

Thomas is only candidate running for commissioner

By Rachel Miscal
The Goodland Daily News
 Chuck Thomas, who lives southeast of Edson, says he wants to give farmers a voice on the Sherman County Commission. Currently, he said, there are two businessmen and a retired railroad official on the commission, and no one to represent farmers — the people who drive the county's economy.



Thomas

Thomas may get his chance, as Chuck Frankenfelf, the retired railroad official, is giving up the office he's held for five years and moving out of the district. The other commissioners are Mitch Tiede, owner of Tiede Terracing,

and Kevin Rasure, owner of Rasure Lumber Do-it Center. Thomas is basically a shoo-in.

Royal Reid was also seeking the office, but dropped out of the race for personal reasons. Reid's name will still appear on the ballot, but he said there's no way he's going to win.

"That's so remote," he said. "That's not even likely."
 If Reid does win, County Clerk Janet Rumpel said, his name will go on the general election ballot, and if he wins again, a commissioner would have to be appointed.

Thomas, who moved here from Wis-

consin six years ago, said farmers need all the help they can get. Drought is ruining crops, he said, and will eventually put a big dent in the economy.

"The depressed economy is really hurting now more than people in town realize," he said. "It's going to hit home this fall."

Thomas said he doesn't have all of the answers, but wants to work with the other commissioners to bring in new businesses that will boost the economy. "I want to be a part of helping the county to grow and expand," he said.

The 52-year-old said he hasn't held an elected office before, but will work and think hard as a commissioner.

"I will use a common-sense approach to making decisions for the county," he said.

Experience needed in insurance job

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News
 Saying that Kansas is in an insurance crisis, and that the next insurance commissioner needs to be someone who knows the business, David J. Powell of El Dorado is running in the Republican primary Tuesday.



Powell

In a visit to Goodland on Thursday, Powell said he has been in the insurance business in El Dorado for 25 years, and specializing in health care for the last 16 years.

Powell is one of three Republicans seeking to replace Insurance Commissioner Kathleen Sebelius, who is running for governor. The other two in the Republican race are Sen. Stanley Praeger of Lawrence, and Bryan Riley of Wichita. The winner of Tuesday's primary election will face Democrat Jim Garner of Coffeyville.

someone who has experience and training in insurance to work for them," Powell said. "We don't need another politician or someone who is new to the business. When no one filed who was truly qualified to fill this position, I decided to run."

Powell, wearing blue pants and a white T-shirt festooned with campaign stickers, said he was born in West Palm Beach, Fla., while his father was serving in the Air Force, and lived in several places including Germany. His father was stationed with the Strategic Air Command at Offutt Air Base in Nebraska, where he attended high school. He graduated from the University of Nebraska with a degree in mathematics, and coached and taught high school math and economics for 10 years in Nebraska and El Dorado.

He said in the insurance business in El Dorado, he has worked with hundreds of agents, thousands of consum-

ers and many insurance carriers as an independent agent.

"We are in an insurance crisis," Powell said. "(Kansas has) lost over 14 health carriers in the last year, and we have lost a number of property and casualty companies. I want to bring several back with competitive products to help reduce insurance rates."

"A year ago, there were 10 companies writing grain elevator insurance. Today, based on reports, there is only one left. I want to develop an alternative for elevators that would share the risk."

"I want to develop a way to stop uninsured motorists from driving. I think we can use some of the laws on the books to help this, and it would help everybody because there would be less costs for everyone to share."

Powell said he has been married to his wife Lois for 35 years, and they have three grown children. Charles teaches at Kansas State University, Justina is married and living in Germany and James is a chef. They have five grand children.

Hot state races in Tuesday's primary election

The following state and national candidates are on the ballot for their party's nomination at the primary election Tuesday. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

National — Republican:

U.S. Senator: Tom Oylar, Wichita; Pat Roberts, Dodge City

U.S. Representative: Jerry Moran, Hays

National — Democratic

State — Republican

Governor/Lt. Governor: Dan Bloom/Eric Bloom, Eudora; Dave

Kerr/Mary Birch, Topeka; Bob Knight/Kent Glasscock, Wichita; Tim Shallenburger/David Lindstrom, Topeka.

Secretary of State: Ron Thornburgh, Topeka.

Attorney General: David Adkins, Leawood; Phil Kline, Shawnee; Charles D. McAtee, Tecumseh.

Commissioner of Insurance: David J. Powell, El Dorado; Sandy Praeger, Lawrence; Bryan Riley, Wichita.

Treasurer: Lynn Jenkins, Topeka; Dennis Wilson, Overland Park.

Representative — 121st District: Jim Morrison, Colby.

Board of Education: Connie Morris, St. Francis; I.B. "Sonny" Rundell, Syracuse.

