

weather report

30°
noon
Monday



Today

• Sunset, 7:08 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:43 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:19 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 44 degrees
- Humidity 100 percent
- Sky cloudy and foggy
- Winds south 9 mph
- Barometer 29.93 inches and steady
- Record High today 88° (1943)
- Record Low today 2° (1987)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	32°
Low Sunday	27°
Precipitation	0.05
This month	0.48
Year to date	1.29
Below normal	0.62 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 60 percent chance of snow before noon and then rain and snow, a high near 44, winds out of the north at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 26. Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain and snow before noon and then rain, a high near 51, winds out of the southwest at 5 to 15 mph switching to the north and a low around 23.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny and breezy, a high near 59 and a low around 36. Friday: Sunny and breezy, a high near 68 and a low around 36.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

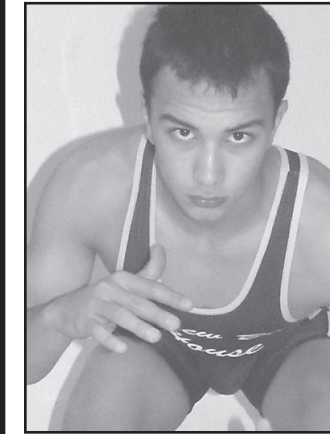
local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$7.20 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$7.40
 - Corn — \$6.01 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.50
 - Milo — \$5.88 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$12.26 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$12.74
 - Millet — \$5 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$30.65 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



Four bring home medals

Four Goodland wrestlers brought home medals from the Kansas Kids State Tournament held in Topeka. Ian Bonsall was the only one to win a championship. See photo, story on Page 12.

School candidates give answers

Editor's note: With the upcoming election on Tuesday, we asked the candidates for the Goodland School Board a few questions to give voters an idea about who and why they are seeking to be elected.

The responses are as sent by the candidates and presented in alphabetical order.

Michael Brannick

1. Tell me about your family. Where do you work? Are you originally from Goodland?

My family moved back to Goodland from California in 1972. My parents were born and raised in this area. My dad graduated school here. I graduated from here in 1979 and my two brothers graduated from here as well. I have a bachelors degree in Business Management. I am the general manager at the Maverick Inn. I am married to Tia and she is the manager at the Northwest Technical College Bookstore. Together my wife and I own Taco John's. We have two daughters. Milan is a freshman and Cienna is in the seventh grade.

2. Do you support the bond issue coming up in the general election on April 5? If yes, why and if no, why?

I started attending school board meetings about six months ago with the dual intention of running in the next election, as well as educating



Brannick



Cole



House



Sieck



Stiles



Wilkens

myself about the budget and funding issues. At that point I had not made up my mind about the bond issue. I wanted to be informed before making a decision. After attending meetings for six months, I have come to the conclusion that the only viable decision is the bond issue. The board members, along with Mrs. Angelos, have worked very hard on this. They have included and covered all details. I commend them for the job they have done. There were no easy decisions to be made regarding this issue. It is a challenge, anyone can talk about the problems, but I want to be involved in solving the problems that face the district and Goodland.

3. If the bond fails, what are your ideas for the district's declining enrollment, number of buildings and diminishing state aid?

If the voters do not pass the bond issue, we will all have to dig deep, evaluate where we are and start over.

The district cannot continue as we are and some very tough decisions will have to be made.

4. Why are you running and is there something specific you want to do?

I am invested in Goodland. I am willing to do what it takes to make the district a better place for our kids, teachers and staff, which will ultimately make Goodland a better place. We all deserve that.

Jessica Cole

1. Tell me about your family. Where do you work? Are you originally from Goodland?

I grew up here, attended Goodland schools and graduated in 1987. After high school, I went to the University of Wyoming, graduated in 1992 and moved home in 1993. My husband, Bryce, and I have a farming operation and are raising three children. Grace is in the seventh grade, Henry is in the third grade and Eve is in the first grade.

