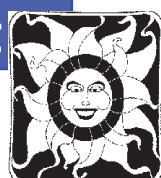


**weather report**



**32°**  
noon  
Monday

**Today**

- Sunset, 4:36 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:37 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil temperature 31 degrees
- Humidity 54 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds north 9 mph
- Barometer 30.00 inches and rising
- Record High today 70° (2001)
- Record Low today -19° (1959)

**Last 24 Hours\***

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| High Sunday   | 42°         |
| Low Sunday    | 2°          |
| Precipitation | none        |
| This month    | none        |
| Year to date  | none        |
| Below normal  | 0.02 inches |

**The Topside Forecast**

Today: Sunny with a high near 34, winds out of the southwest at 10 mph and a low around 13. Wednesday: Sunny with a high near 40, winds out of the west at 10 mph and a low around 18.

**Extended Forecast**

Thursday: Sunny with a high near 44 and a low around 20. Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 42 and a low around 18. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

**local markets**

**Noon**

- Wheat — \$7.40 bushel
- Posted county price — \$7.14
- Corn — \$4.85 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.73
- Milo — \$4.70 bushel
- Soybeans — \$11.79 bushel
- Posted county price — \$12.79
- Millet — \$5 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$23.35 cwt.
- Confection — no bid
- Pinto beans — \$18 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scouler 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



**Cowgirls play tonight**

Goodland Cowgirl Jade Herl dribbles against the Lady Bluejays. The Cowboys and Cowgirls are in action tonight at Max Jones Fieldhouse beginning at 5:30 p.m. See Photos, story on Page 9.

## State house selection top story

By Tom Betz

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The death in late November of long time State Representative Jim Morrison (R-Colby) began a process that brought a Goodland man to the forefront and when Rick Billinger is sworn in on Monday in Topeka he will be the first state representative from Sherman County in more than 40 years.

That story topped the list of the Top 10 Stories of 2010 as selected by the staff of The Goodland Star-News.

The number two story was the election of Larry Enfield as Sherman County Commissioner as a write-in candidate upsetting the incumbent

Chuck Thomas. A part of the story is a complaint from Republican Committeeman Harlan House that the election workers misinformed voters about how to vote for write-in candidates and encouraged voters to write-in a name.

Number three is the closing of the Kansas National Guard Armory and the process of turning it over to the city and subsequent lease to Northwest Technical College to be used for wrestling practice and expansion of classrooms. The armory was named for Derrick Lutters, Kansas Guardsman from Goodland who had died in Iraq.

Number four is the change in the Sherman County Economic

Development program after the voters turned down a property tax proposal in August and the transfer of the program to the city beginning this month.

Number five was the death of Goodland School Board member Andrew House in an accident in September.

Number six is Goodland Guardsman Derrick Lutters was inducted into the Kansas Guard Hall of Fame.

Number seven was the Goodland School Board's effort to reduce the number of buildings with the closure of North Elementary as the first step.

Number eight was the shake up

of the Road and Bridge department with the top two being fired and the department being reorganized.

Number nine was the plan by Goodland Regional Medical Center to establish a kidney dialysis unit to help those in the local area who have to travel more than 100 miles to receive this treatment.

Number 10 was the unveiling of the new logo for Northwest Technical College and the beginning of the Maverick golf, wrestling and rodeo teams. The college has announced the athletic program will be expanded this year to include men's and women's soccer and men's golf.

A number of other stories were

included in the voting including the decision by voters in November not to expand the county commission from three to five members and the decision by a minority from the rural area to defeat the at-large commissioner voting issue. A majority of voters approved the at-large commissioner proposal, but under the dual majority provision insisted on by the State Legislature the measure had to pass both in the city and in the country. The total vote was in favor, but the country vote turned it down by 24 votes.

The city water improvement project, the citywide cleanup effort and the completion of the K-27 project from I-70 north to the intersection were other stories considered.

## Sherman County man selected to go to Topeka

Republican committeemen and committeewomen from Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan and Graham counties gathered Sunday afternoon, Dec. 19, in Colby and selected a man from Sherman County to fill the vacant seat created by the death of Rep. Jim Morrison.

