

weather report

42°

at noon

Today

Sunset, 5:54 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 5:55 a.m.

Sunset, 5:55 p.m.

Middy Conditions

Soil Temperature 32 degrees

Humidity 43 percent

Sky mostly sunny

Winds southeast 15 mph

Barometer 30.04 inches and falling

Record High 80° (1966)

Record Low 7° (1928)

Last 24 Hours*

High 37°

Low 21°

Precipitation .03 inches

Snow .4 inches

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, chance of snow, low mid 20s, southeast winds 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, chance of snow, high 35-40, southeast winds 10-20 mph, low mid 20s.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Chance of rain, high 45-55, low 20s. Monday: Dry, high 60s, low 25-35. Tuesday: Chance of rain, high 45-55, low 25-35.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Wheat — \$2.79 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.72

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$1.87 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.82

Loan deficiency pmt. — 17¢

Milo — \$3 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$3.88 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.83

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.07

Millet — \$6 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$6.45 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.18

Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$14

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Three killed in swift rescue

MEDINA, Saudi Arabia — Climbing on ladders, Saudi commandos in full battle gear broke through the windows and doors of a Russian plane today, freeing more than 100 hostages and ending a hijacking by armed Chechens.

Three people — a flight attendant, a hijacker and a passenger — were killed.

Several others were injured in the swift rescue operation, which came after the hijackers threatened to blow up the plane, the Saudi Interior Ministry said.

The Chechens had seized the aircraft after takeoff from Istanbul, Turkey on Thursday afternoon.

Paramedics at the scene in the western Saudi city of Medina said a woman — the flight attendant — was knifed to death and two men were killed by gunfire.

Sex offender sent to prison for three years

A 39-year-old Goodland man was sentenced on Monday to three years in prison for sexually molesting his daughter, a crime he was charged with a year ago today.

Lee Walter Yarbrough, Sr., was sentenced to 36 months in prison for aggravated incest by Judge Jack Burr in Sherman County District Court. In addition, Yarbrough will have to complete a two-year sex offender program and pay attorney fees, court costs and any medical or counseling costs for the victim.

Yarbrough was originally charged on March 16, 2000, with rape and aggravated indecent liberties with a child for the incident that occurred when his daughter was 15. Later, the charges were amended to aggravated incest, to which Yarbrough pled guilty.

Yarbrough had been out on bond until the sentencing hearing.

Board to discuss moving rooms

The Goodland School Board on Monday will discuss hiring a project manager for the high school remodeling job members approved this week and talk about where to move two classrooms the remodeling will eliminate.

The board, which met this week, usually holds sessions on the second and fourth Monday of each month, but decided to move the second meeting up a week to free time for spring break. The board will meet at 7 p.m. in the administration office on Main.

The district plans to knock down walls on the second floor of the high school, building two new science classrooms and renovating another this summer. The project will force a math and a special education class to find new rooms.

After hearing complaints, the board rejected their earlier idea of building new classrooms in the high school's large, rarely-used vocal room — which would be moved into the band room — and asked Principal Harvey Swager to come up with other solutions.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said Swager will present options to members, and the board will talk about hiring a manager to make decisions on site.

The board will also evaluate the district's five principals behind closed doors, hear a report on the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center board, listen to a presentation on the service center's Parents as Teachers program and may go behind closed doors to talk about teacher contract negotiations.

George goes to school



Sheila Salazar, museum outreach teacher with the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, explained George the python to interested Central Elementary students Thursday morning. Students also learned to make synthetic rubber balls.

Photo by Eric Yonkey/The Goodland Daily News

City race :

The only real contest in this year's general election is for the Goodland City Commission, where five candidates are running for three open seats. There will be three seats up for grabs on the Goodland School Board this April 3, but only three candidates, two incumbents and one newcomer, have announced they want to serve. The city commission candidates include Brenda McCants, John Nichols and Dean Blume, plus incumbents Chuck Lutters and Rick Billinger. Commissioner Jim Mull, Grant Junior High principal, has decided not to seek re-election, leaving his seat open.

