

weather report

30°
10 a.m.
Monday



Today

- Sunset, 4:25 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 6:45 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 41 degrees
- Humidity 69 percent
- Sky overcast and cloudy
- Winds northeast 13 mph
- Barometer 30.33 inches and rising
- Record High today 75° (1949)
- Record Low today -10° (1952)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Sunday 56°
- Low Sunday 20°
- Precipitation none
- This month trace
- Year to date 9.02
- Below normal 10.09 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near 58, winds out of the southwest at 5 to 10 mph switching to the south and a low around 23. Wednesday: Sunny with a high near 61, winds out of the south at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 25.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Sunny with a high near 60 and a low around 31. Friday: Sunny with a high near 62 and a low around 35. Saturday: Sunny with a high near 63 and a low around 35.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.

Warden finds dead animals left in ditches

Sherman County has a perennial problem with hunters throwing away carcasses in ditches, and Game Warden Mike Hopper is reminding hunters that this behavior is illegal.

Hopper said there are instances every year of people harvesting game, whether deer, pheasants, turkeys and even ducks and depositing them in ditches by the side of the road. Sometimes the carcasses are cleaned, and sometimes not.

On Wednesday, Hopper was investigating a deer carcass dumped along with a cardboard box and plastic near the intersection of County Roads 66 and 19. The dumped carcass was reported to Hopper by hunters in the area.

The practice is illegal, Hopper said, as it is littering and could also be trespassing depending on where

the carcass is dumped.

"It's unethical," he said. "It's an eyesore. People have to witness it who shouldn't have to."

Typically the carcasses are left between one and five miles outside of Goodland, he said, and are often found in the same places each year.

Hopper said there is a proper way of disposing of a carcass, either by putting it in a bag and throwing it away or obtaining permission from a landowner to do a safe burn pit.

Hopper said he would also like to remind hunters to be careful where they park. With drought conditions continuing, hunters should avoid parking in tall grass, weeds or wheat stubble, since hot parts on the underside of cars can start fires.

"Be careful with your cigarette butts," he added.



Fire departments have busy week

The Sherman County Rural and Goodland Fire Departments fought two fires last week. The first (above and left) happened Wednesday at Floyd Studer's shop on Montana Ave. just south of town. Fire Chief Brian James said Studer noticed a "popping noise" and then saw smoke and flames in a small apartment in a steel building. Firefighters arrived on scene and went inside to attack the fire. More arrived for backup and helped ventilate the apartment. James said the fire was out within 15 minutes. The State Fire Marshal's office investigated and found the fire had been started by a bad electrical socket. The second fire happened early Friday morning. A tree and debris pile at a Sporer construction site caught fire. James said the cause of the fire is currently unknown.

Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Parade is Saturday

It should be a clear night Saturday for the Goodland Ambassadors' annual Christmas Parade.

The National Weather Service is predicting highs near 63 during the day and lows around 35 at night. The parade will begin at 5 p.m. Saturday at 17th and Main. Floats will go north on Main Street to the

Goodland Activities Center, where there will be cookies and an opportunity to get your picture taken with Santa.

There will be a cash prize for the top three parade entries. To enter a float, call Michael Solomon at 890-3743.

One injured on I-70 in late-night rollover

A 68-year-old New Yorker was hospitalized last Tuesday night after rolling his car on I-70.

A Kansas Highway Patrol report says Ole Gonsholt, 68, of Ellicottville, N.Y., was driving west on I-70 about 3 1/2 miles east of Goodland when he tried to pass a semi-tractor

rig at 10:18 p.m. He lost control and rolled the 2006 Toyota Matrix into the north ditch, coming to rest facing east.

Gonsholt was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center. He had been wearing a seat belt.

Railroad bypass opened up after Oakley elevator collapse

By Sam Dieter

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Trains were able to get through Oakley on Thursday after track crews finished a bypass, or shoo-fly, track around the grain elevator that collapsed last Tuesday.

Law enforcement officers and emergency workers, who stood by and kept traffic away from the scene for most of a day and a half went home to get some sleep. Railroad workers and contractor crews called to move the derailed cars did the same.

