

weather report

43°
noon
Monday



Today

• Sunset, 4:47 p.m.
Wednesday
• Sunrise, 7:05 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:48 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 31 degrees
• Humidity 43 percent
• Sky clear and sunny
• Winds northwest 17 mph
• Barometer 30.31 inches and rising

• Record High today 68° (1943)
• Record Low today -6° (2007)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 41°
Low Sunday 20°
Precipitation none
This month 0.11
Year to date 0.11
Below normal 0.06 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a 30 percent chance of snow after 11 p.m., high near 52, low around 26 and winds out of the southwest at 5-10 mph and around 26. Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with 30 percent chance of snow before 11 a.m., high near 26, winds out of the north 15-20 mph and low around 9.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly sunny with a high near 34 and low around 12. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

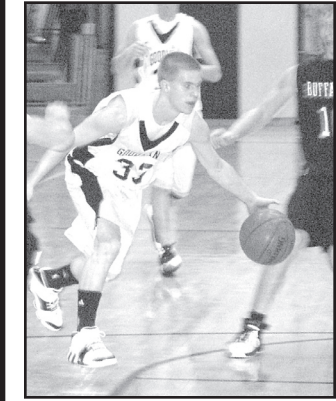
local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$8.84 bushel
Posted county price — \$8.46
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$4.67 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.59
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$4.46 bushel
Soybeans — \$11.50 bushel
Posted county price — \$11.73
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$7 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Confection — \$30/\$20 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
(Markets by Scouler Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowboys win at home

Junior Greg Farris drove to the basket between two Rawlins County Buffaloes during the game Friday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Farris had 21 points in the game leading the Cowboys to a 55-48 win. See story, photos on Page 12.

GOP picks deputy for deeds job

By Tom Betz

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Sherman County Republicans gathered Thursday evening at the Sherman County Courthouse to nominate a replacement for the retired county Register of Deeds Carol Armstrong who retired at the end of December.

The committee members heard from Billie Hoyt, Armstrong's deputy for 11 years, and from Mary Ann Snethen who has worked in the county clerk's office for 19 years. After speeches the committee members nominated the two candidates and voted by secret ballot with Hoyt being declared the winner.

County Chair Roxie Yonkey said Hoyt's name would be forwarded to Governor Kathleen Sebelius for her appointment, which is expected to be official within a week.

Armstrong retired after 24 years in the office, being the register of deeds since 1994 and deputy register for 11 years before that.

More than 30 people gathered in the commissioner room at the courthouse and Yonkey opened the committee meeting and Secretary Janet Craft called roll with 30 of the 32 precinct committee people being present.



Hoyt

The Republican county committee is made up of precinct committeemen and committeewomen from each township and city ward.

Yonkey had the two candidates draw for the speaking order with Hoyt speaking first.

Hoyt said she has been the deputy register for 11 years, and has been working with Armstrong to provide a smooth transition.

She explained that all of the 124 years of Sherman County registered history are con-

tained in a collection of books and indexes used to retrieve information about a variety of documents and titles.

Hoyt said all the information requests are retrieved by hand. She said the office does have a computer and set of compact discs which can be used to pull up information, but that it mostly done by hand.

She said she would like to stay in the register's office and be named to replace Armstrong.

Speaking second Snethen said she came to Sherman County in 1969 to attend the technical school and has been working in the county clerk's office for 19 years.

She said she would like to be nominated as register of deeds, and would like to see the office more computerized. She said it would make it easier for people to get information.

Snethen said she felt the register's office was similar to the detailed work she has done in

the clerk's office where she has done the county payroll, accounts payable and election duties.

Harlan House rose to nominate Hoyt saying he felt she was well qualified for the job. The nomination was seconded by Marsha Schilling.

Karen Hooker of Kanorado nominated Snethen, and Scott Hooker seconded.

Atally committee of Attorney Ron Vignery, Elmer Purvis and Cheryl Traub gathered up the paper ballots and adjourned to the hallway to count the ballots.