State — Democratic

Governor/Lt. Governor: Kathleen Sebelius/John Moore, Topeka.

Secretary of State: David Haley, Kansas City.

Attorney General: Chris Biggs, Junction City.

Commissioner of Insurance: Jim Garner, Coffeyville.

Treasurer: Sally Finney, Olathe.

Legislature gets 'D' from citizens, poll says

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansans did not approve of how legislators handled major issues this session, a new poll suggests.

Overall, the people responding in The Kansas Poll gave legislators a D grade. They also gave lawmakers a D for their handling of each of 12 issues, including the state's budget problems.

The poll was organized by the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Kansas, and results were released Thursday. Sponsoring the poll were *The Topeka Capital-Journal*, CJOonline, KSNT-TV in Topeka, KSNW-TV in Wichita, WIBW AM and FM radio in Topeka, and the Associated Press.

In an analysis, the pollsters said surveying Kansans about their opinions of the Legislature took twice as long as anticipated because of how vocal respondents were.

"They wanted to voice their frustrations, and they were more than happy to comment," said Mary Banwart, an assistant professor of communication studies.

The information about attitudes toward the Legislature was released in advance of Tuesday's primary.

The hottest race on the primary ballot is for the Republican gubernatorial

nomination, where the state's budget problems are the biggest issue.

Pollsters surveyed 485 Kansans from July 27-30 and said their margin of error was 4.5 percent.

However, only 371 of the respondents were allowed to grade the Legislature, because they said they followed legislative business at least occasionally. Almost 25 percent, or 114 respondents, said they never followed it.

On 12 issues, the respondents were asked to grade legislators. Those issues were education, kindergarten through 12th grade; higher education; the environment; health care; seniors' issues; taxes; social services; redistricting; the budget; putting Kansas above partisan

politics; making tough decisions; and completing their work in a timely fashion.

When their responses were tallied, legislators received a D for every issue.

Legislators spent a record 107 days in session after approving \$252 million in tax increases. The poll analysis said there was a general sentiment against tax increases, though a majority of respondents didn't want to see education and other essential services cut.

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With the rebuilt intersection at K-27 and Business K-24 open and the stoplight working, the call about an overturned truck Thursday appeared to be the first accident at the new intersection, but actually it was a bit to the north. A Mack truck pulling a side-dump trailer slipped the rear wheels off the pavement on the west side, causing the truck to roll onto its side. The driver was Marvin Boyd, 40, of Colby. The truck from Sporer Land Development of Oakley, was hauling dirt for the shoulder work around the intersection. There was minor damage to the trailer, but there was several thousand dollars damage to the passenger side of the cab.

Photo by tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

Continued drought killing fall crops

CORN, from Page 1

"I don't even want to go to work," he said. "I don't want to go out in the field and look at it."

Graber said it's the driest year he's seen since 1976.

Belshe said the irrigated corn is having to draw its moisture from water that's been stored in the ground. But the water reserves are going fast, he said, because previous dry years have reduced the amount of moisture in the soil.

"I usually check soil moisture down to four feet," Graber said. "This year I'm lucky if I can get the stick in the ground."

The crop's future was unsure from the beginning, Belshe said, because much of the corn was planted in water-depleted soil.

Some irrigated corn was planted in ground with decent water reserves, he noted, and those plants are struggling, but are managing to hang on. He said there is a lot of variety in the condition of the irrigated crop.

Belshe said farmers are deciding what to do with their burned-up crop. Some are thinking about cutting it for feed, he said, but they may not even be able to give it to cattle.

The weak, damaged plants aren't able to filter out nitrates — a chemical in fertilizer — they pick up in the soil, Belshe said, and the chemical can harm livestock. He said nitrates can cause cattle to abort their babies.

Belshe said alfalfa hay will likely be in higher demand this year because there will be a shortage of feed, but that irrigated crop is not growing well, either.

Graber said the part of the corn crop that isn't killed by drought could be sucked dry by spider mites. He said the mites, which suck the moisture out of plants, love hot, dry weather, and could pose a serious problem this year.

"The hotter it is," he said, "the faster they go."

Farmers with mite problems have to decide whether it's worth spending the money to spray chemicals to kill the bugs, Graber said. He said some are

spraying, hoping at least part of their crop will produce decent yields.

Graber said the weather is causing the fragile blooms on the pinto bean plants to fall off.

"They're small and tender," he said, "and the wind knocks them right off. The plants look healthy, but when you get close you notice there are hardly any beans on them."

Snyder said many farmers will have only one option this fall harvest, and that is to collect on their insurance.

"The thing to do is go talk to your crop insurance adjuster," he said.

Graber said farmers are sure to get the short end of the stick that way, though.

"A good crop would be so much better than the insurance," he said.

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