

weather report

53°

10:30 a.m.
Tuesday



Today

• Sunset, 4:36 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:36 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 34 degrees
- Humidity 28 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds west 10 mph
- Barometer 30.14 inches and falling
- Record High today 68° (2006)
- Record Low today -26° (1959)

Last 24 Hours*

High Monday	53°
Low Monday	29°
Precipitation	none
This month	none
Year to date	none
Below normal	0.02 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 66, winds breezy out of the north at 0 to 30 mph and a low around 26. Wednesday: Sunny with a high near 59, winds out of the west at 10 mph and a low around 30.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Sunny near 68, winds out of the west at 10 mph and a low around 32. Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 49 and a low around 22. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of snow showers at night, a high near 42 and a low around 23.

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



The back section of the roof of this house on Harrison Avenue was torn off by high winds Saturday. Wind gusts were measured at 77 miles per hour in Sherman County during the afternoon. The wind caused damage to homes, trees and vehicles throughout the area. Photo by Sheila Smith/The Goodland Star-News

Wind causes accidents, damage

By Kevin Bottrell

kbottrell@nwkans.com

Winds up to 77 miles per hour on Saturday uprooted trees, damaged roofs and caused a seven-car pileup on I-70.

The winds began in the morning, with gusts in the 50s from Oakley to Yuma, Colo. Around noon, gusts estimated near 80 mph were recorded in Yuma and in the high 60s near Seibert, Colo., and in the 70s at Burlington, Colo. Wind gusts continued to be in the 60s and 70s across the region all afternoon. The highest confirmed gust was 77 mph just northeast of Goodland, right about the time of the accidents.

Snow began falling about 2:30 p.m., but it only left trace amounts of moisture.

The wind and low visibility from the blowing dust caused a seven-car accident at 1:20 p.m. at milepost 6 on I-70, about three miles west of Ruleton. All law enforcement in the area was diverted to the scene. The Sherman County Sheriff's Office responded along with the Kansas Highway Patrol.

There were several injuries, and people had to be transported to Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Because of the accident, plus the wind and dust, the Kansas Department of Transportation shut down I-70 heading west from Goodland, while the Colorado Department of Transportation closed the road heading east from Burlington about



Part of the torn-off roof (above) landed in the front yard. Also visible on the porch is a chunk of insulation, pieces of which were blown all around the area. The wind also uprooted a hundred-year-old tree on College Avenue (right).

Photos by Sheila Smith and Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

1:45 p.m. Visibility on that stretch of the road was down to nothing, said Lt. Joe Greene of the Kansas Highway Patrol. The interstate was reopened at 3:30 p.m.

Some traffic was diverted around the accident on old U.S. 24, from Kanorado to Ruleton.

The pileup wasn't the only accident caused by Saturday's wind. Just minutes before a semi was blown onto its side south of Goodland.

Greene said the semi was traveling north on K-27 with an empty livestock hauler. The driver, from

Holyoke, Co., saw a large amount of dust blowing across the road near the intersection with County Road 61 — about three miles south of Goodland — and slowed down as he approached it. A gust caught the trailer and pulled the whole rig over onto the passenger side.

"The wind was pretty excessive," Greene said.

Greene said the driver was not injured, and once the wind had died down a truck from Alex's Radiator

See WIND, Page 5



local markets

10:30 a.m.

Wheat — \$6.70 bushel	Posted county price — \$6.54
Corn — \$6.37 bushel	Posted county price — \$6.24
Milo — \$6.06 bushel	
Soybeans — \$10.89 bushel	Posted county price — \$11.38
Millet — no bid	
Sunflowers	
Oil current crop — \$28.25 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, views from your Goodland Star-News



County takes first step in bond refinance

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkans.com

Sherman County commissioners approved a resolution at their meeting Friday as the first step in refinancing the sales tax bonds to save the taxpayers more than \$1 million and cut at least four years off the payoff date.

