

weather report

73°

10:30 a.m.
Monday



Today

• Sunset, 7:48 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:56a.m.

• Sunset, 7:47 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil temperature 73 degrees
- Humidity 57 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds north 10 mph
- Barometer 30.24 inches and falling
- Record High today 105° (1964)
- Record Low today 48° (1960)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	49°
Low Wednesday	61°
Precipitation	none
This month	0.62
Year to date	7.88
Below normal	6.16 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 90, winds breezy south at 10 to 20 mph and a low around 62. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at noon, a high near 92 and a low around 60.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 89 and a low around 64. Monday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 9 and a low around 68. Tuesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 94 and a low around 69.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local markets

10:30 a.m.

- Wheat — \$8.47 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$8.32
 - Corn — \$8.21 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$7.95
 - Milo — \$7.72 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$15.63 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$15.91
 - Millet — \$14 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$25.60 cwt.
 - Confection — no bid
 - Pinto beans — \$28
- (Markets by Scouler 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



Tractor pull held here

The Colorado Truck and Tractor Pullers Association held a tractor pull in Goodland last Friday at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair.

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I-70 closed while crews remove truck



The westbound lane of I-70 was closed this morning near mile marker 30, just west of Brewster, while wrecking crews removed this truck from the roadway. The truck crashed early Thursday morning. Traffic was rerouted onto U.S. 24 at the Brewster exit. The lane was reopened about 9:30 a.m. Photo by Sam Dieter/The Colby Free Press

Sherman County votes in new sheriff

By Kevin Bottrell

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The ballots are cast and votes are tallied in the 2012 Primary Election, and in the hotly contested race for Sherman County Sheriff, Burton Pianalto won the Republican nomination with 779 votes to incumbent Kevin Butts' 568.

Pianalto said Thursday the results hadn't quite sunk in yet.

"I'm really humbled by the results," he said. "I'm very appreciative of the community's support through the campaign. I'm looking forward to working with the community through the November election and increasing if I win."

Ken Klemm won the Republican nomination for County Commissioner District 2. He received 233 votes to Lowell Coon's 165 and Paul Flanders' 148.

"I'd like to first thank all of my supporters for their efforts on my behalf and for all the good citizens who cast their vote my way," Klemm said. "Secondly, I'd like to commend my two opponents on running clean campaigns. I'd especially like to commend young Paul Flanders on his willingness to serve and his pluck. We need more

Election 2012

young people like Paul who are aware and are willing to serve our great Nation."

Klemm said the wide margin indicated that the voters are "ready and anxious for an experienced person who will apply the principles of liberty set forth by the Founders here in Sherman County." He said he would continue to submit his writing to the Star-News as well as online to keep people informed on county issues and decisions, and asked that anyone interested in being on his e-mail list to send their address to ken@thebuffaloguys.com.

Both nominees are running unopposed in the General Election in November, unless there are write-in candidates.

There were 40 provisional ballots that were not included in Tuesday night's totals, however those ballots

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Poll workers helped a voter get the correct ballot at the Goodland Veterans of Foreign Wars post during the Primary Election on Tuesday. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Goodland's state representative defeated

By Steve Haynes

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Incumbent state Sen. Ralph Ostmeier swept to victory in Tuesday's Republican primary, rolling up a 2-to-1 margin over challenger John Miller of Norton and apparently carrying all 14 counties in the reshaped 40th District.

With all precincts reporting, Rep. Ward Cassidy of St. Francis won a battle of incumbents in the 120th House District. He led Rep. Rick Billinger of Goodland by 396 votes: 2,777 to 2,381.

Billinger carried Sherman County 1080 to 262. Wallace County was the last county to report results. The race was close, 222 for Cassidy to 201 for Billinger.

Cassidy, a school counselor and former principal, and Billinger, a retired businessman, farmer and former mayor of Goodland, were thrown together in the 120th when a redistricting map drawn by federal judges this spring took away Billinger's 121st District.

Billinger also won Thomas County and

Colby by a small margin, 653 to 527. Cassidy carried the north counties handily, Cheyenne 570-188, Rawlins 593-122 and Decatur 630-139, piling up a lead Billinger couldn't top.

Sen. Ostmeier, a two-term incumbent, ran well across the district, carrying Hays and Ellis County — new to the district and home of a Democratic incumbent — 995-554. In Miller's home county, Norton, the margin was almost as large, 643-413 in Ostmeier's favor. Overall, the senator's vote was 65 percent to 35 percent for Miller: 7,274 votes to 4,022 votes.