Vignery reported the results to Yonkey who announced that Hoyt was the winner. Yonkey said she had the papers to fill out to mail to Topeka for the governor's approval.

Hoyt thanked the committee members for their support.

Vignery thanked both candidates for being interested in the position.

The meeting lasted about 20 minutes.

Special teacher, coach influenced many lives

By Sharon Corcoran

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His teaching and coaching influenced many lives, including those of his five children, but his family says they were what was most important to him.

His children say he sacrificed everything for them, and one even said she felt they were his hobby.

Dennis Garth Stone, 61, teacher and coach for the past 28 years at Goodland High School, died Wednesday evening, Jan. 9, 2008, after apparently suffering a heart attack in the weight room at the school. He taught business, accounting and "financial literacy," which his sons say was his favorite class. He also started teaching psychology this year.

"Mr. Stone was great teacher, coach, father and husband," said Joseph Sramek, wrestling and football coach at Goodland High. "He meant a lot to everyone on the team and will always be remembered."

A funeral Mass was planned for 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 14, 2008, at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Goodland.

After his death, Stone's family said they experienced an outpouring of sympathy from friends, neighbors and former students. His children said he influenced their lives by example and the lessons he taught. Those lessons, they said, he allowed them to learn but did not force on them.

Sports has played a large role in the Stone family's lives, but coaching did not define Mr. Stone, his sons say.

He would sacrifice a win to teach his children to play by the rules, they said, and he would urge them not to do something just because he wanted it, but to be involved in the activities they wanted to.

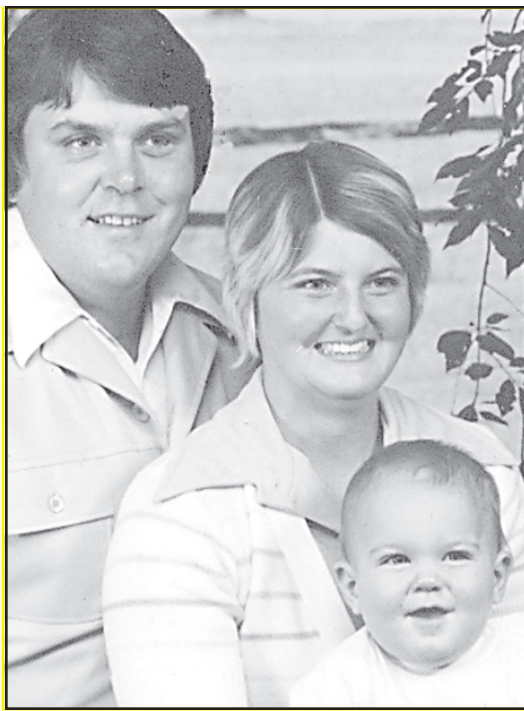
Mr. Stone didn't need awards to show his success, his children say, but relished other people's successes that he had a hand in.



Senior Halli Stone (left photo) was at the basketball games on Friday and participated in the Family Career and Community Leaders of America annual flag service with the X-Pressos. The crowd held a moment of silence in remembrance of Coach Dennis Stone, and



Halli smiled to herself as she thought about her father. Coach Stone (above) with sons Luke, Seth and daughter Jayci. Stone (below) with wife Karen and first son Tige when he was a baby.



He loved to read and to teach and coach, his family said. He could make others laugh and was quick to laugh himself.

His wife Karen, a kindergarten teacher at North Elementary School, recalled that the family came to Goodland because her husband wanted to raise his children

in a small town, but they thought they would only be here a few years.

His father wanted them to move back to Kansas City, she said, because he wouldn't see his grandchildren much. But instead, the family made two trips a year to the city to see his parents, at Christmas and during the summer, after harvest was over.

Friends he went to college with had told him about growing up in small towns, Karen said, and he thought it sounded neat. They told him if your kids

do anything in a small town, someone will tell you, and while his kids sometimes saw that as a minus, he saw it as a plus.

His children are Tige (pronounced tie followed by a hard "g"), 32, a teacher in Derby; Seth, 28, a bar manager in Manhattan; Luke, 25,

a physical education teacher and coach in Indianapolis; Jayci, 23, a college student in Manhattan; and Halli, 18, a senior at Goodland High.