She says the city is a gem

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

Brenda McCants, one of five people looking to fill three open seats on the city commission, said she thinks of Goodland as a gem that needs polishing.

The North Carolina native who moved here seven years ago said the city has a fascinating history and many tourist attractions, including brick streets, sunflower production, an arts center and museum, but doesn't shine like it could. Mostly, McCants said, it's a matter



B. McCants

of perception.

"We must do a better job of marketing what we have," she said, noting that tourism accounts for 30 percent of business in Goodland. McCants, who resigned from the Convention and Visitors Bureau board to run for office, said attracting more people could raise that percentage.

She said she's the woman for the job.

"I talk with people from out of town at the hospital who walk around town while someone they know is being

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Incumbent a strong voice

By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

Rick Billinger, a 10-year veteran of the Goodland City Commission, said he feels like he's a strong voice for the taxpayer.

In his re-election bid, Billinger is facing four other candidates seeking three open seats on the commission.

"I vote the way the taxpayers think the vote ought to go," he said. "I look at the issue and think 'What do the people want?'" and vote that

Billinger, 49, said he thinks it's



R. Billinger

important to listen to the community.

He said he has lived in Goodland since May of 1975, moving here when he took a job with Nationwide Home Sales. Billinger has worked for the company for 26 years selling mobile and modular homes.

He and his wife, Rita, a loan officer at First National Bank in Goodland, have three children.

Tyler is a senior, Kendra a sophomore and Kaylee a sixth grader at North Elementary.

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Mayor says they've done good

By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

Mayor Chuck Lutters, who has been on the Goodland City Commission for six years, said he filed again because he feels the city has progressed and the commission has done good things.

"I would like to continue that trend," he said.

In addition to being Goodland's mayor for almost two years, Lutters, 49, is the building and grounds supervisor for the Goodland school district.

He has been a city commissioner since 1995. When asked if there were any city policies or ordinances he wanted to change, he said, not really.

"The ordinances come and go," Lutters said. "Each time something comes up, they're under different circumstances. You change your focus to the items that are the most important at the time."

Lutters said he thinks Goodland needs to remain a progressive community, but do it conservatively.

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C. Lutters

He wants new city job

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

John Nichols used to work for the city and now he wants to work on it.

After 24 years with Goodland's city crew, Nichols, 62, retired in June. A few months later, the former reserve police officer and reserve deputy became one of five candidates seeking three open seats on the city commission.

"I've worked on the streets, at the sewer plant, on the water lines," said Nichols, who now works for Pueblo Chemical and Supply. "I've got a knowledge of what it takes."



J. Nichols

What it takes, he said, is someone who realizes you've got to spend money to make money. Nichols said he would want to spend taxpayers' money on improving city streets and upgrading the crew's pickups and equipment.

It also takes someone who is honest and can make good decisions, he said. Nichols said he wouldn't let his old job interfere with his new one.

"I am partial to the city crew," he said, "but I don't want to burden people. I have to pay taxes too."

Nichols said he's interested in saving.

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He says business is key

By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

Dean Blume has never held an elected office, but says he wants to serve on the Goodland City Commission because he has issues that he wants to get involved in and wants to contribute to the community.

Blume, 74, said if he is elected he would like to see if the commission can strengthen the tax base and work to keep businesses that are now in Goodland.

He and his wife, Erna, have lived in Goodland since 1964 and have been involved in many civic and government programs, he said.



D. Blume

The couple owned and operated Blume's Lawn and Garden Supply for 11 years before retiring in November of 1997. Now, he said, he works part-time doing ticket work for automotive technicians at the Northwest Kansas Technical School.

He said he also hosts a talk show at 8:30 a.m. Saturdays on KLOE/KKCI Radio called "Blume's Garden Talk."

The Blumes have two grown children, Roger Blume of Goodland and Linda Marshall of Hays.

Blume said he wants people to vote

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