

**Weather Corner**



**Friday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s. Northeast winds around 10 mph.  
**Saturday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 80s. East winds 10 to 15 mph.  
**Saturday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.  
**Sunday...**Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s.  
**Sunday night...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s.  
**Monday through Tuesday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s. Lows in the upper 50s.  
**Tuesday night through Thursday...**Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s. Highs in the lower 80s.

# Hangar back on demolition block

By Tom Betz  
*The Goodland Star-News  
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The old barrel hangar at the Goodland airport — built by the Depression-era Works Progress Administration in 1934 — appeared to be saved from demolition nearly two years ago, but now the city can't get in touch with the man who was going to save it.

City Manager Wayne Hill told City Commissioners at their meeting on May 19 that he has sent three letters to John Topliff, who had suggested leasing the hangar and refurbishing it, but has not received a reply, nor has he been able to contact Topliff by phone. Hill said the most recent letter was sent earlier this month, following ones in February and April.

In August 2006, the commission gave Hill and Rich Simon, public works manager, permission to demolish the hangar.

An accident involving Simon hitting a power line at the end of August kept the hangar from being taken down, and in September fans mounted an effort to save the hangar. At that time Topliff, who owned Mr. Jim's His and Her Shop on Main Ave., went to the city and asked to lease the hangar.

Topliff, who is vice president of flight operations for a company in California, said he wanted to purchase or lease the hangar. He told the commission he would refurbish the building and bring it up to the city building requirements.

"The objective is not to lose the 8,000 square feet of airplane storage," he said at the time. "I am ready, willing and able to proceed, but there are things that have to be done."

He said without the hangar, there is no place to store planes at the airport. He said preliminary estimates indicated replacing the roof and fixing the doors would cost about \$150,000.

Topliff and the city waited months for the building to be inspected to determine what would need to be done to bring it up to specifications. A draft of a lease was drawn up last fall and sent to Topliff for approval.

"I told him in the last letter I would take the issue back to the commission," Hill said, "and let the them decide what we want to do. We were going to take it down before Rich ran into a power line."

"I think nothing is going to happen. I have tried about every way I can to contact Topliff."

Hill said the agreement would have given Topliff three years to bring the hangar up to code.

Vice Mayor Josh Dechant, who chaired the meeting, asked Commissioner John Garcia if he had talked to Topliff, and Garcia said he had not.

"What do you want to do?" Hill asked. "Do we go back and take it down?"

**"I think nothing is going to happen. I have tried about every way I can to contact Topliff."**

Wayne Hill  
 Goodland City Manager

Dechant wondered what it would cost to tear down the hangar.

Simon said he had a deal with a contractor to take the building down at little cost to the city, with the city crew grinding up the bricks from the walls to use in alleys.

Hill suggested the commissioners think about what they want to do and he would bring it back up at the next meeting on Monday, June 2.

In other reports:

- Hill told the commission the city had received \$28,820 as a premium refund on its workers compensation coverage because the city had fewer claims. City Clerk Mary Volk said the employees had participated in safety training recommended by the insurer.

- Garcia asked Hill about research he has been doing on nitrate contamination in well water. Hill said he has not received the information he was expecting, but was planning to go to McCook,

Neb., in June to look at a nitrate treatment system

"We know the state Department of Health and Environment is looking at us," Hill said, "and they know we are looking for a way to treat nitrates."

He said it is not a matter of if the city will have to treat nitrates, but rather when and whether the city does it by the well or tries to develop a central treatment plant.

- Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she had been interested to see the sunflower promotion on Goodland in the Kansas magazine.

She said she and Garcia had attended a Master Gardeners program on adding color to the city. She said it was good to see how just a little color here and there can spruce up the towns.

- Commissioners Dechant, Garcia and Fairbanks went into closed session for 15 minutes to personnel at the request of Garcia. Commissioner Dave Daniels and Mayor Rick Billinger were absent.

# Sherman County election races take shape

By Sharon Corcoran  
*The Goodland Star-News  
 slcorcoran@nwkansas.com*

Most incumbent Sherman County officials say they are running for re-election and have either filed with the county clerk or, in one case, taken out a petition for re-election.

Only Commissioner Kevin Rasure hasn't said whether he is running, and except for the treasurer and one commissioner, most incumbents could run unopposed.

Rasure says he will make his decision next week.

With an opening for district judge, a Goodland lawyer and at least one from a nearby county has expressed interest. The secretary of state reports receiving at least two filings for district judge for Division 2 in the 15th Judicial District.

County Commissioner Mitch Tiede, Clerk Janet Rumpel, Register of Deeds Billie Hoyt, Sheriff Kevin Butts and Treasurer Iris Scheopner have filed for re-election.

Scheopner will have competition in the Republican primary from Wanda Schritter, who also

filed for treasurer. Tiede, a Democrat, will have competition in the general election from Cynthia K. Strnad, who filed for commissioner for District 2 as a Republican.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby has been distributing her petition, Rumpel said, but has not filed yet.

Anyone who wants to run needs to file at the clerk's office by Monday, June 9, Rumpel said. Up for election are clerk, treasurer, register of deeds, county attorney, sheriff and two spots on the commission.

There will be an opening for district judge in the 15th District,

covering Sherman, Wallace, Cheyenne, Sheridan, Thomas, Rawlins and Logan counties.

# Bush makes surprise visit to Kansas

BUCYRUS (AP)- State troopers, sheriff's deputies and police officers staked out intersections and driveways along roads between Gardner and Bucyrus on Thursday, making some residents wonder if there was a problem.

They quickly found out the reason behind the heavy police presence: President Bush was on his way to their quiet community to rally support for a Kansas senator's run for Congress.

Bush and his motorcade rolled into Bucyrus just before 1 p.m. Thursday, headed to the home of the Hermes family for a private luncheon to raise money for state Sen. Nick Jordan.

The senator, a lifelong Kansan, is challenging Democratic Rep. Dennis Moore in the 3rd Congressional District.

Residents became excited once they figured out Bush was coming into town.

Many gathered along 179th Street near Quivira Road hoping to see the president going to and from his engagement.

George Dragush and his family were camped out in the back of their gray pickup truck, waving American flags and sipping lemonade.

"I think he was in the third SUV. It had the presidential insignia on it," said the 44-year-old Dragush.

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Presented by **Gary D. Slavens, M.D.**

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