

weather report

40°
 noon
 Monday



Today

- Sunset, 7:18 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 6:18 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:19 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 42 degrees
- Humidity 48 percent
- Sky overcast
- Winds southeast 13 mph
- Barometer 29.95 inches and falling
- Record High today 82° (1930)
- Record Low today 12° (1973)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	60°
Low Sunday	28°
Precipitation	none
This month	0.04
Year to date	0.97
Below normal	1.34 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow or rain, a high near 47, winds out of the south at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 30.
 Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers, a high near 53, winds out of the south at 10-15 mph and a low around 31.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain, a high near 48 and a low around 29.
 (National Weather Service)
 Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
 * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$9.09 bushel
- Posted county price — \$9.53
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$5.54 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.61
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$5.14 bushel
- Soybeans — \$11.02 bushel
- Posted county price — \$11.53
- 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 Scoular 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



Cowboys lose to Colby

Cowboys' junior Kevin Amthor reached out to tag first as the Colby Eagles' pitcher tried to pick him off in the first inning of the first game Friday at Memorial Field. The Cowboys lost both games, 16-0 and 15-5. See photos story on Page 12.

At-large voting bill in limbo

By Tom Betz

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Sherman County voters may not get a chance to decide about voting countywide on county commissioners because a bill to allow the change is stuck in a conference committee in Topeka because of opposition by at least one commissioner.

Sen. Ralph Ostmeier (R-Grinnell) said Friday the bill is not dead, but that Rep. Mike Burgess (R-Topeka), chairman of the conference committee, is concerned because all three Sherman County commissioners no longer support the bill (HB2307).

"The bill is still alive," Ostmeier said, "and the leadership said they would work with me. Rep. Burgess said he wished all three commissioners were in agreement, and that there had been a community forum this year."

Ostmeier said the legislators want to hear from the people of Sherman County on this issue. While the legislature is in recess, he said, there is time to see if there

Most want people to vote on issue

What do Sherman County leaders have to say about a bill to allow voters to decide whether commissioners should run at large, with all voters having a say in every race?

"I am for the commissioners running at large," said John Golden, a former city and county commissioner and former state legislator, when the matter was discussed on March 12 last year. "Giving people the opportunity to run is a better situation and brings more of your town to the table."

"I think it is a good change for the county," said Jeff Deeds, a farmer who was in the audience at the meeting on March 18 this year to support the change. "The city and school boards are at-large, and I think it would be good for the commissioners to be at-large, since you represent the whole county."

"Today, the population outside the city limits is not that big," said Darin Neufeld, an engineer who ran for commissioner two years ago. "We have to

think of ourselves as a single unit. If we start thinking as a whole, it is the only way we can survive.

"People like the idea of being able to vote for everyone. It gives people who live in town a vote for all commissioners."

"Let the people vote on it," said Chuck Wilkens of Wilkens Truck & Tractor, a school board member and chairman of the Sherman County Economic Development Council.

"You can never go wrong to allow the people to make a decision," said Cynthia Strnad, former county commissioner.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said in March she and her election workers had to deal with people who came to vote in the election two years ago and got upset when they were told they could not vote in the commissioner race. She said more than one angry

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is enough support to get the bill passed.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said

Saturday if people want to vote on this issue, it is up to them to get the word out and let the commissioners

and the Legislature know. He said if there is no interest in the bill, it will die. Rasure said he would bring

the issue up at today's commission meeting.

Commissioners voted 2-1 on March 18 to ask Ostmeier to move the bill out of the Senate — with Commissioner Chuck Thomas voting no — and the amended bill passed 40-0 on March 27. The House passed its version last year by a vote of 120-2 on Feb. 19.

When the bill was returned to the House on March 28, though, the amended version was not approved, and a conference committee was requested with Burgess named chairman.

Rasure said after talking to Ostmeier and Rep. Jim Morrison (R-Colby) on Friday, he was afraid the bill was dead. Rasure said Ostmeier told him if the people of Sherman County want this to pass, they will have to let the Legislature know they support the bill.

If approved by voters, the bill says, "Each registered voter in Sherman County shall be permitted to

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Director Annette Fairbanks (right) and Carnegie Arts Center Director Kay Younger went over final adjustments for the program, which will be presented Saturday, Sunday and Monday at the Elks Lodge.