It took three ballots to cut the four candidates down to two and give Rick Billinger of Goodland the win on a vote of 53 to 45 over Dave Voss of Colby.

Once the vote was announced Billinger addressed the convention and thanked them for their votes and said he would do his best to serve the 121st District.

Josh Faber, Republican Chairman of Thomas County, called the convention to order at 4 p.m. at the Heartland Christian School in Colby. The credentials committee reported 98 of the 105 eligible delegates (93 percent) were present.

Faber was elected convention chairman and when he called for those who were seeking the nomination four people stepped forward including Brian Baalman of Menlo, Billinger, Brenda McCants of Goodland, and Voss.

Each candidate was given three minutes to

speak and were called in alphabetical order. Billinger said he was excited about making Kansas a more robust state in the future.



Billinger

He said he had been farming for 25 years, been on the city commission for 20 years and been a business owner for 33 years.

"We need a good representative from Western Kansas," he said.

On the first ballot Voss had 39, Billinger 25, McCants, 19, and Baalman, 15. Under the convention rules the winner had to have a majority and the lowest vote total was dropped for the second ballot.

On the second ballot Voss had 43, Billinger 33 and McCants 22. In this round Voss gained 4 votes, McCants gained 3 and Billinger gained 8.

Without a majority McCants was dropped as the low vote total and a third ballot was held. With the 22 votes to split between Billinger and Voss the majority went to Billinger who gained 20 of the 22 votes to reach his 53 vote majority to the 2 gained by Voss to give him 45.

Billinger will be sworn-in on Monday as the Legislature begins the new session in Topeka.

## Write-in wins commissioner race, voting complaint filed

When the votes were counted about 10 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 2, the write-in candidate for Commissioner District 1 had defeated the incumbent by 19 votes, and the at-large commissioner voting issue had passed by seven votes.

Farmer Larry Enfield, who announced his write-in candidacy about two weeks before the election was the apparent winner with 303 votes over 284 for incumbent Commissioner Chuck Thomas.

Thomas was at the courthouse waiting for the results and seemed surprised when he heard that Enfield had beat him. He asked for the margin and was told it was 19 votes.

Enfield said he was somewhat surprised he had won, but felt it was a good election and he was pleased with the results.

Canvassing on Friday started off with an announcement by Commissioner Chuck Thomas he was considering contesting the election and having someone else sit in his place on the canvass board.

Thomas said he was not asking for a recount at this time, but was considering filing a suit because a poll worker was informing voters about how to mark the ballots for a write-in candidate and he felt that was against the election rules.



Enfield

Thomas stepped out and Carol Farris of the county treasurer's office was asked to fill his spot.

Once the main canvass had been completed and everyone agreed on the totals the question turned to the 18 provisional ballots.

Each envelope was examined and the canvass board agreed to count 17 of the ballots as they were people who had been registered, but who had moved from one place in the county to another without changing address.

In the 17 ballots Thomas picked up 2 votes and Enfield picked up 1 write-in vote. When the totals were compared Larry Enfield had won by 28 votes 304 to 276 for Thomas.

Republican Precinct Committeeman Harlan House said he had an issue from the election and he felt the commissioners ought to pass a resolution to have the sheriff investigate.

House said he had people call him and say they were told by the election workers "this was the spot for the write-in line for commissioner, and to make sure if you vote to fill in the black hole."

The Commissioners rescinded the resolution later in December, but House had delivered a written complaint he had filed with the Attorney General's office. County Attorney Bonnie Selby said she would consult with the head of the KBI to see what the next step might be.

## National Guard armory, closed turned over to the city

A group of about 40 people gathered at the national guard armory Thursday afternoon, March 15, for a short ceremony to turn the keys over to the city and end 25 years of guard service to the town.

Among the group was a contingent of Kansas guardsmen lead by Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, state adjutant general, and included several former members of the Goodland detachment of the 170th Maintenance Company. Lt. Col. Greg Salisbury was present, and said he was the first detachment commander when the Goodland unit was formed in October 1985.

Staff Sgt. Mark Reasoner, who was the last unit administrator, was present as was Command Sgt. Maj. Manuel Rubio who served in the Goodland unit.

