

weather report

68°
noon
Thursday



Today

- Sunset, 8:11 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:12 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 68 degrees
- Humidity 63 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds northwest 15-20 mph
- Barometer 29.41 inches and steady
- Record High today 100° (1969)
- Record Low today 36° (1998)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 80°
- Low Wednesday 55°
- Precipitation 0.25
- This month 0.41
- Year to date 3.66
- Below normal 3.93 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 83, winds out of the west at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 54. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 86, winds out of the north at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 58.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 89 and a low around 61. Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 91 and a low around 57. Tuesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 94 and a low around 57. Tuesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 94. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz. *Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$7.45 bushel
- Posted county price — \$7.16
- Corn — \$5.93 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.71
- Milo — \$5.11 bushel
- Soybeans — \$13.02 bushel
- Posted county price — \$12.98
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
- 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



K-18 to play at Russell

Austin Avelar got on base against Colby in the K-18 season opener, last Thursday. He had to return to first base when the next batter hit a pop fly. Goodland will play in the Russell tournament this weekend. See story, photo on Page 12.

Penney's store to close in 90 days

By Tom Betz

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Employees at Goodland's J.C. Penney's were told Tuesday the store would close in September.

Word of the announcement spread around town, and Elizabeth Riley, one of the three key holders at the store, confirmed the news Wednesday afternoon.

She said she, Patsy Gresty and Diana Nichols were told Tuesday morning before the store opened by store manager Lorri Madden of McCook and the district manager, Jim Brandt from the Wichita Penney's office.

Gresty, who has been with the store for more than 15 years said she was told to refer questions to Madden.

A call to McCook Wednesday did not find Madden at the office, but a message was left at her home. Thursday morning when a call was placed to the McCook J.C. Penney's, the person answering the phone said Madden would be in the Goodland store in the afternoon.

Riley said the store has had a good bottom line, but the office in Wichita was concerned about the volume of merchandise the store sells.

Riley, who has been at the store for 11 years, said they have been trying to do what they could to keep the store going, and in recent years it has been recognized as the best in the



Win and Lorna Marshall of Burlington shopped for Christmas gifts at Goodland's J.C. Penney store on a Sunday last November, but that option may not be available to shoppers if the store closes in September.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

district and for having the best store manager. She said Gresty has been with the store for over 15 years and Nichols had worked there for about five.

"We were told if we could do a few of those things, they would look at getting us a bigger

store," Riley said, "but when I asked at a dinner they had to celebrate our good efforts, I was told that was not going to happen.

"I know if we had a larger store and had a shoe department, we could double our sales. When I told Jim that, he said it was probably

true, but again that it was not going to happen."

Riley said when they were called to come to the store early on Tuesday, the employees felt something was going to happen, but closing was not what they expected.

She said the company had already announced a cutback in the number of truck deliveries to one a week because of increased transportation costs.

"We usually have our back-to-school stuff coming in now, but have not received any of it," Riley said. "Now we know why. Do you know any place that will be hiring?"

She said the employees were given papers from Penney's about how they were going to take care of them when the store closes, but when asked if they offered a job in another Penney's store, she said, "They said they would talk to Wal-Mart for us."

News of the announcement was being spread through several channels, including e-mails, and people were being urged to start a letter campaign to try to change the minds of Penney's management.

"The J.C. Penney store will be closing in Goodland on Sept. 1, 2008," read an e-mail from Daniel Hayden of Bankwest. "This is a long shot, but we need to ask everyone we

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Money raising continues for park Hangar decision delayed

By Tom Betz

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Even as concrete forms are being set for the first two sections of a planned skate park, young backers continue raising money for equipment to put on the slab.

Members of the Shine On Sherman County Youth Committee were at Finley Motors for their second car wash on Saturday morning, with the crew handling about 75 cars. The kids washed the cars the first time earlier this year, and co-owner Danny Archer said he would donate \$50 for each car sold in March.

Connie Livengood, a member of the committee, said Finley donated \$1,800 to the skate park, and Archer said he was pleased with the work the kids did.

Another project raised \$400 for pulling fence posts out of a field for Dena and Merle Stasser. Livengood said the Stassers also bought the crew dinner at Gambino's.

She said the kids have raised well over \$30,000 for the skate park, but are continuing to raise money to pay for the half pipe, rails and other equipment it needs.

