


weather report



61°
10:30 a.m.
Thursday

Today
• Sunset, 7:39 p.m.

Saturday
• Sunrise, 6:03 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:36 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil temperature 70 degrees
• Humidity 62 percent
• Sky partly sunny
• Winds northeast 15 mph
• Barometer 30.26 inches and rising

• Record High today 105° (1983)
• Record Low today 45° (1987)

Last 24 Hours*
High Wednesday 99°
Low Wednesday 60°
Precipitation trace
This month .77
Year to date 8.03
Below Normal 6.70 inches

The Topside Forecast
Today: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m., a high near 80, winds breezy out of the southeast at 10 to 30 mph and a low around 55. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 4 p.m., a high near 83, winds out of the southwest at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 56.

Extended Forecast
Sunday: Sunny with a high near 82 and a low around 61. Monday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms and a high near 86.
(National Weather Service)



A fireman hopped on board this tanker to help fill up other trucks with water at the T-Bar Ranch fire Wednesday night. Firefighters from Goodland, Sherman County Rural and several other area departments fought the fire through the night and had it out Thursday morning. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Ranch fire burns miles of pasture land

By Kevin Bottrell

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Firefighters from four counties worked through the night on Wednesday, battling a pasture fire on the Sherman-Wallace County border. The fire was finally out early Thursday morning but crews were still hunting hotspots.

The fire began about 5 p.m. Wednesday on

the T-Bar Ranch, about seven miles west of K-27 on the border with Wallace County. The fire quickly burned a large swath of pasture land and crop stubble in both Wallace and Sherman Counties.

The Sherman County Rural Fire Department had been paged to a second fire at the same time, a small but out-of-control blaze near a structure at County Roads 21 and 59.

That fire was put out quickly, and firefighters were redeployed to the T-Bar Ranch, where Wallace County firefighters were already at work trying to control the fast-moving fire.

At least one farmstead in the area was damaged by the fire.

Throughout the evening and into the early morning hours, fire trucks and tankers from the Goodland Fire Department Kanorado,

Brewster, Thomas County and Cheyenne County were all put to work. Local farmers brought out discs, which are useful for churning up burnable material to make fire lines, and Goodland businesses supplied even more tankers. There was also at least one plane dumping water on the fire.

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Goodland school district taken off improvement

By Pat Schiefen

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The Goodland School Board on Monday night heard from Superintendent Bill Biermann that the district is no longer on improvement for not meeting the Annual Yearly Progress goals in the No Child Left Behind legislation. The district had to meet the goals for two years in a row to go off improvement.

Goodland High School Principal Greg Ferguson said the number of students enrolled in the high school is 274 up from 245 last year. He said they will be close to the line between 3A and 4A schools. The classification is based on how many go out for football.

Central Elementary School is expecting 220 students said Principal Harvey Swager, up 16 from

last year. West Elementary School is expecting 275 students including 32 pre kindergarten said Principal Verna Milnes, also up a few from last year. Grant Junior High Principal Steve Raymer wasn't at the meeting he was at Grant Junior High for the Ipad check out to students.

Ferguson said there were 42 boys out for football, 24 girls for volleyball and 15 to 18 students out

for cross country. Cross country has no senior running just under class men.

He also reported that the security cameras were up and working in the high school.

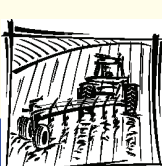
Biermann said that the window replacement at the high school will not be finished by the start of school. The installation has been slowed by the arrival of the windows. They

have been installed as they arrive.

Track Renovation has finished peeling off the latex top at the high school track. Less damage and pot holes were found on the other curve of the track. The company would be gone for two to three weeks and then be back for a month to finish the refurbishing of the track.

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local markets



10:30 a.m.
Wheat — \$8.05 bushel
Posted county price — \$8.08
Corn — \$7.97 bushel
Posted county price — \$7.30
Milo — \$7.48 bushel
Soybeans — \$15.85 bushel
Posted county price — \$16.15
Millets — \$14 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$26.45 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.)

County concerned over computer breach

By Kevin Bottrell

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The Sherman County Commissioners questioned law enforcement officials and several attorneys about a possible breach in the computer system at the Sheriff's Department at their meeting Tuesday morning.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said a Sheriff's Office employee discovered an outside person accessing the secure server and reported it in late July, after which a consultant was called in who discovered a piece of spyware had been placed in the system. Strnad said a meeting was called July 29 with the commissioners and County Attorney Brock Abbey, Assistant Attorney General Nicole Romine. She said at the time, the commissioners were told not to discuss the matter.

Sheriff Kevin Butts said he had requested the Kansas Bureau of

Investigation become involved. Strnad said the commissioners have received a letter from Goodland Police Chief Cliff Couch, who was concerned about the integrity of his department's server, since the police and the Sheriff's Office maintain the system jointly. Couch, who was at the Tuesday meeting, said he was not requesting an investigation, merely that the city be kept in the loop.

Strnad said the matter is now public because of these requests. The city and county officials did not give the names of any suspects or persons of interest in the incident, and no accusations were made at the meeting.

After consulting with attorney Allen Glenn Denning in a closed-door session, the commissioners decided

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Laying out the welcome mat



West Elementary Principal Verna Milnes and Goodland High School Principal Greg Ferguson started the hamburgers for the back to school barbecue for teachers and their families at Steever Water Park on Tuesday night. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

inside today



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Fall sports begins soon

Goodland's student sports teams are practicing hard for the upcoming season. See Page 10



Fresh produce



The Goodland Farmer's Market was open Tuesday night at Memorial Park at 9th and Center Avenue to sell locally grown produce. Shirley Houston of the Blackbird Gallery (center) and Jacquie Shields (right) were Teresa Armstrong's (left) customers. Hours are from 4 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday night and beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Saturdays. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Primary Election results made official at canvassing

The Sherman County Commissioners met Monday to canvass the votes in the 2012 Primary Election, which involves checking the vote counts and adding in provisional ballots to get a final, official count for the election.

After adding in the 40 provisional ballots, none of the outcomes of the election changed.

The winners of the Primary Election serve as each party's nominees for the General Election in November, except for party precinct committee members, for whom the Primary Election is the final election. Most of the remaining candidates are unopposed in the general, except for County Commissioner District 3 and State Senate, but there could be write-in candidates for any of the positions. Write-in candidates for the General Election must file with the county clerk's office.

Primary results are as follows:

Election 2012

Republican Primary

Contested Races:

- State Senate
Ralph Ostmeyer — 934
John Miller — 378
- State House
Rick Billinger — 1,109
Ward Cassidy — 267
- District Court Judge 1
Glenn Schifner — 694
Todd Stramel — 474

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