A series of attack ads launched late in the campaign against Sen. Ostmeier and supporting Miller appeared not to have had much affect. Voters discussing the race Tuesday said they had been put off by the attacks, which were traced to an anonymous political action committee financed by the Senate leadership, the teachers union, the Teamsters and the Carpenters Union.

"It's been an ugly year. I'm not proud of it. It's not good," Ostmeier said.

Reached at home in Grinnell on Tuesday

night, Sen. Ostmeier said he had three phones going at once. He seemed excited by the margin of his victory, especially in a neighboring county.

"So far, I haven't lost a county," he said. "I've never run well in Gove County, and I'm leading there 63 to 37 (percent). I hoped I'd get 40 percent in Norton and I got 61."

Ostmeier ended up carrying all 13 1/2 counties in the district, something that will stand him in good stead during the general election. He said it looked like the conservative faction would take control of the Republican-dominated Senate while the minority Democrats might lose seats.

"The Democrats are done," he said. "They've gotten their last bill passed. There's no doubt, when it's all done, it's going to be a conservative leadership."

Miller, who was at the races in Norton, said he had taken the night off.

"The voters are doing it," he said. "I wasn't going to check until it was about over."

Across the state, conservative challengers

had won or were leading in several key races in what shaped up as a statewide battle for the upper house. In District 39 to the south, Senate President Steve Morris, a 20-year veteran and leader of the "moderate" Republicans, was losing by 164 votes with 12 precincts remaining.

Cassidy could not be reached Tuesday. A message on his home phone indicated he was out of town.

From his Goodland home, Billinger said the voting had gone as he expected, with Rep. Cassidy carrying the counties from his old district.

"He did strong in his counties," the representative said, "and I was strong in Goodland. I carried Colby. We knew this would be close."

"It's very unfortunate. We had two good maps in the House. Three federal judges in Kansas City had no idea where western Kansas was."

Star-News writers win National Newspaper Association awards

Goodland Star-News Editor Kevin Bottrell won second place in feature writing in the National Newspaper Association's Better Newspapers Contest, for a story he wrote last year while editor of the Colby Free Press.

The contest, held each year to honor the best work in community newspapers, drew 1,954 entries from daily and weekly papers, with 525 awards won by 135 papers.

The article — which appeared in the paper Feb. 11, 2011 — chronicled the experiences of Charles Cook, a Colby man who was a technical sergeant in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

"Mr. Cook came in to see me one day," Bottrell said. "We got to talking about his experiences during the war. It was fascinating how clear his memories were 67 years later. I have a particular interest in World War II, and I make a point to interview anyone I can who was a veteran."

Cook, who was the flight engineer and manned one of the machine gun turrets on a B-17 bomber, recalled his missions over France and Germany, the time he shot down a German fighter plane and the time he and his crew crashed and were picked up by actor Jimmy Stewart, then a colonel in the Army Air Corps and their base commander.

"What was really interesting to me was how many people don't know that there are these veterans with these fascinating stories living in our communities," Bottrell said. "I was talking about the article with aco-worker who is a neighbor of Mr. Cook's, and he had no idea he was a veteran."

The judge called the article a "clear and vivid journalistic tribute to a member of 'The Greatest Generation.'"

Star-News owner Steve Haynes won two first-place awards, one for editorial writing and one for humorous column writing.

The winning editorial appeared

in the Star-News on April 29, 2011. Titled, "America drifting toward police state?" the editorial talked about how things like police checkpoints, photo ID requirements and other security procedures might seem like a good idea, but they erode personal freedom bit by bit.

The judge commented that the editorial was "clear, concise and passionate writing on that topic most basic to our lives — liberty."

Haynes' winning column "Lines that divide our county," appeared in the June 7, 2011, Star-News. Haynes wrote about some of the more obscure lines that divide the United States, such as the Sweet Tea

Line, which divides north and south based on serving tea sweetened or unsweetened, or the Firefly Line, which falls somewhere between St. Francis and Atwood and divides the High Plains based on where fireflies are found.

The judge described it as the "funniest and wittiest of the bunch. He got the sweet/unsweet dividing line just right! Liked the firefly line, too."

The only other winners in Kansas were from the Manhattan Mercury, a daily paper in eastern Kansas. The winners will be recognized at the association's annual convention Oct. 6 in Charleston, S.C.

