

weather report

41°

noon
Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 4:27 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 7:04 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:27 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 33 degrees
• Humidity 41 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds south 11 mph
• Barometer 29.79 inches and steady

• Record High today 69° (1933)
• Record Low today -17° (1989)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 43°
Low Wednesday 27°
Precipitation none
This month .83
Year to date 14.89
Below normal 4.75 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly sunny with a high near 37, a 40 percent chance of snow at night, a low around 17 and wind out of the northwest 10 to 35 mph. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 31, a low around 11 and winds out of the northwest 15-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Partly sunny with a high near 38, a 20 percent chance of snow at night and a low around 16.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$9.07 bushel
Posted county price — \$9.17
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$3.89 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.91
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$3.680.00 bushel
Soybeans — \$10.35 bushel
Posted county price — \$10.66
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$7 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Confection — \$30/\$19 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
(Markets by Scoular Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



People enjoy special night

LaVina Perry (left) and Fern Hawks enjoyed a turkey dinner with the trimmings at the Christmas Family Table given Saturday by the Calvary Gospel Church at the Northwest Kansas Technical College Student Union. See photo, story on Page 3.

County will stripe road in spring

By Tom Betz

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Sherman County commissioners agreed Tuesday to paint a center stripe on old U.S. 24 across the county, and hope to have a contract to do the painting in the spring.

The commissioners have been talking about marking the 35-mile road, which bisects the county, since it was repaved last summer.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he had driven the route, once the main highway from Kansas City to Denver but now mostly a feeder for local traffic, and thought while the new pavement was getting a bit lighter, it is hard to see, especially at night.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas, who lives

near Edson, said he has been driving it and agrees it is getting a bit lighter.

"When it is coated with ice, (a stripe) would not matter," he added.

Tiede said he had visited with Darin Neufeld, an engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, and that Neufeld told him it was up to the commissioners to decide what they wanted to do on the road. Highway standards don't require it to be marked, he said, given the relatively low volume of traffic.

Neufeld talked to the other two commissioners about the striping at the Dec. 11 meeting, and told them the same thing.

"We have had people come to us and ask

for it to be done," Thomas said.

"We are not going to get it done now," Tiede said. "We should put on the center stripe in the spring if people want it."

Thomas said the county needs to find some contractors that might be able to do the painting.

Tiede said he had checked with the state Department of Transportation, but they told him they cannot get all their own striping done and would not do any for the county. He said they did say their people could help mark the no-passing zones without charge.

Thomas suggested getting some prices from companies to get the work done in the spring.

"That is what I have been wanting all along," said Commissioner Kevin Rasure.

Thomas said the paint should last for three or four years, and by then the county expects to chip seal the road to preserve the surface.

Rasure said it would be good to have the research done in January so the county could have a contract in place. He made a motion to put a center stripe on old U.S. 24, which passed unanimously.

Tiede said he would try to get a list of companies from Curt Way, public works director, and try to call a Colorado company again that might be able to do the job. He said he would try to have those for the next commission meeting at 8 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 31.



Layne Goodwin (from left in back), Blaine Sederstrom and Renae Hageman; Keaton Tesmer (middle row from left), Hannah Eslinger and Brandt Mull; and Demi Mitchek (and front), Jacob McClary and Emily Whisnant were part of the second-grade music which gave a concert Tuesday night at the high school auditorium. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Second graders show off talent in holiday show

Second graders at West Elementary School got to show off their musical talents to parents and friends Tuesday night at the Goodland High School Auditorium in a concert put off from the week before because of weather.

Kaitlyn Townsend welcomed everyone to the program, which started off with the "Twelve Days of Instruments" featuring a red and green kazoo and two "thumpa thumps" with Drake Buchanan and Shawna Goodman, then:

- Three "klunk klanks" with Dawson Raymer, Demi Mitchek and Jacob McClary.
- Four "janglereenz" with Ellee McDaniel, Baylee Heinrich, Keaton Tesmer and Hannah Eslinger.

- Five plastic tubes with Saje Miller, Josselin Hernandez, Tray Brown, Betsua Santana and Parker Nemechek.
- Six "plinga tingers" with Kayleigh McCombs, Ivan Diaz, Devinee Borgmann, Zachary Jones and Elena Flores.

- Seven "crashee klangers" with Aaron Grammon, Kennedy Shelley, Lucas Wood, Katie Purvis, Levi House, Halley Medrano and Tavean Stockman.

- Eight "toodly floaters" with Caleb Rains, Wence Hendrich, Powell Sieck, Devin Jipping, Dawson Ensign, Evin Berquist, Peyton Fenner and Peyton Sieck.

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Register of deeds retiring after 24 years

By Sharon Corcoran

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For 24 years, Carol Armstrong has been keeping track of Sherman County history over 124 years, but at the end of this month as she leaves her office at the courthouse.

