

weather report

91°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 8:06 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:42 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:05 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 78 degrees
- Humidity 36 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds south 12 mph
- Barometer 30.03 inches and falling
- Record High 106° (1936)
- Record Low 54° (1971)

Last 24 Hours\*

High	88°
Low	64°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, low 60s, winds southeast 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 90-95, low 60-65, winds southwest 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday: chance of thunderstorms, high 90, low 60-65. Saturday: chance of thunderstorms, high 75-80, low 55-60. Sunday: dry, high 85, low 55-60. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.35 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.17  
Loan deficiency payment — 28¢  
Corn — \$1.50 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.49  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 5¢  
Milo — \$1.97 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$3.69 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.97  
Loan deficiency payment — 93¢  
Millet — \$5.00 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$5.65 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.08  
Confection current — \$13/\$7 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

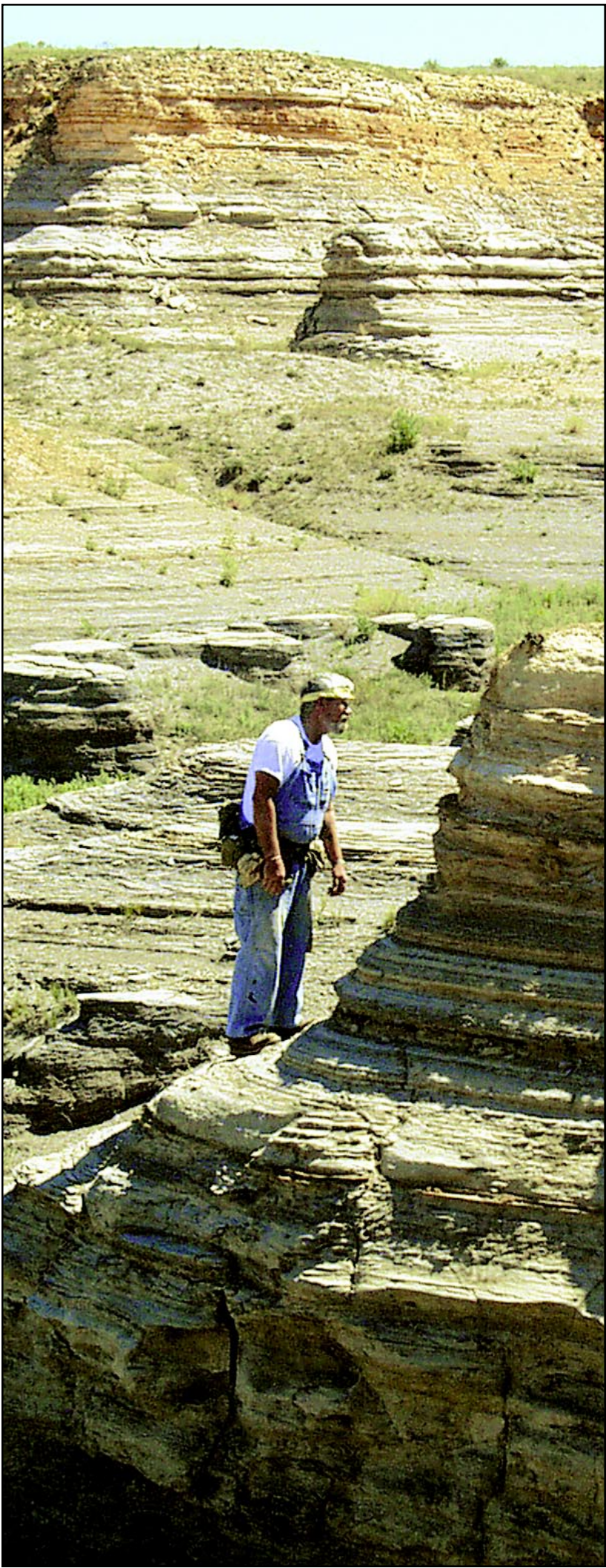
Gas explosion hurts no one

MANHATTAN — When Kurt MacTaggart got home from work, he just wanted to change clothes and relax. But sitting in his living room, the front door suddenly flew past him.

“I thought ‘What the hell happened?’ This is probably No. 1 on my list of memorable experiences,” MacTaggart recalled Tuesday night as firefighters wrapped up their battle against the fire at his apartment house.

Investigators said the fire was caused by a gas stove left on by a tenant in the three-level brick building, constructed about 70 years ago. They said once the room filled with gas, an air conditioner ignited the blaze.

None of the 21 residents was seriously injured by the explosion and fire. Acting Fire Chief Chuck Tannahill said a half-dozen people were in the building at the time.



Amateurs scan rock for remains of ocean

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Finding fossils is fascinating fun, and many amateurs spend weekends slowly walking along the canyons of the Smoky Hill country, looking for a buried treasure.

A couple of those amateurs are Larry and Judy Harper, owners of the Bread Box. Harper has been displaying some of the fossils he has collected on the walls of the bakery.

Harper talked about going on various fossil hunts into the canyons along the Smoky Hill River south of Goodland. After a trip to his house to see samples of what he and wife Judy had found, they asked if I would like to accompany them.

Fossils can be found in many areas

of western Kansas because the entire area was under an interior sea 80 million years ago. Over the millions of years the sediment from that sea settled into layers and the animals that died were buried in those layers.

