Smith, KBI deputy director said the organization tries to provide services the local law enforcement units may not have access to. He said the KBI brought a mobile unit from Great Bend to assist and provide a central command point.

The negotiator tried to talk Kernal out, but before sunrise Wednesday morning the KBI team shot tear gas through a second story window and entered the apartment. Kernal was arrested after a minor struggle. No officers were injured.

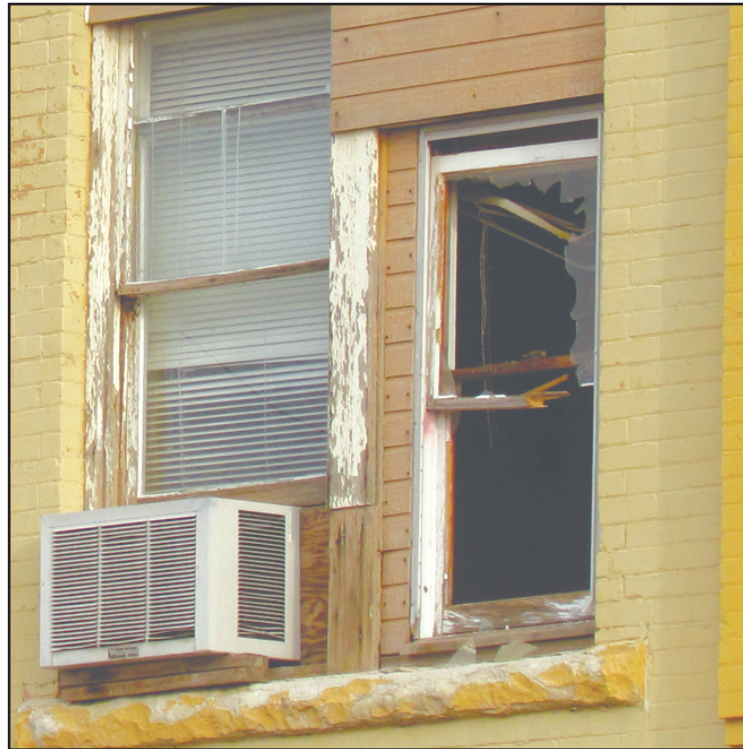
Kernal was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center to be checked out and then booked into the Sherman County Bastille with charges of aggravated assault and \$250,000 bond.

Smith said the local officers and KBI were to search the apartment on Wednesday to recover the gun or guns apparently kept by Kernal.

A check with the county attorney’s office on Wednesday confirmed the search warrant had been issued and the officers had conducted a search of the apartment, but Assistant County Attorney Brock Abbey said he had not received any reports of what was found.

Goodland Police Chief Cliff Couch had to return to Tallahassee on Tuesday morning to respond to a subpoena.

Ronald Calvin Kernal was sent to prison in Sept, 1983, and released from prison in June 2002 after serving a sentence for second degree murder committed in June 1982.



Goodland Officer Cody Hanson and Sheriff Deputy Jason Showalter (above) were on watch at 1220 Main on Tuesday afternoon. The KBI tossed tear gas through the apartment window (below) to make entry early on Wednesday to arrest Ronald Kernal.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Public flu clinic planned for Tuesday

A mass flu clinic given by the Sherman County Health Department will be from 2 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday at the Goodland Elks Lodge, 1523 Arcade. The clinic is part of an emergency preparedness exercise.

People with disabilities are welcome. Everyone need to bring their insurance cards and the health department will bill them. Flu shots or nasal shots will be \$25 and high-dose flu shots will be \$40 for those over 65, if paid for by cash. Nasal shots are generally given to small children.

The Centers for Disease Con-

trol has predicted that there will be no shortage of flu vaccine. The vaccine is designed for the three flu strains thought to happen during the flu season. It can also provide some protection against other strains.

The city van will be available to transport anyone from 2 to 4 p.m. Call to reserve a ride at (785) 899-5082.

If you miss the clinic appointments can be made at the health department for the shots after Tuesday by calling (785) 890-4888.