Among the civilians present were representatives from the city and from Northwest Tech and Chuck Lutters and his son Paul, brother to Sgt. Derrick Lutters who was killed on May 1, 2005 in an explosion in Iraq.

Maj. Gen. Bunting said he had been out to Goodland on better occasions, but that most of the time

when he appears it is for a sad occasion. He said he was proud of the men and women who had served in the Goodland unit, and was sorry to have to close the armory.

He told the group he was pleased to hear about the future plans for the armory, and felt having it be part of the college was a great use of the building.

He said he was glad the city had decided to name the building for Sgt. Lutters, and said that while the armory would be closed the Kansas National Guard would "always be here if you need us."

Bunting handed a special tri-fold wooden case with the last American flag flown at the armory to Mayor Josh Dechant along with the master keys to the building.

Mayor Dechant said it was the decision of the city commission to accept the building and to name the building for Sgt. Derrick Joseph Lutters. He said the decision had been discussed with the Lutters family, and officials from Northwest Tech said they were pleased to have the building named for the young man who had been a student at the college.



Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Adjutant General (center) talked with Chuck Lutters, father of Derrick who the armory was to be named for (left) and City Manager Doug Gerber at the closing ceremony held in March. The city had a citizen committee look at uses for the building and the recommendation was to lease it to the Northwest Tech College for expansion of classes and wrestling practice.

At the close of the ceremony Bunting talked to Chuck Lutters and his son Paul and said having the building named for Derrick meant a lot to the family and to the people who served with the young man.

Dechant handed the keys over to City Manager Doug Gerber who in turn handed them to Dr. Ed Mills of Northwest Tech who handed them to Chuck Lutters. Lutters will be in charge of maintaining the building

as the college seeks to expand with aviation courses.

Probably the first use of the building later this year will be to hold the wrestling mats for the college wrestling team.

## County economic development becomes city program

Sherman County voters turned down the plan for a 2 mill property tax levy for economic development by a wide margin with 969 voting NO and 382 voting YES.

The Sherman County commissioners had passed a resolution to establish the property tax levy for the Sherman County Economic Development Council, and a citizen petition put the issue on the Primary Election ballot.

The council has been funded by \$50,000 from the city and \$50,000 from the county, and the property tax levy would have given the county about \$125,000 based on the county assessed valuations.

"The future is totally up to the city commission and the county commissioners," said Walt Linthacum, chairman of the development council after the vote. "I do feel bad that locally our economy has started to perk up and we were picking up momentum. I hope we don't lose the momentum due to the decision."

Ken Klemm, who organized the petition drive to put the issue on the ballot said he was pleased the added mill levy was defeated by a large margin.

City commissioners agreed on Tuesday, Sept. 7 to ask Sherman County to turn the economic development program over to be operated by the city.

City Manager Doug Gerber said it was something the city commissioners had talked about in the goal setting sessions nearly a year ago, and a memo from the Sherman County Economic Development Council suggesting a change in structure for the program was in favor of turning the program over to the city.

The Sherman County Economic Development Council was organized in June, 2002, and officially created under a resolution from the county commissioners passed in July. The council started with seven members and was expanded to 11 in March, 2003, with the addition of a representative from each of the four

banks in town.

Members of the Sherman County Economic Development Council met for the final time on Tuesday, Dec. 21, and agreed to turn over all the money, furniture and equipment to the city, who will be taking the economic development program over in January.

Eight of the 11 members were present with Walt Linthacum, chairman, Jerry Fairbanks, vice chairman, Shelly Thompson, treasurer, Larry Keirns, Dana Belske, Marcia Weaver, Rochelle Kling and Jan Haigler. Not present were Mike Hamilton, Danny Archer and Nancy Cole.

City Manager Doug Gerber was

at the meeting and Linthacum asked him about the progress on hiring an economic development coordinator for the city.

Gerber said the city has received quite a few good applications and have been narrowed down to five. He said the commissioners have interviewed four so far and have one more next week.

"I think we have at least three good prospects so far," he said. "I will be interested in the final interview next week. We hope to have someone hired and on the job by the end of January."