2. Do you support the bond issue coming up in the general election on April 5? If yes, why and if no, why?

Yes, I support the bond issue. I understand the need for a two-building district. If the bond passes, not only do we get two updated, quality school buildings that will last us for many years, but we will be freeing up a great deal of money that the district can use to fund programs, pay salaries and hopefully make other necessary improvements that may not be included in this bond. I also feel like this is the best time because of the low interest money that has been secured and the amount of state aid that will be contributed to the bond payment. We are presently operating too many buildings for our student population. I would rather see us do this right, and build something that will last, than patch away or attempt to maintain buildings that we do not need. It is a well

thought out solution that we can see the benefits of sooner rather than later, and it gives our kids and our community two great facilities that we can be proud of.

3. If the bond fails what are your ideas for the district's declining enrollment, number of buildings and diminishing state aid?

Well, there are not that many ways to deal with the cuts that the district may be facing. We must look at our facilities, our programs or our people. It will be a matter of working together as a board with Superintendent Angelos to prioritize our needs, and then find a way to fund what we need to fund. This is one of the main reasons that I believe this bond has to pass. If it does not, I foresee the school board faced with difficult decisions and crisis financing. They will face a major challenge in trying to find a way to pay for what is needed, while keeping the education standard where it needs to be. The only way to face declining enrollment is to reduce the number of buildings. Eventually it seems that the solution will have to involve looking for other ways to raise revenue for our school system, combined with painful cuts that will have to be made. We all feel strongly about the programs we enjoy. We

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Consultant says to change fire house locations

By Tom Betz

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A special consultant told the city, county and fire officials he would recommend changes in the fire fighting system in the county to help lower insurance rates for businesses and homeowners who are not being covered under the present system.

Members of the Sherman County Fire Board, Sherman County Commissioners, city commissioner, city manager and fire chief, members of the Sherman County Rural fire department and the Brewster fire chief, met for a special meeting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday to hear the report of the consultant the rural fire board had selected to do a survey of the fire services in the county. The consultant cost was to be split by the city and county.

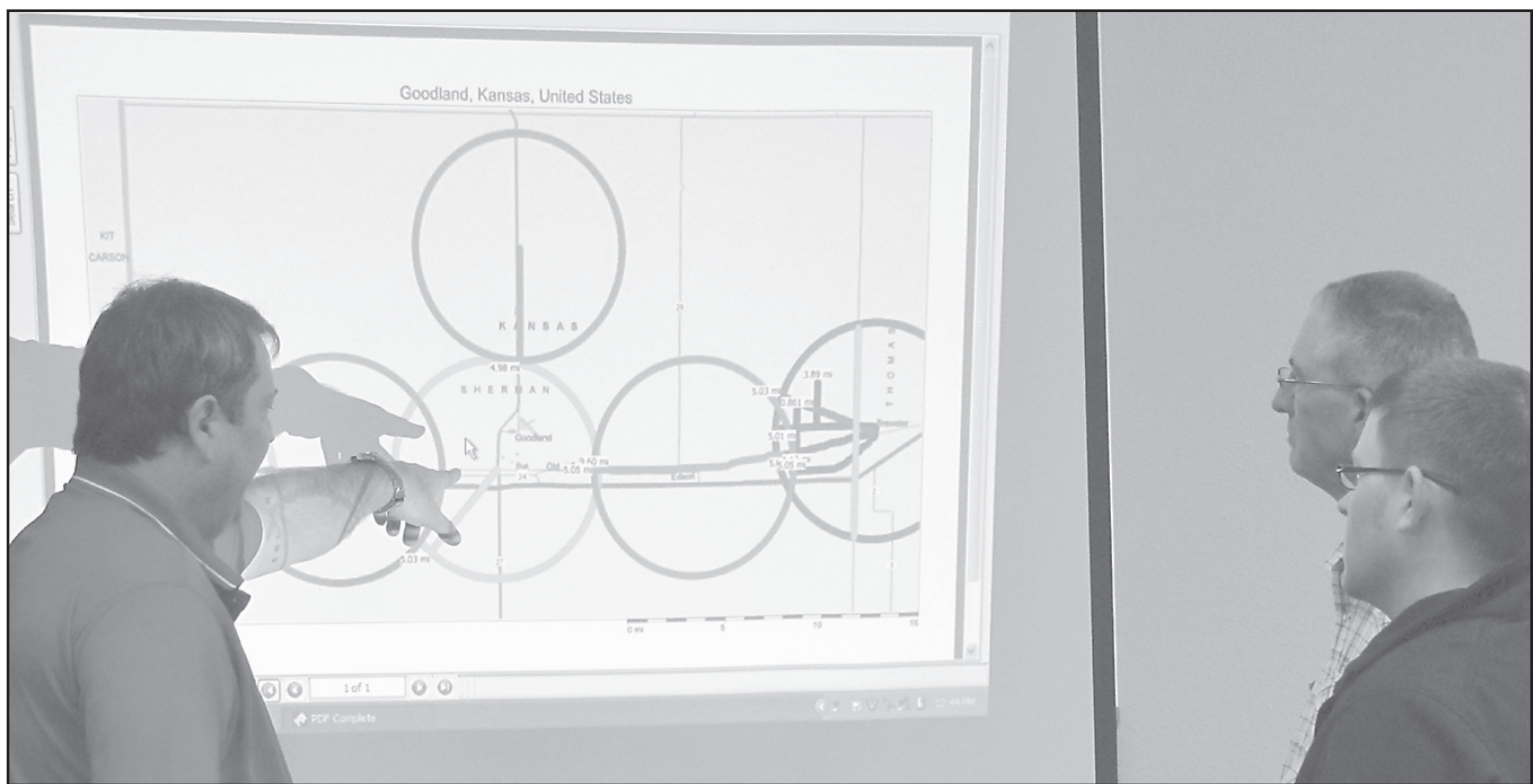
The city and county commissioners will meet at 6 p.m. tonight in a special meeting at the city commission room to consider the recommendations made in the presentation.

