

## weather report

**67°**

noon  
 Monday



### Today

- Sunset, 6:04 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 5:40 a.m.
- Sunset, 6:05 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 43 degrees
- Humidity 8 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds west 12-19 mph
- Barometer 29.99 inches and falling
- Record High today 85° (1907)
- Record Low today -6° (1965)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Sunday	51°
Low Sunday	16°
Precipitation	none
This month	0.29
Year to date	0.90
Below normal	0.85 inches

### The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 59, winds out of the north 10-15 mph and low around 32.  
 Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 69, winds out of the southeast 5-15 mph and a low around 32.

### Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of rain or snow at night, a high near 53 and a low around 26. Friday: High near 49.  
 (National Weather Service)  
 Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
 \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets



### Noon

- Wheat — \$10.25 bushel
- Posted county price — \$9.61
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$4.77 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.68
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$4.47 bushel
- Soybeans — \$10.85 bushel
- Posted county price — \$10.74
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Confection — \$30/\$20 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)
- (Markets by Soular 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



## Goodland advances 11

Goodland's Colton Cooper won over Paul Kolterman of Oberlin, 9-1, in the 110-pound division of the 12-and-under class at the subdistrict wrestling tournament March 15. State Kansas Kids is this weekend with 11 advancing. See story, photo on Page 10.

# Museum looks at one alternative

By Tom Betz

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The city-owned High Plains Museum is out of room and the board has been working on plans for a new building, but Tuesday representatives met with the Sherman County commissioners looking for support for an alternative in a historic downtown building.

Curator Linda Holton and board members Larry Keirms and Jerry Fairbanks told commissioners the museum had been offered a chance to buy the Antique Warehouse building at Main and 17th.

They said no price had been set on the old grocery warehouse, but wanted to get commissioners' opinions before proceeding with an offer.

The commissioners said it sounded like something worth looking at and agreed to join city commissioners to look the building

over.

Holton said the museum board looked at the building several years ago, and had someone from the Kansas Historical Society look at it.

"At the time, we felt it would cost too much to renovate it," Holton said.

She said the owners, Kim Acuff and Shane Ritter, approached her about a possible sale before they put the building on the market.

"It is structurally solid and very large," Holton said. "The advisory board and I have talked about it as a possibility. The cost would be much less than ... a new building."

The museum has been working on plans for a building south of I-70 near the Holiday Inn Express donated by the Irvin family. That is estimated to cost about \$3 million.

Holton said the main floor of the three-story

warehouse building would have more space than what the museum has now.

The rest of the renovation could be done in phases, she said, adding that the board had an architect, Alan Stecklein, of Stecklein and Associates of Hays, and he brought an engineer, J. M. Connelly and Associates of Hays, to look the building over, and felt it would be a wonderful museum.

She handed the commissioners a summary of his report:

"For the age of the building," Stecklein wrote, "it is in reasonably good condition. (Repair of)...some deferred maintenance is needed, as well as improvements to the accessibility provisions."

Holton said the museum already has some of its collection that won't fit in the current building in storage in the Antique Ware-

house.

The B.E. Bridges Wholesale Grocery built the building in 1922 and added an extension to the east in 1936. It was a grocery warehouse operating about 10 trucks delivering groceries to stores in the region. It closed in 1952 said Glenda Parks who works at the High Plains Museum. She said it was vacant until the 1970s when a group of businessmen bought the building and developed it into a variety of businesses. There has been a furniture store, cafe, aquarium, beauty shop, flower shop, a bar and other businesses in the building since then. The Antique Warehouse was opened in the building in May 2001.

"With the history of the building, it is a good fit," said Fairbanks. "I really like the third floor, where it is wide open. The main floor is big enough for what we have now. We are only displaying about a third of what we have."

"Some of the existing rooms can be used for exhibits as they are. We could use the third floor for evening events or for things like wedding receptions."

Fairbanks said one idea would be to put the main entrance on the west side and use the east side for offices for the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Sherman County Economic Development Council and the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce. He said the ceiling is high enough the museum's replica of the first helicopter would fit inside without having to change the building.

"If we can come up with the price, we can get enough to buy it," he said.

Holton said while looking into possible grants, most foundations say if you have something, they will help.

She said the old freight elevator is working, but to make the building handicap accessible, they would need a new elevator.

"We want to ask the architect to give us an estimate," Holton said, "but we don't want to do that without getting a chance to look at buying the building. We don't think the financial commitment is higher than what we were looking at for maintaining the new building."

Previously, the museum board had asked the commissioners to consider an annual budget of about \$100,000 to help operate a new museum. The county does not give money to the museum, but does give some each year to the Sherman County Historical Society.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked about parking.

Fairbanks said there is parking along the north side and on the east.

"I think there is enough parking for museum guests," Holton said. "I am not sure about for the events idea. There is an unbelievable storage area. If this were to happen, we can bring tourists down to Main (Street)."

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked who would own the building.

Fairbanks said it could be done several ways, including using the Sherman County Community Foundation.

He said the next step is to talk to the City Commission.

"I know they have an interest," he said. "We would like to do a walk through of the building with both commissions."

