

weather report

72°

10:30 a.m.
Monday



Today

• Sunset, 7:33 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:07 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:32 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 67 degrees
- Humidity 29 percent
- Sky partly sunny
- Winds southwest 20 mph
- Barometer 30.09 inches and falling
- Record High today 102° (1943)
- Record Low today 46° (1964)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	80°
Low Sunday	44°
Precipitation	none
This month	0.86
Year to date	8.12
Below normal	6.95 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 9 a.m., a high near 89, winds out of the south at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 60.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon, a high near 92, winds breezy out of the south at 15 to 35 mph and a low around 63.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 90 and a low around 62.
Friday: Sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.
(National Weather Service)



The large pasture fire that burned seven sections of the T-Bar Ranch last week was caused by lightning. The fire may have burned as much as 15,000 acres. Photo by Becky Samuelson/The Western Times

Fire may have been largest in local history

By Kevin Bottrell

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More details have emerged in what could be one of the biggest fires in Sherman County history.

Emergency Management Coordinator Ryan issued a release late last week, saying that according to aerial estimates and reports from landowners, the fire burned some 15,000 acres in southern Sherman County and northern Wallace County. Sherman County Fire Chief Brian James said he has been told the fire — which was started by lightning — is one of the biggest in the history of the county.

Though the exact location of the lightning strike is unknown at this time, based on wind speed and direction, James said the strike was likely somewhere around Sherman County Roads 50 and 25, on the northwestern side of the burn area.

Wind and dry conditions helped spread the fire quickly. It burned around seven sections of the T-Bar Ranch as well as sections owned by other landowners. James said the ground was mainly Conservation Reserve Program grasslands, with

a few fields of crop stubble.

The fire started around 5 p.m. Wednesday night and continued to burn through the night. It got far enough east to enter the southwestern corner of Thomas County and the northwest corner of Logan County.

James said firefighting units and tankers were dispatched from Weskan, Logan County, Colby, Oakley, Cheyenne County, Brewster, Kanorado and Wallace County departments. Three or more discs owned by area farmers were brought out to help control the fire. Crop Production Services, Frontier Ag and Helena Chemical all provided tankers. James said at one time there were as many as thirty vehicles hauling water around the fire. A command post was set up at the intersection of County Roads 25 and 57.

The firefighters also received assistance from The Sherman County Sheriff's Office, Sherman County Emergency Management, Kansas Wildlife and Parks Department, Logan County Emergency Ser-

See FIRE, Page 5

First day of school



This young boy was excited for the first day of school this morning at West Elementary School. Goodland Public Schools started classes on Monday. Most Northwest Kansas Technical College programs began classes Aug. 13, while Brewster Schools are scheduled to start classes Wednesday. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Kidnapped witness escapes here

A witness kidnapped by the suspect of a double homicide case in Dallas chose the Goodland Walmart to make his escape on Thursday. Authorities later caught up with the suspect in Aurora, Colo.

The witness, whose name is being withheld while the investigation is ongoing, contacted the Goodland Police from Walmart, saying the suspect, Abey Belette Girma, 37, had forced him to drive from Dallas to Kansas after admitting to the murders of Yayehiyad Lemma and Yenenesh Desta. Girma drove off. The

Dallas Police Department issued an Attempt to Locate notice for him, saying he may be traveling west toward Denver.

Girma was arrested in Aurora on Saturday and is awaiting extradition to Texas.

According to the affidavit for arrest warrant, the witness told police he has known Girma for several months, and Girma told him on Wednesday that he had

See WITNESS, Page 5

local markets

10:30 a.m.

- Wheat — \$8.25 bushel
Posted county price — \$8.13
- Corn — \$8.15 bushel
Posted county price — \$7.78
- Milo — \$7.66 bushel
- Soybeans — \$16.22 bushel
Posted county price — \$16.31
- Millet — \$14 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$26.55 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.)

Open for business



The long-awaited day when Main Avenue from 12th to 13th Streets would finally be reopened came on Friday, when contractors finished laying the last few bricks. The months long process to tear up the two blocks between 11th and 13th Streets began in May. The crews also laid new water pipes under the sidewalks and put brick over them for easy access. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Colorado homicide victims identified

The identities of two women killed in Kirk, Colo., last Monday have been released.

Dianne Withrow, 60, and Elva Doddridge, 88, were identified through dental records. Their names were released Friday evening. They were killed at their home in Kirk — south of U.S. 36, about 20 miles west of Bonnie Reservoir — last Monday. Yuma County Sheriff's deputies responded to the house after receiving a 911 call from a female caller.

Tyler Withrow, 30, was found at the home and arrested. Tyler is Dianne Withrow's son and Doddridge's grandson. He is being

charged with two counts of first degree murder.

A judicial gag order has prevented law enforcement officials from talking about the case. Withrow had residences in Aurora, Colo., and Erie, Colo. Authorities have searched both places.

Withrow reportedly had an incident with Aurora police on July 27, where he was found naked in a neighbor's garage. He refused to comply with police commands and had to be shot with a taser. He was taken to a hospital before being released.

Aurora police were applying for an arrest warrant at the time of the murders.

Sen. Pat Roberts stops for lunch

By Pat Schiefen

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Sen. Pat Roberts spoke to a full house at a luncheon for the Goodland Rotary Club at the High Plains Museum on Friday. Roberts was visiting various communities on a listening tour. He has been in the Senate for eight years.

He said he hoped the Livestock Disaster Assistance Bill would pass in the Senate when it went back in session. Roberts said the bill did not pass in the Senate before adjournment because speciality crops such as organic vegetables were not included. It had passed in the House of Representatives. Roberts said producers were having a rough time with the fires, winds and everything is dry as a bone.

"I have been doing a rain dance



U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts greeted several members of the public at the Rotary Club luncheon on Friday. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

See SENATOR, Page 5

Back-to-back races held

The Sherman County Speedway held makeup races as well as the regularly scheduled races this weekend.

See Page 10