The two bins on the southeast side of the Frontier Ag grain elevator in Oakley collapsed at about 2:30 p.m. last Tuesday, spilling enough corn onto an adjacent Union Pacific Railroad track to knock over nine rail cars and block the track.

Davis said that a length of track, called a

"shoo fly," built around the site of the spill Wednesday had the railroad open. After the derailed cars were dragged out of the way, workers cut the rails on either side of the spill and moved the track to form a curve at either end. Pre-built "panel track" brought in by work trains connected the two ends, the crews spread crushed-rock ballast to hold and cushion the new track and alighted the rails. The bypass is only temporary, however.

"As soon as it's safe to get the main track back in service, that will be done," said Union Pacific Railroad spokesman Mark Davis. "Once we're told that it's safe to work around there, I'm sure our team will start."

Police, sheriff's deputies and state troopers blocked off the area last Tuesday afternoon. Crews couldn't approach the elevator until a structural engineer could arrive and assess

the risk of another collapse, said Pappy Lies, director of emergency management for Logan and Gove counties.

After a meeting of responders at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Lies said, emergency workers went home for some well-deserved rest. By that time, track crews had finished the shoo-fly and trains were running. Davis said the line, Union Pacific's main track between Denver and Kansas City, carries about eight trains a day. Most carry coal headed east to power plants, along with grain and general freight.

Three empty tank cars among those knocked over by spilling grain sat to the side of the track this morning, missing their wheels, and about nine cars were parked on the track on either side of the spill.

The new track was open around the pile of

grain at the bottom of the elevator. Emergency personnel and railroad workers were gone, and only "no parking" signs were left along Second Street where it passes the elevator.

"Actually, those rail cars are needed for service," Davis said of the ones parked beside the elevator. He said the derailed cars would be put back on their wheels or placed on a flatcar later, maybe seven to 14 days after an accident. The parked cars will be taken away as soon as it's safe, he said, although he wasn't sure when that would be.

Lies said Wednesday evening before the meeting that a structural engineer was on the scene, but did not know what his assessment was. Davis believed that the engineer was working for Frontier Ag, but officials

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local markets

10 a.m.

- Wheat — \$8.32 bushel
- Posted county price — \$8.13
- Corn — \$7.52 bushel
- Posted county price — \$7.38
- Milo — \$7.12 bushel
- Soybeans — \$13.35 bushel
- Posted county price — \$13.57
- Millet — \$14 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$25.40 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

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Lady Mavs get first win

The Northwest Tech women's basketball team scored the first win in program history on Saturday against a team from North Platte, Neb.,

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Soup kitchen looking for volunteers



An organizational meeting for volunteers and friends was held recently at the Goodland Methodist Church Fellowship Hall to start up the Goodland Soup Bread of Life Community Dinner. Joy and Richard Hayden helped serve the soup. The group wants to provide a warm, nutritious meal twice a week to all people, especially those who are in need. To volunteer or provide other support call Sam Hall at the church at (785) 899-3631.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Goodland woman has license revoked

A Goodland real estate broker has been fined and had her license revoked by the Kansas Real Estate Commission.

A release from the commission dated Nov. 8 says it temporarily suspended Cynthia M. Smith's license on June 19, then revoked it on Aug. 28. The commission found Smith had violated the Kansas Real Estate Brokers' and Salespersons' License Act.

Violations include failing to account for misappropriating earnest money; removing money from her trust account for personal use; distributing earnest money without authorization from the buyer and seller; making fraudulent statements and misrepresentations; committing forgery; failing to comply with requests from the commission;

and failing to notify the commission of the location of her trust account. These are violations of Kansas statutes.

According to the release, Smith has been ordered to pay \$15,000 in fines and cannot conduct any activities that require a Kansas real estate license. These include "advertising or representing that she buys, sells, exchanges or leases real estate in which she does not have an interest, or that on behalf of another person for compensation, she lists properties, assists parties with a real estate transaction, procures prospects for a property or handles earnest money."

The commission's web site, www.kansas.gov/krec, had information for the public to verify whether an agent has a license or not.