Harold N. "Skip" Starling, president of National Fire Services Office of Savannah, Ga., spoke for more than an hour and half about what he found in Sherman County, and his recommendations about what the city and county could do.

"I am interested in getting the best service you can have at an affordable cost," he said of his goal.

He said the question he was asked when he first came to Sherman County was "who should provide county fire services."

In looking at the fire services in



Skip Starling of the National Fire Services Office in Savannah, Ga. explained his circle approach to location of fire houses to help lower

the ISO rating and insurance rates for rural homeowners in Sherman County.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County, Starling said he wanted people to understand he was looking at it from the aspect of lowering the ISO ratings (Insurance Services Office was the original name, but it has now been shortened to ISO because the business has expanded).

"The ISO does not understand brush fire trucks," he said, "and they are concerned with structure fires. Emergency preparations serve about 1 percent of county residents

while homeowners are about 87 percent and buy insurance."

He said in looking at Sherman County he felt the Brewster fire station was not cost effective. He said the ISO people consider the range of five driving miles around the outside of where a fire station is located.

He said in the case of Brewster that means there are about 10 homes in Sherman County that might be covered in the five mile radius.

His recommendation was for

Sherman County to renegotiate the deal with Thomas County and Brewster to have them pay a fairer share of the cost. Another recommendation he made was to have a Class A fire truck that could respond to rural structure fires to qualify under the ISO ratings.

City Commissioner Dave Daniels asked if the insurance rates are different in the city versus out in the county.

Starling said the insurance ratings

can be the same within the five mile radius, but right now that is not true as the city and county have two different footprints.

He said the ISO will not tell you what is best, but they tell you the department has to pass their test to get a lower insurance rate for the people.

"We will tell you what we see," he said, "but we let the policy makers

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Senator visits with area residents about budget issues



By Tom Betz

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Senator Jerry Moran made his first stop in Goodland since being elected to the Senate and visited with a good group of more than 50 area citizens in his 43rd town hall meeting on Thursday at Western State Bank.

Sen. Moran said he used to make these stops in the 14 years he served in the House as a Congressman, and at that time 43 was more than half of the 69 counties in his district. Now that he has all 105, making his 43rd stop is not even half way.

"This is not about who I am, how I vote and what my priorities are," he said. "Kansans have good common sense, and we hope to take that to Washington. We end up with Democrat and Republican fights and forget the common sense."

He said in his 14 years as a Congressman he believes Kansans

Senator Jerry Moran (extreme right) met with more than 50 area residents on Thursday at the Western State Bank in his first visit to

Goodland since he was elected to the Senate in November.

Photo by Josh Harenberg/The Goodland Star-News

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