

weather report

85°
 noon
 Monday



Today

• Sunset, 7:59 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 5:28 a.m.
 • Sunset, 7:59 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 66 degrees
 • Humidity 20 percent
 • Sky sunny
 • Winds northwest 17 to 22 mph
 • Barometer 29.85 inches and rising

• Record High today 98° (1934)
 • Record Low today 30° (1931)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 91°
 Low Sunday 43°
 Precipitation none
 This month 0.52
 Year to date 2.56
 Below normal 2.92 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 87, winds out of the north at 5 to 15 mph becoming southeast and a low around 56.
 Wednesday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of Shower and thunderstorms after noon, a high near 92, winds breezy out of the south at 15 to 20 mph and a low around 60.

Extended Forecast

Thursday and Friday: Highs from 79 to 85 with a chance of rain.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$7.87 bushel
 Posted county price — \$7.50
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Corn — \$5.46 bushel
 Posted county price — \$5.39
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Milo — \$5.03 bushel
 Soybeans — \$11.88 bushel
 Posted county price — \$12.63
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 Sunflowers
 Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Confection — \$30/\$20 cwt.
 Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)
 (Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Races set for Saturday

Colby's Jeff Tubbs (37) went through turn one during the hot laps for the modified cars before the races on Saturday, May 10. Tubbs was ninth in the modified main. The races continue at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday. See photo, story on Page 12.

Graduates, family fill fieldhouse

By Pat Schiefen

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The latest graduating class of Goodland High School took their place in history at commencement ceremonies on Saturday afternoon at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

This year there were co-valedictorians, Aaron Deeds and Josh Doke, which has happened rarely. The salutatorian was Heidi Yonkey.

Keely (Schields) Chase, who graduated from Goodland High School in 1993 was that class' valedictorian and the graduation speaker on Saturday. Chase is a Senior Writer II for Hallmark in Kansas City, Mo., and author of "On a Personal Note, a Guide to Writing Notes with Style." Chase earned her bachelors and masters degree at Kansas State University.

Chase told graduates they had to earn their graduation, had to work for it and that they had done it. She brought an example of a card and the first thing she told them to look for was the Gold Crown Hallmark symbol.

"I was only kidding," she said. She had several wishes for the graduates. They should always be proud to be from Goodland, take some risks but not foolish ones, fail sometimes as it is good preparation for life, always show up for classes or meetings, try harder than everyone else, pursue what you love, have a class or job that you hate as it builds character and seek out ways to share your powers for good.

"Go as many places as you can before you have a full time job and kids," Chase said.

"Continue to read and continue your education your whole life."

Student Council President Deeds introduced the foreign exchange students, Margo Detombe from Belgium, Martin Stadelmann from Switzerland and Maria Ulloa from Chile, and the exchange teacher Jitima Puttcharoen from Thailand or Mrs. O as the students called her.

"Americans are like pancakes, sweet and good, and you like to have more of them," Stadelmann said. "Congratulations to the Class of 2008. We are awesome."

"I found the sister I never had before," said Ulloa.

The students and Deeds exchanged flags.

Dale Shields from the Sherman County Alumni Association told the audience the three finalists for the Educator of the Year were Jackie



The 64 members of the Class of 2008 were lead by juniors Brennen Clouse and Chelsie Gausman to their seating at Max Jones Fieldhouse on Saturday afternoon at commencement exercises. The band and X-Pressos performed at the event. Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News



Co-valedictorian Aaron Deeds (left) with Goodland High School Principal Sharon Gregory and co-valedictorian Josh Doke got ready to make their comments at the Goodland High School commencement on Saturday afternoon at Max Jones. Salutatorian Heidi Yonkey (right) listened while high school principal Sharon Gregory introduced her.

Elliott, Dennis Friedrichs and Travis Witman. The one chosen got \$250 and a plaque. Friedrichs got the honor.

"I told myself not to be emotional," he said. "Life is like a river, save the best till the river runs dry from a song, 'The River' sang by Garth Brooks."

The salutatorian Heidi Yonkey said, "Wow we survived learning, winning and losing."

Co-valedictorian Deeds said, "Time is the most important possession of a lifetime."

Doke, co-valedictorian, said, "From our list of lasts, last class we had to take and last time to walk out the door, opportunities are born.

Embrace changes."

Goodland High School Principal Sharon Gregory read the list of awards the seniors had received and presented the class for their diplomas.

The diplomas were given out by Superintendent Shelly Angelos, LeAnn Friedrichs, Andrew House, Jane Philbrick, Amy Sederstrom, Dick Short and Chuck Wilkens.

The band provided the music for the graduates to march in on as well as the "Star Spangled Banner" and other music. Deanne Langness directed the band. The X-Pressos also sang for the audience. They were directed by Randy Berls.

Members of the graduating class

were Lauren Abernathy, Marisa Acuff, Amanda Amthor, Robert Borneman, Kylie Buller, Shawnie Butts, Ashley Christians, Jennifer Cole, Levi Coon, Preston Dautel, Deeds, Detombe, Doke, Robert Doxon, Shelby Estes, Brittney Ford, Christopher Geeseka, Samantha Grote, Eugene Gutierrez, Dylan Hageman, Matthew Hamilton, T.J. Hawkins, Nathan Heiter, Casey Henderson, Toby Hurst, Darrick Ihrig, Christopher Irvin, Minda Keith, Holly Kibel, Jake Kling, Jason Krayca, Ana Ledesma, Jonathan McClung, Ashley McDonald, Felicia McGrath, Brett Meissinger, Alison Milke, Andrew Miller, Allen

Normandin, Cassie Peterson, Andrew Philbrick, Samantha Raymer, Renea Reasoner, Tehnee Ridder, Jordan Roane, Ren Scherling, Tanner Smith, Stadelmann, A. J. Stephens, Halli Stone, Jessica Swager, Thomas Terry, Eryn Topliff, Forrest Trachsel, Callee Warren, Adrienne West, Hannah West, Grant Wilkens, Spencer Windell, Tiffany Wing, Andrea Wolak, Yonkey, Dustin Zelfer and Britt Zwegardt.