"Three of us are college graduates," the boys said, adding that Jayci will be if it's the last thing she does. She has enough credits to graduate, they said, and will probably get a general studies degree. Her goal, she said, is to coach college basketball, and as soon as she gets her bachelor's degree, she will begin working on a master's.

All the kids had an interest in sports from an early age, the Stones said, and they played in every room of their house, as well as the yard, Gulick Park, Steever Park, in Little League and on the swim team and at school.

But their dad didn't push his kids into sports, they say, but rather supported them in doing what they wanted.

"When I was going to play football," Jayci recalled (she played quarterback as a freshman), "everyone said, 'No.' I had no support in the school system. They (indicating her mother and siblings) wanted me to play volleyball.

"People asked him how he could

let me risk getting hurt like that. He realized you couldn't protect yourself from everything."

The family supported her while she played football in junior high, Tige said, but thought she should play volleyball her freshman year of high school.

Jayci said while her dad coached her in track, she was the one who would insist that he teach her one new thing after another and kept him at practice until he was begging to go home.

"I decided one year I wasn't going to do track because I had done it before," Halli said, "and then he was coaching, and I was going to go out, but he told me not to. He didn't want me to do that just because he was coaching."

He would let you be you, Karen said, and nothing else mattered.

But he did teach his family many lessons.

In Little League, Karen said, he felt that playing was the treat, and he wouldn't let the kids go to Dairy Queen after the games. He believed so strongly in that, she said, that when the kids played sports in col-

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Road 16 bids to be opened in February

By Tom Betz

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Plans for the improvement of County Road 16 between old U.S. 24 and Road 65 are ready to go to bid, and Sherman County Commissioners were told Wednesday the bid opening would be held at the end of February.

Jerol DeBoer, engineer and owner from Penco Engineering of Plainville, who is handling the project handed each commissioner a copy of the plans and said he would be putting them out to bid the next week. He said he is planning to hold the bid opening at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 28, in the commission room.

The commissioners agreed it would be good to do the road project bid opening separate from the commission meeting scheduled for Friday, Feb. 29.

DeBoer said he had run into a problem in getting the Road 16 project done before the Road 65 project, which is scheduled to begin in May.

He said the problem is having enough time for the contractor to get material in time to do the project in April or early May.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said it had been the hope to get the one-mile of Road 16 done first, and that it would not be good to have both projects going at the same time.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked if Venture Construction could use some of the material they have stockpiled for the Road 65

Grader payment missed in 2006

By Tom Betz

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At least five people should have caught the mistake, but no one did and Wednesday the Sherman County commissioners learned that a lease payment of \$26,906 was not made to Bankwest in 2006.

The payment was missed by the county clerk, the county treasurer, the county auditor, the road and bridge staff and the bank officers. The payment did not show up as being paid and the bank did not send a notice asking for the payment.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said a check of all the paperwork shows that a check was never written for the payment, and was told by the Bankwest people that the payment date had been extended. Rumpel said the extension was why the bank did not send the county a notice. Cara Daise of Bankwest told Rumpel the bank did not know why the payment was extended, but the

bank would waive the penalty and interest fees if the payment was made today.

Curt Way, public works manager, told the commissioners he had gone to Bankwest to get a payoff on a motor grader purchased in 2004, but found that the 2006 payment had not been made.

Way said he had planned to pay the Bankwest lease off, but when he went to get the payoff he was told the 2006 payment was not made. The banks said 2007 payment was made, but that leaves a higher amount that Way expected.

Way said he had signed a purchase order on Jan. 4, 2006 to make the payment.

"Where is the money," Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked.

"It wasn't paid," Rumpel said.

Way said the Bankwest people had

See PAYMENT, Page 10

project to do the Road 16 project.

DeBoer said it would be up to Venture if they get the bid.

"If APAC paving or another contractor gets

it they are looking at having to get the material," DeBoer said.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked what Venture would do if they get the bid.

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