Three performances planned for annual dinner-theater show

Prepare to be entertained by Goodland's own version of a television awards show, presented by the Goodland Arts Council in a dinner-theater event Saturday, Sunday and Monday at the Goodland Elks Lodge.

The Saturday performance will feature a display of art work from Smokey Hills Public Television's annual spring auction starting at 5:30 p.m.

Annette Fairbanks is the director for the show. The host, Roxy Rogers,

played by Janet Redlin, gets rid of her producer, Dale Schields, and director, Jeff Mason. In the meantime, she is being pestered for alimony by her ex-husband, played by Kurt Goodwin.

Will the show go on? Find out this weekend.

Saturday's menu fried chicken. Sunday's show at 2 p.m. will have dessert and Monday's show at 5:30 p.m. will have appetizers.



The ex-husband (played by Kurt Goodwin, (above) of star Roxy Rogers caught the star's assistant (Jessica Cole) as the whole situation overwhelmed her. Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

No election filings yet, candidates take out papers

By Sharon Corcoran

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No one has filed yet for the county offices up for election this year, but several candidates have picked up petitions.

Most of the incumbent office holders say they will run again, though one commissioner is undecided so far. And two challengers have picked up petitions.

Offices up for election are county clerk, treasurer, register of deeds, attorney, sheriff and two spots on the commission. Incumbents Iris Scheopner, treasurer; Kevin Butts, sheriff; and Billie Hoyt, register of deeds, have picked up their petitions, said County Clerk Janet Rumpel, adding that she has also.

Rumpel said she couldn't remember for sure if County Attorney Bonnie Selby had picked one up yet, but Selby says she plans to run.

Scheopner may have an opponent for treasurer, Rumpel said, as Wanda Schritter has picked up a petition. And Goodland lawyer Schyler Goodwin picked up a petition for sheriff in November.

Democrat Mitch Tiede said he plans to run for re-election as commissioner for District 2. Republican Kevin Rasure said he was undecided about running for District 3.

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 commission, and only residents of those districts will vote for their commissioner, said Mary Ann Snethen, deputy county clerk. A bill to change that passed the state Senate 40-0 last month, but had been amended from the version passed by the House last year. The House asked for a conference committee on the amended bill, which so far has not moved back to either floor.

The bill (HB2307) was introduced last year after citizens asked for it during the election when Commissioner Chuck 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.

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 is running for the post.

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

Ostmeier, 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 several months ago, and hopes he will be able to serve at least one or maybe two more two-year terms.

The deadline for filing is 5 p.m. on Monday, June 9.

Police arrest two men for car wash burglary

Two men were arrested after police said they found them trying to break into a coin machine at the Goodland Car Wash at Ninth and Main about 2 a.m. Sunday.

Officers caught one man, but the other escaped. He and a woman were found Sunday hiding in the basement of an occupied Goodland home.

Chief Ray Smee said Monday that Officer Doug Whitson was on patrol when he heard noises at the car wash. When he checked, he saw two men trying to break into the coin machine and, when they saw him, they started running.

Whitson caught David Gonzales, 38, of Goodland, the chief said, and took him to the Sherman County Bastille. He is being held for burglary, criminal damage to property and theft.

The other man jumped some fences and managed to get away from Officer Jim Gillespie, who had come to back up Whitson. Smee said that afternoon, police got a tip the man had been seen in an alley behind a house on Walnut

Avenue, five blocks east of the car wash.

Officers, along with state Trooper Eric Hodges, went to the home of Cheryl Petry, 1015 Walnut, and arrested the man who allegedly had been seen at the car wash. He and a woman were found hiding in the basement, the chief said, but the homeowner apparently had no idea they were there.

Jose Riojas, 30, Goodland, is being held for burglary, criminal damage to property and theft, the chief said. He also could be charged with aggravated burglary for breaking into the occupied house on Walnut and obstruction of justice; all the charges have been referred to County Attorney Bonnie Selby, Smee said.

Riojas is wanted on an outstanding warrant from Pueblo County, Colo., the chief added, and said both men are on parole from Colorado.

Brinda Wescott, 43, Goodland, was arrested and could be charged with obstruction of justice, Smee said.