Commissioners Cynthia Strnad and Larry Enfield held a telephone conference call with Dustin Avey, senior vice president of Piper Jaffray, and attorney Kevin Cowan of Gilmore and Bell on Friday about the refinancing.

Avey had sent the county a resolution to

authorize the refinancing, and said he had checked with Sherman County Treasurer Iris Scheopner for the updated sales tax figures. He said the figures from Scheopner were higher than he expected.

He said the collections in 2011 were greater than anticipated with sales tax at more than \$1.2 million.

He said the county is doing well and that will allow them to use more of the excess balance to reduce the amount of outstanding bonds.

Commissioner Strnad had said at the previous meeting she wanted the county to keep

a balance of about \$250,000 in the sales tax fund in case the numbers went down.

Avey said he had asked Cowan to look at the amount the Internal Revenue Service might allow the county to keep in the sales tax bond fund.

Cowan said the IRS requires a reserve fund and uses three items to determine the maximum amount. He said looking at what the county has it would be good to keep about \$140,000 in the reserve fund for the current bonds and \$80,000 in the sales tax bond fund.

"The IRS does not want the county to

have more excess money for the bonds than needed," Cowan said. "They want the county to use the excess to pay down the bonds. That is what we are doing."

He said the excess gross money becomes proceeds of the refunding bonds, and felt keeping \$80,000 would fit in the IRS limitation. He said the other money would be the reserve for the first bond issue.

Avey said there is \$1.6 million and they are planning to keep \$140,000 in that for reserve giving them \$1.4 million to use for

See COUNTY, Page 5

Star-News gets new editor

Retirement plans brought a new editor-manager to *The Goodland Star-News* with the new year.

Editor Tom Betz has decided to step down, and Kevin Bottrell, editor of the *Colby Free Press* the last 2 1/2 years, has moved to Goodland to take over at the *Star-News*.

Mr. Betz won't be going anywhere, however. He plans to stay in town and work on news-tech projects for Nor'West Newspapers, which operates the Goodland paper and seven others in northwest Kansas.

The new editor has a degree in journalism and has worked for papers in Wyoming and in Colby. Born and raised in Loveland, Colo., Bottrell graduated from Loveland High School in 2003.



K. Bottrell



Tom Betz

At the suggestion of a freshman English teacher, he said, he joined the staff at the high school newspaper for two semesters. That led to studies at Colorado State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and technical communications in 2007.

Bottrell said he got his first professional byline — it was misspelled

— during the summer before his senior year in college as a stringer for the weekly *Berthoud Surveyor* in Colorado.

After graduating, he spent a year and a half as a reporter for the *Torrington Telegram*, a 2,000 circulation twice-weekly paper in Torrington, Wyo., and was editor of *The Lingle Guide* in a nearby town. He moved to Colby in 2009.

An Eagle Scout and a former musician, Bottrell said in his spare time, he enjoys computer games, music, movies, bowling and disc golf.

His older brother Andrew spent eight years as editor of the *Cameron Citizen-Observer* in Missouri

See EDITOR, Page 5

Governor amends carrier rule suspension

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback has extended an order temporarily suspending overweight and overheight motor carrier rules and regulations to help efforts to transport hay to livestock in drought-stricken areas.

However, unlike the previous order, this order includes restrictions on travel during nighttime hours and during periods of inclement weather.

This order applies to individuals hauling hay to livestock in drought-stricken areas of Kansas and to those driving through Kansas to make deliveries in

Oklahoma and Texas.

The amended Executive Order temporarily suspends the requirements to receive over size permits from the Kansas Department of Transportation, registration and fuel tax permits from the Kansas Department of Revenue and permits from the Kansas Corporation Commission.

Motor carriers participating in the relief efforts are not permitted to travel during nighttime hours or during inclement weather conditions.

See RULE, Page 5

Wrestlers to compete

The Goodland Cowboys wrestling team will face Colby in a rematch dual at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The Cowboys will wrestle again this weekend at tournaments in Rossville and WaKeeney.



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 8 9 7 6