Over centuries, those layers have been uncovered by water and wind erosion that brings the fossilized sea creatures to or near the surface for the experienced scientist and the amateur to find.

Early Sunday morning we packed into Harper’s minivan and headed south. We drove down through Winona and then to Russell Springs. Several miles south of Russell Springs, we pulled off the road and entered a pasture. Harper said he had gotten permission from the landowner to hunt fossils

in the area, and we bounced south across the pasture for about a quarter mile.

There was a wide canyon with numerous weathered mounds showing layers of sediment from millions of years ago. The layers included shale, soft chalk and thin layers of what appeared to have been molten rock.

Finding a path down into the canyon, we split up, each searching for signs of fossils. Being the neophyte, I picked up many samples of interesting rocks, but upon inspection from Harper they were just that — rocks.

The first fossil Harper pointed out was a piece of sea shell which he said was called congesta, and was made up

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Larry Harper (left) searched the layers of rock for signs of prehistoric animals Sunday at a site south of Russell Springs. This collection of fossils (above) was found Sunday, including a large piece of sea shell platyceramus platinus (top left), paddle bone of Tylosaurus proriger mosasaur, small piece of thicker clam (bottom left) possibly from an inoceramus grandis which is composed of calcitic crystals, neck piece of hinge of clam, shark tooth from squalicorax and round vertebrae from unidentified fish. Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

Race for house

Farmer says he has a chance

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Harlan House says if anyone is going to take incumbent Jim Morrison’s seat in the Kansas House of Representatives, it’s going to be him.

“If anybody has a chance against Morrison,” said House, 3691 South K-27, “I do.”

The Goodland native said his experience in politics and the fact that he has lived here most of his life and is a farmer — working with other farmers in the area — qualifies him for the job.

It will be tough to beat Morrison, though, he admits.

Rep. Morrison, a Republican optometrist in Colby, was first elected in 1992, beating out three other Republicans in the primaries before facing a Democrat in the general election. The 58-year-old already has eight years in the Legislature under his belt, and name recognition in the 121st District.

But House, also a Republican, says his background and experience could help him prevail. The 57-year-old has spent most of his life in Goodland, where he has lived, worked and raised his three children.

“The people around here know what my background and experience are,” he said. “They know what I stand for.”

Among other things, he served on the Kansas Corn Commission for two years, was the state representative on the National Corn Development Foundation Board of Directors, was an

alternate on the U.S. Feed Grain Council, served three years on the state Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service Committee and was on the board of the U.S. Meat Export Federation.

He said he ran for a U.S. Senate seat in 1972, and although he lost to former Sen. James Pearson in the primary, he said, he earned more votes than the Democrat candidate did in the general election.

House said education is an important issue, along with the state’s economy and the financial hardships many family farmers are facing, but his passion lies in water.

“I think I have the background to understand some of the changes that are being proposed to state water law in the next couple years,” said House, adding that he is an irrigator and has been around well drillers and other people that work with water enough to understand water law.

“A lot of the policies are ridiculous,” he said. “They take away but they never give back.”

House said he wants to change that. “I want to straighten out the laws and regulations,” he said.

He says water issues are going to be important in coming years, and a lack of water can affect the economy and growth of Kansas cities — many of which are already facing declining populations.

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Eye doctor seeks another term

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

While his body may not be the strongest, Rep. Jim Morrison said his mind more than makes up for it.

The Colby Republican, who has represented the 121st District in the Kansas House of Representatives for eight years, doesn’t shy away from talking about his health problems.

“Sometimes I physically can’t do much,” said the 58-year-old, who is seeking re-election this year, “but I can still think. I can still travel. I have a good mind.”

After a heart attack, Morrison said, he needs a pacemaker to keep his heart pumping, and complications during surgery to replace the pacemaker left his body weak.

That was years ago, and while Morrison’s health still isn’t what it used to be, he said it doesn’t keep him from doing his job.

“It doesn’t affect my legislative abilities,” said the optometrist, who has also worked as an engineer, entrepreneur and business owner. “I use my mind and I have good friends in the Legislature that help me with physical work.”

Despite his health problems, the Colby native predicted that he will earn more votes in the primary election on Tuesday than his opponent, Goodland’s Harlan House, because of his experience, expertise in many areas, dedication to all of his constituents — no matter what party — and ability to solve problems through compro-

mise.

House, a Goodland farmer, is looking to take Morrison’s seat. The 57-year-old Republican says many lawmakers don’t understand state water laws and the Legislature doesn’t have enough control over the agency that enforces those laws.

House said he wants to change water laws to the benefit of constituents in the 121st District. While water is the base of his campaign platform, the Goodland native said education and family farmer’s financial problems are important.

Morrison said he is already up to his elbows in issues affecting special education and technology.

“I am intimately involved in special education,” said Morrison, a father of four grown children. He said a son, Mike, was killed in a motorcycle accident in 1986 at the age of 20.

In the 1970s, he said, he founded the Association of Children with Learning Disabilities, which helped establish special education programs across the nation.

In his profession as an optometrist, Morrison said he works with children who have learning disabilities related to their vision. The representative is part owner of Drs. Morrison and Wahlmeier eye care center in Colby. Though he is still licensed, Morrison said he now spends most of his time working on his

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House



Morrison