Armstrong, 66, Sherman County register of deeds since 1994 and deputy register for 11 years before that, will retire Dec. 31, leaving a job she says she loves.

A retirement party honoring her will be from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28, on the main floor of the courthouse.

The office has records of everything pertaining to real estate since before Sherman was a county, Armstrong said.

There's a lot of history in there, she said, though a lot of people don't realize that. The records go back to the patents for homestead and timber claims, she said. The office even has some of the original patents that people never picked up.

People were settling this area in the 1880s, she said, and the county was organized in 1886. Homesteaders had to live on the land from three to eight years, she said, and then file and prove they had made improvements, such as building a house or barn, planting crops, running cattle, planting trees, whatever they were going to do here.

Then they had to pay for the land, she said, and a few months later, they got a patent signed by the president. Land cost \$1.25 per acre then, she said; that's what the receipts show.

The office has copies of most patents, she said, but there are a few boxes of the originals, many signed by President Grover Cleveland in the late 1800s.

Every real estate transaction from then to today is recorded, she said,



Carol Armstrong, Sherman County register of deeds, looked up real estate transactions Tuesday afternoon. She says she has enjoyed keeping track of the county's history in her office, but is retiring at the end of the year. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

and the indexes tell visitors where to look for things. The biggest part of her job, she said, is knowing where to find the information.

Though the records are open to the public, Armstrong said, not many people come in to look things up. She said mostly real estate agents, lawyers, bankers and abstractors come to the office. Most people have someone else file the paperwork when they buy property, she said.

Armstrong began as deputy register of deeds on Aug. 8, 1983, working under Dorothea Graybill. When Graybill retired, Armstrong was appointed to finish her term beginning in June 1994. They have filled a lot of pages with transactions in that time, she said.

"We were in book 43 when I started," she said, "and now we're in 151, and there are about 1,000 pages in each book."

Besides real estate transactions, she said, the office keeps track of oil and gas leases, mortgage assign-

ments, even military discharges.

"I love the job," Armstrong said. "It's interesting. I can't think of one single thing about the job I don't like."

Among the things she enjoys the most are visits during school field trips and helping people with their genealogy.

"I always enjoy when they bring the little kids for tours," she said. "Their eyes get so big when you tell them how old the records are."

She said she will probably visit the office after her retirement to work on her own genealogy. Both sets of her grandparents had homesteads in the county, she said. Her mother's parents moved here in 1882 and lived in a dugout until they built their "soddy." Her father's parents lived eight miles away, but Armstrong said they didn't know each other.

The one family moved to Oregon, she said, and then the other, and her mother and father met and married in Oregon and moved back here.

She was born here as Carol Bogart

Central committee to fill empty seat

Holiday, school and sports activities and even a University of Kansas football game pushed back the date for selecting a replacement for Register of Deeds Carol Armstrong, but the Republican County Committee will meet next month to choose a candidate.

The committee, made up of precinct committeemen and women, will gather at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, in the commissioner's room at the courthouse to choose a candidate to fulfill the term. They will send the name to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius to appoint the replacement.

Armstrong's deputy, Billie Hoyt, sent a letter saying she wants the job, said committee chair Roxie Yonkey. Yonkey said she has heard of one other person said to be interested but hasn't heard from the candidate herself.

Anyone wanting to be considered should be at the committee

meeting, she said. It is open to the public, but only committee members will speak and vote.

Yonkey said she had been told they couldn't hold the meeting until after Armstrong leaves office, but when she looked up the law, she found out that wasn't the case. But she wasn't able to schedule the meeting in December, though, because with everything going on, it would have been impossible to get a quorum there.

She wanted to hold the meeting Jan. 3 but got an angry phone call from a University of Kansas fan on the committee. Since the Jayhawks will be playing in the Orange Bowl that night, she rescheduled for the 10th.

The committee is made up of a man and a woman from each township and ward in the county with the exception of Shermanville, where hardly anyone lives.

Mrs. Armstrong said she had several jobs before going to work at the courthouse, in food service, grocery stores, even as a bookkeeper, but working with deeds has been her favorite.

She is leaving because of her health, which she said "isn't the best."

"And I'm getting tired," she said. "I do OK the first three days of the week, am really tired Thursday afternoon and exhausted Friday. Then I need to rest all day Saturday and can't get much done."

and graduated from Sherman Community High School in 1960. Her husband, Bob Armstrong, is a 1952 Goodland graduate. Between them, they have five children, she said, two hers, three his.

"But they're all mine," she added. "That's how I feel about them."

They have 12 grandchildren and a great-grandson, and Mrs. Armstrong said she plans to spend more time with them. Her youngest son lives in Arizona, but the others are close, in Goodland, Lakin, Stratton