

weather report

91°
noon
Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 7:58 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:48 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:57 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 77 degrees
- Humidity 22 percent
- Sky clear and sunny
- Winds north 15 mph
- Barometer 29.97 inches and rising
- Record High today 107° (1938)
- Record Low today 45° (1995)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	96°
Low Wednesday	60°
Precipitation	none
This month	2.88
Year to date	7.16
Below normal	6.62 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny and hot with a high near 102, winds breezy from south at 5 to 20 mph and a low around 67. Saturday: Sunny and hot with a high near 105, winds breezy out of the south at 15 to 20 mph and a low around 67.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny and hot with a high near 104 and a low around 67. Monday: Sunny and hot with a high near 101 and a low around 66. Tuesday: Sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 96 (National Weather Service).
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$7.38 bushel
- Posted county price — \$7.39
- Corn — \$5.37 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.51
- Milo — \$4.92 bushel
- Soybeans — \$13.04 bushel
- Posted county price — \$13.23
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$25.90 cwt.
- 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



Goodland boy wins

Dillon Gillming, son of Mark and Amy Gillming of Goodland, won the 8-9 boys division after a four-hole playoff at the Northwest Kansas regional junior golf tournament at Sugar Hills Golf Course last Monday. See story, photo on Page 12.

Ready for fair fun ...



The Bullet ride is a favorite of kids at Sherman County home-owned carnival, and this bunch was having fun at the Freedom Fest on July 4. The carnival will open at 7 p.m. on Saturday evening as the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair gets into gear. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

At-large county voting issue public forum to be Monday

If you have an opinion on whether Sherman County commissioners should be elected by districts, or at large, with everyone voting on all three, come to the first of three planned forums on the issue at 5:45 p.m. Monday at the Sherman County fairgrounds.

Trevor Linton, chairman of the Government Alliances Committee of the Shine On Sherman County

program, said the group agreed in May to put on three forums to allow people to talk about the proposal.

Proponents want to ask the state Legislature to pass a bill allowing Sherman County voters to decide if they want to elect commissioners at-large rather than by district. Under state law, commissioners must live in their district. Only voters in the district have a say in the election.

Citizens angered by that system after the 2006 elections began a push to change the system, but the effort stalled in Topeka after two commissioners changed their minds about supporting it.

The current commissioners asked the alliances group to help after a bill to allow a citizen vote on the is-

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Sheriff asks Republican voters for second term

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansan.com

Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts believes his office has been providing citizens with good service, and is asking Republican voters to nominate him for a second term in the primary election on Tuesday.

Butts has opposition from Republican Frank Tabor, a former Goodland police officer who is in Iraq training police officers under a civilian contract.

"My passion has always been law enforcement," Butts said. "I know I wanted to be in law enforcement since I was a young boy."

In the past four years, he said, he believes the department has made some gains, and that he is pleased with the deputies he has working for him and the jailers who work at the Bastille.

Talking about the Bastille, he said the building is always going to need some work. He said construction in 1995 added office space, but the cells, built in 1972, have a lot of plumbing issues. He said to get it right, some day the county will have to build a new jail.

"I encourage people to come down and see," he said. "It opens their eyes as to what

we really have."

One area Butts has changed is handling the medical costs for inmates. He said if a prisoner is indigent, the county has to take care of them.



Butts

"If they have money, I do not have a problem taking medical costs out," he said. "If they owe the county, I do not see a problem taking it. Indigent to me means they have no money. I am not just the sheriff; I am at taxpayer too."

"We did set the county up with Diamond Pharmaceutical, where we get our medical supplies, and that has been a great savings for us, up to 70 percent on some items."

Butts said the department orders basic medical supplies through Diamond Pharmaceutical, but prescriptions are handled locally.

The sheriff said he does not have his deputies spend a lot of time patrolling on I-70, preferring that they patrol the county roads.

"People need to understand we get a lot of calls to things on I-70 due to the fact the state troopers are not in position," he said. "We are not going to run up and down I-70 just running radar."

"We leave the patrolling of I-70 to the state

troopers unless we are called to an emergency or a trooper is not available."

Butts said he feels underage drinking is a major problem, and feels there are a lot of drugs in the county.

"I think the laws have cut down on the meth labs," he said, "but I think there is a lot of meth coming in and we are seeing an increase in cocaine."

On the underage drinking, Butts said he has trouble finding a balance. Officers spend time working with students to discourage lawbreaking and encourage safe behavior.

"I think some of that comes from the parents who may not think it is a real problem until their kid is involved," he said. "(Deputies) Burton Pinalto and Jason Schwalter are the ones I put in charge of the school programs, and they have done great job."

Pinalto is now a special investigator for the sheriff's department, but his office is with the county attorney.

"I did want an investigator and we got that position created," Butts said. "I think it is important. I pushed hard to get that because my road deputies don't have the time to give to each of the cases like the investigator can."

He said he had wanted to start an Explorer Scout law enforcement troop, but ran into concerns from the county's insurance carrier

over liability. Butts said he has a "ride along" program for any citizen and some high school kids who ride around in town with a deputy serving papers.

Butts liability issues keep him from having a posse, or civilian reserve, but said all the part-time employees are being certified with law enforcement training so he can use them and be covered under the county insurance.

"In today's world, you have to be careful," he said.

An area Butts is proud of is the Thunder Watch, where he and the deputies go out and check on the registered offenders living in the county.

"We check to see if they are living where they are supposed to be and if they have a job," he said. "If they don't, we pick them up and put them in jail."

Butts said he is having his deputies check buildings at night in Kanorado, Edson and some in Goodland. The deputy is supposed to a card to let the owner know someone has been there.

He said the department has been investigating burglaries in vacant houses out in the county, and thinks they are getting close to solving some of those.

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Better communications goal of Republican candidate

By Sharon Corcoran

slcorcoran@nwkansan.com

He realizes it's a big commitment, and waited until the last minute to decide, but a Sherman County farmer is running against incumbent Kevin Rasure for the District 3 spot on the county commission.

Max Linin, who has farmed south of Goodland



Linin

the last 28 years, says he hopes bring better communication to the commission.

"I'm willing to listen," he said, "and I'll bring good leadership, better values and good business sense."

He admits he is at a disadvantage because of lack of experience and not knowing all the issues the commissioners are deal-

ing with. Linin said he hesitated to make the decision because he knows being a commissioner will be a big time commitment. He ultimately decided it is a commitment worth making.

"It's a chance to give back to my community," he said. "I think I can contribute to the county."

Linin said he feels one of the biggest issues facing the county will be high fuel prices, and he said he plans to look for ways to work with

the budget to deal with them.

"I'm not that familiar with what we have available," he said, "but I'm willing to work with the other commissioners and get ideas from the public, too."

Some counties have considered going to a four-day work week, and Linin said that may be an option here.

"Everything we can do to save money benefits everyone in the county," he said. "If that would work

to save money, I'm all for it."

Prairie dogs and noxious weeds are issues that Linin feels need to be addressed. Bindweed is a concern, he said, along with Canada thistle and other noxious weeds.

"I would like to see noxious weeds under control," he said. "If it starts in your ditch, it's just a matter of time until it's in your fields. If we keep it out of the ditches, hopefully the landowners will control it in their fields."

When was the last time you said something GOOD about Goodland? Brought to you today by: Goodland Regional Medical Center