The junior escorts were Brennen Clouse and Chelsie Gausman. The ushers were Rory Kling, Brooke Lennington, Devin Mangus, Taylor McLemore, Courtney Sheldon and Andrew Taylor.

Forums planned on at-large voting issue

By Tom Betz

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Sherman County will not be voting on the at-large election of county commissioners in November, but citizens will be able to voice their opinion on the issue at a series of public forums planned for next month.

Commissioners agreed at their meeting last Tuesday that if a majority of people attending the forums are in favor of the at-large voting issue, they would support asking Rep. Jim Morrison (R-Colby) and Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer (R-Grinnell) to take the issue back to Topeka to try again in the next session.

Opposition from two of the commissioners apparently torpedoed the bill this session, though all three signed a letter asking for it to be passed after a crowd showed up at a meeting in April.

Chairman Mitch Tiede said Trevor Linton from the Shine On Sherman County Government Alliance told him the group would be willing to hold some meetings.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said he felt it would be good if the forums were held on different nights of the week to allow as many people as possible to attend and express their opinion.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said she could contact Linton if the commissioners would give her a starting date. Commissioner Kevin Rasure said it would be good to do it in June, while the subject is still in the public's mind.

The commissioners suggested Wednesday, June 4; Tuesday, June 10; and Thursday, June 19.

Rumpel said Wednesday Linton

At-large bill hits snags in journey

By Tom Betz

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An effort to let Sherman County voters decide how to elect county commissioners worked its way through the Legislature over the past two years, then got sidetracked at the last minute and used to correct problems found by the governor's office in another bill.

The bill would have allowed voters to decide whether all voters, rather than just those in one of three districts, should decide commission races. State law does not allow counties to vote on commissioners at large, so two years ago, the county asked the Legislature for a change to apply here only.

The bill flew through the House last year, but stalled in the Senate and had not passed by the end of the session.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas, who was then the chairman, said Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer (R-Grinnell) told him last fall that language the county submitted in March had cleared up questions senators had, and he did not see a problem in getting the bill out of committee this session.

In December, however, Thomas said Ostmeyer felt the commissioners should get more public comment before asking to have the bill passed. No action was taken to hold a public session, and the bill lay dormant

until a question was raised in a commission meeting on Tuesday, March 12.

The commissioners asked County Clerk Janet Rumpel to get a copy of the bill as it was revised in the Senate and announced they would have it on the agenda for the next meeting on March 18. Notice that the bill would be on the agenda was published in *The Goodland Star-News* and announced on KLOE Radio before the meeting.

Ostmeyer said on Wednesday, March 12, if the commissioners gave the go ahead, he had talked to Sen. Tim Huelskamp (R-Fowler), chair of the Senate Elections and Local Government Committee, and the bill could be passed out in the next week.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure made a motion to ask Ostmeyer to move the bill ahead and Commissioner Mitch Tiede seconded. It passed 2-1, with Thomas says he did not feel the people needed this.

Rasure asked Rumpel to contact Sen. Ostmeyer to let him know the county was ready to proceed.

The bill passed the Senate 40-0 on March 27, but when it was sent to a conference committee it stalled again. It was stuck when the Legislature went into recess on April 4.

Ostmeyer again said the bill was not dead, but that

See HISTORY, Page 11

told her the Sherman County Farm Bureau might be interested in helping, and she would let the commissioners know once they determined who would organize the events.

The commissioners Tuesday reviewed the final days of the legislative session, when a bill with the Sherman County voting language was gutted and another election bill substituted and passed by both

houses. Passage of the bill appeared assured once it passed the Senate 40-0 on March 27, but it was referred to a conference committee because the Senate had amended the House bill. The House had passed the bill last year 120-2 on Feb. 19.

The bill stalled in a conference committee, and on Saturday, May 3, it was passed without the Sherman

County language.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure, who supported the change, said it was hard to have a bill pass with two of the commissioners expressing opposition to it to people in Topeka.

Thomas said he had changed his mind and was against the change. He said he had agreed to sign the letter because of pressure put on by

those at the meeting in April. He said everyone he has talked to is against changing the districts.

Tiede said he had changed his mind as well, and had told Ostmeyer he did not feel the bill was necessary even after signing the letter to support it on April 8.

"Everyone is against this," Thomas claimed.

"You took the decision out of the people's hands," Rasure replied.

"No, we are asking for the majority of people to let us know what they want," Tiede said. "I had not heard anything from people about it after it stalled out last year. When it was brought up, it got everyone riled up again this year. People who have talked to me are against it."

"Everyone I have heard from has been for it," said Heather McDonald of S&T Communications, adding that people are disappointed the issue will not be on the ballot.

Rasure said that was the point of trying to get the bill passed, to give the people the chance to vote. Tiede said, however, that the legislators want to know how people feel before they pass the bill.

"The Legislature wants to see that the majority of the people want this before they pass it," Tiede said.

"It was going fine until you called them," Rasure replied.

"They called me," Tiede shot back.

"I was told there was opposition by two commissioners," Rasure said.

"I don't think people in the city or the rural area are for this," Thomas said.

See FORUMS, Page 11