"They will keep on working," Livengood said. "They have been a great bunch of kids to work with."

The city has removed all the sprinklers and the base has been prepared. Livengood said the first two sections of concrete should be poured soon after the forms are up.

Saturday, Lynn Hoelting, manager of the Scoular Grain elevator, handed a check for \$500 to Courtney Sheldon as she and Whitney Dautel dried one of the cars.

Hoelting said he was impressed with the efforts of the youth committee and had applied for the money through his company's foundation.

"They were impressed as well with the efforts of our kids," he said. "I am glad to see how well they are doing, and it should be impressive to others in our community."

Others helping at the car wash included Elizabeth Wellmann, Courtney Cowan, Chantell Coates, Garrett



Chantell Coates (above right) and Courtney Cowan prepared to vacuum and wipe down the inside of a car at Finley Motor on Saturday morning to support a new skate park. Eric Linnell (right) held up one of the posts they pulled for Dena and Merle Stasser in triumph as Chase Stevens walked to pull another one.

Photos by Tom Betz, Connie Livengood The Goodland Star-News

Geist, Starla Kear, Corey Davis, Ben Coats, Karen Laudon, Kala Sharp, Wendy Wellmann and Iris Scheopner, the county treasurer.

Livengood said those helping pull the fence posts included Chase Stephens, Jordan Cochrane, Eric Linnell, Harley Davidson, Kear, Davis and Kim Bohme.

The skate park will be built to the south of the concrete slab poured over the old kiddie pool in Steever Park, near the corner of 16th and Cherry Ave.



Treasurer, commissioner, judge face primaries

By Sharon Corcoran

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All incumbent Sherman County officials say they are running for re-election and have filed with the county clerk, and except for the treasurer and one commissioner, most incumbents could run unopposed.

With an opening for district judge, a Goodland lawyer and at least two from nearby counties have expressed interest. The secretary of state reports receiving three filings for district judge for Division 2 in the 15th Judicial District.

Sharon Springs lawyer Etta Walker is reported to be interested in running as a Democrat, but the secretary of state's office hadn't received anything from her by Wednesday, and Walker has not been available to confirm her interest.

Walker is an elected delegate to the Demo-

cratic convention for Hillary Clinton.

Commissioners Mitch Tiede and Kevin Rasure, Clerk Janet Rumpel, Register of Deeds Billie Hoyt, Sheriff Kevin Butts, County Attorney Bonnie Selby and Treasurer Iris Scheopner have filed for re-election.

Scheopner will have competition in the Republican primary from Wanda Schritter. Tiede, a Democrat, will have competition in the general election from Cynthia K. Strnad, who filed for commissioner for District 2 as a Republican.

Anyone who wants to run needs to file at the clerk's office by Monday, Rumpel said. Up for election are clerk, treasurer, register of deeds, county attorney, sheriff and two spots on the commission.

The opening for district judge in the 15th District, covering Sherman, Wallace, Cheyenne, Sheridan, Thomas, Rawlins and Logan

counties, was created by the retirement of Judge Jack Burr after 30 years.

Scott Showalter of Goodland filed in October and Andrea Wyrick of Colby on Thursday, May 22.

The judge for Division 2 must live in Sherman County or move here. Wyrick had not registered to vote in Sherman County as of Thursday, but Kevin Berens, a St. Francis lawyer who has filed, has. He listed an address near Edson, Rumpel said.

They don't have to live in Sherman County when they file for the position, said Mary Ann Sneath, deputy county clerk; they just have to move here before they take the oath of office.

Glenn D. Schiffner of Colby, judge for the same counties from Division 1, filed for re-election on May 5.

Rumpel has served as clerk since 1983, and

Selby has been county attorney since 1998.

Hoyt, deputy register of deeds for four years under Carol Armstrong, was chosen for the job by the Republican Party when Armstrong retired at the end of last year.

Scheopner was elected treasurer and Butts sheriff in 2004. Butts has worked for the sheriff's department for 10 years before that, becoming undersheriff in 2001.

Scheopner worked at the treasurer's office for a little over four years before running for election to replace Shelby Miller, who retired.

Tiede, a Democrat, serves District 2 and Rasure, a Republican, District 3 on the county commission.

District 2 includes all of Ward 1 in Good-

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