## Easter eggs a bit hit



Connie Grieve, Easter-egg-hunt organizer for the Goodland Lions Club, offered an egg to a youngster while spreading the candy-filled plastic eggs for the hunt Saturday morning. She said with help from Wal-Mart, the club was able to provide \$500 worth of candy for the hunt.  
 Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

# Six county offices up for election this year

By Sharon Corcoran

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Six county offices will be up for election this year, and anyone who wants to run needs to file at the Sherman County clerk's office by Monday, June 9.

Up for election are clerk, treasurer, register of deeds, county attorney, sheriff and two spots on the county commission.

There will be an opening for district judge in the 15th Judicial District, covering Sherman, Wallace, Cheyenne, Sheridan, Thomas, Rawlins and Logan counties. With Judge Jack Burr retiring after 30 years, a Goodland lawyer says he's running for the post.

Janet Rumpel has served as clerk since 1983, and Bonnie Selby has

been county attorney since 1998. Selby said she plans to run for re-election, saying she has goals to achieve yet in the office.

Asked if she plans to run, Rumpel is coy. She says she's thinking about it but isn't ready to announce.

"I'd like to keep that under my hat," she said.

Billie Hoyt, deputy register of deeds for four years under Carol Armstrong, was chosen by the Republican Party to replace Armstrong when she retired at the end of last year. Hoyt said she is planning to run for her own term this fall.

Iris Scheopner was elected treasurer and Kevin Butts sheriff in 2004. Butts has worked for the sheriff's department since July 1994. Both say they plan to run for re-election.

Butts was appointed undersheriff in 2001. Scheopner worked at the treasurer's office for a little over four years before running for election to replace Shelby Miller, who retired.

Democrat Mitch Tiede serves District 2 and Republican Kevin Rasure District 3 on the county commission, and their spots are up for election. Rasure said he is undecided about running, while Tiede could not be reached.

District 2 includes all of Ward 1 in Goodland, Ward 4 north of Sixth St. and Llanos, Shermanville and Voltaire townships. District 3 is all of Ward 2, the city of Kanorado and Grant, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Smoky and Stateline townships.

Only people living in those districts are eligible to run for the spots on the

commission, and only residents of those districts will vote for their commissioner, said Mary Ann Snetten, deputy county clerk. A bill to change that is in the state Legislature, but has run into opposition from Commissioner Chuck Thomas of Edson.

The bill (HB2307) was introduced last year after the citizens asked for it during the election when Thomas faced a contest from Darin Neufeld and Larry Enfield. The bill stalled in the Senate Election and Local Government committee last March after passing the House.

Now the commissioners are asking the Senate to pass the bill, and it will probably have to go back to the House with some changed language.

No one has filed yet in the county, Rumpel said, and only one petition

has been picked up. Goodland lawyer Schyler Goodwin picked up a petition in November, she said, to run for sheriff.

Scott Showalter has filed with the state, Rumpel said, to run for district judge. The position is up for election every four years, she said.

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Rep. Jim Morrison said they both will seek re-election this year, with no opposition in sight so far.

Ostmeyer, a Grinnell Republican, said he has filed for re-election and hopes to serve one more four-year term in the Senate.

Rep. Jim Morrison (R-Colby) said he filed for reelection several months ago, and hoped he would be able to serve at least one or maybe two more two-year terms.

# Fire team committee meets to look at city, county issues

The city-county fire team met last Monday to open a dialog about ways the city and rural fire departments could work more closely together, but put off any decisions until at least fall.

The meeting lasted more than an hour and a half, and at the end members decided to meet again in September, with Mayor Rick Billinger and Sherman County Commissioner Mitch Tiede to set the time and place.

City Attorney Jeff Mason said eight of the 11 members of the committee were at the meeting at the city commission room, plus City Manager Wayne Hill. Those included

Tom Rohr, chairman of the Sherman County Fire Board; Tiede; Billinger; Alan David, Goodland rural fire chief, and his assistant, Chris Bauman; Brian James, city fire chief, and his assistant, James Miller; and Mason.

Missing were fire chiefs from Kanorado and Brewster and a representative of the Shine On Sherman County Government Services Alliance. Mason said the Brewster chief was ill and that Shine On representative did not know about the meeting until it was too late to attend.

The team reviewed the status of the departments, with the city reporting it has 15 volunteer firefighters and a budget for 16.

The Goodland Rural department has 22 with a budget for 24, Kanorado has between nine and 17, and Brewster has between nine and 12.

The committee talked about how to involve Kanorado and Brewster, and decided to continue to invite representatives to meetings.

Looking at common issues between the city and rural departments, the group talked about cross-training volunteers on each other's equipment so fire fighters from any department could be used as needed. The training would give each group an understanding of the operation of the equipment and where various controls are located, said Mason.

Another possibility was to coordinate ordering equipment and supplies, which could be purchased in bulk to save money. Still another was coordination of grant writing efforts.

Mason said communications among departments does not seem to be much of a problem. The present radios allow all the groups departments to talk to each other, he said, but there may be some problems with the county's repeater system.

Mason said the meeting was cordial, but representatives of both groups said they wanted to have some time to get their departments straightened out before meeting again.