

**weather report**

**79°**  
noon  
Thursday



**Today**

Sunset, 8:17 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.  
Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil temperature 72 degrees
- Humidity 44 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds north 17-24 mph
- Barometer 30.05 inches and rising
- Record High today 105° (1936)
- Record Low today 40° (1946)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High Wednesday 92°  
Low Wednesday 58°  
Precipitation 0.01  
This month 0.69  
Year to date 3.94  
Below normal 5.08 inches

**The Topside Forecast**

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon, a high near 83, winds east 5 to 10 mph and a low around 57. Saturday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 89, winds south 5 to 15 mph and a low around 60.

**Extended Forecast**

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 93 and a low around 62. Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 92 and a low around 62.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**

**Noon**

Wheat — \$8.52 bushel  
Posted county price — \$8.71  
Corn — \$6.69 bushel  
Posted county price — \$6.96  
Milo — \$6.27 bushel  
Soybeans — \$13.72 bushel  
Posted county price — \$14.61  
Millets — \$7 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$31.45 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



**Team second at Wray meet**

Drew House got ready to start his race at the swim meet June 7, at Steever Water Park. House won the gold at the 9-10 boys 100-yard freestyle race at the swim meet at Wray, Colo., on Saturday. See story, photo on Page 10.

## Proposal might keep store open

By Tom Betz

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City, county, economic development and Chamber officials gathered Thursday morning to finish an incentive proposal to persuade J.C. Penney's to keep its Goodland store open.

Details of the plan were to be drafted by City Manager Wayne Hill and be reviewed by a representative of each board, with the hope it can be sent to Penney's by today or Monday at the latest.

Each group agreed to help with a package that could provide Penney's some money to help the store continue and extended relief on city utilities. City Commissioner John Garcia, who has been the main contact person with the Penney's corporate offices in Plano, Texas, said this would be a basic proposal and that if Penney's is interested, the firm might make

a counteroffer.

When the meeting opened at 7 a.m., all of the city and county commissioners were present, plus a majority of the Sherman County Economic Development Council and two representatives from the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce.

Garcia said he felt it was important for people to know the city, county, economic development and Chamber were working to keep the store open.

"The Penney's people have been getting a lot of mail, phone calls and e-mails from people around the area," he said, "and we want to exhaust every effort to convince them to reverse the company's decision."

Garcia said the purpose of the meeting was to put forth the best options. He said he had been working with County Commissioner Kevin Rasure; Steve West, vice-chair of the

Economic Development Council; and Hill to see what they might be able to do.

County Commissioner Mitch Tiede said the closing of the store would not only affect Goodland and Sherman County, but the whole area.

"We need to do everything we can to keep the store open," he said.

Rasure said someone had asked why everyone was trying to help keep this business open, but not others that have closed.

"We felt the Penney's store was a key store," Rasure said, "and that it draws people to our town."

West, president of Western State Bank, said from the development council's view, they agreed the group should see if there is a way to help Penney's, and that keeping the store was a key for the downtown and the whole area.

Mayor Rick Billinger said he felt retaining

the store was as important as going out to try to recruit a new business.

Commissioner Josh Dechant asked if the incentives are what Penney's is looking for. Garcia said Penney's is a successful business, and that all people here can do is bring them our best proposal.

"We need to get a final proposal in writing and get it to them before it is too late," he said.

A question was raised about a different building or help with the rent where the store is located. Garcia said some of those options are being explored, but those are out of the hands of the public officials represented at the morning meeting.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks asked if people from surrounding communities have

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## Skills day gives youth taste of outdoor fun

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The day was hot and sunny for 41 boys and girls attending Youth Skills Day at Bellamy Farms, 12 miles southwest of Goodland.

This is the fourth year for the event, said Troy Mannis, the organizer and contact person. Kids got to learn about archery, muzzle loading, trap shooting, map reading, first aid, falconry, bird calls and camouflage, and to watch hunting dogs in action.

Jim Kennedy showed kids how to load a percussion-cap muzzleloader. First, he said, you measure the powder, using a funnel to pour it down the muzzle, put a ball and patch on the end of the muzzle, use a short starter to start pushing the ball and patch down the muzzle, and then seat the ball on top of the powder with a ramrod.

The last step is to cock the gun and put a percussion cap on the firing mechanism, he said. If everything goes right, the gun goes off when you pull the trigger.

Randy Raile, Drew Raile and Randy Selby let the kids try their hand at hitting a buck, doe, turkey or coyote target with a compound bow. They showed them how to line up the arrow, where to sight the target and how to pull back on the string.

Bob Juleson; Bennie Young, wildlife officer from Thomas County; Brian James, city fire chief; and J.L. Wilson manned a trap-shooting station, where kids got to try their hand at shooting a shotgun at clay pigeons.

Wildlife Officer Mike Hopper demonstrated game calling and use of camouflage. Emergency Medical Technician Steve Evert gave the kids hints on basic first aid.

Ken Klemm gave instruction on how to read a map and how to navigate with a compass. He had a course for the kids to try.

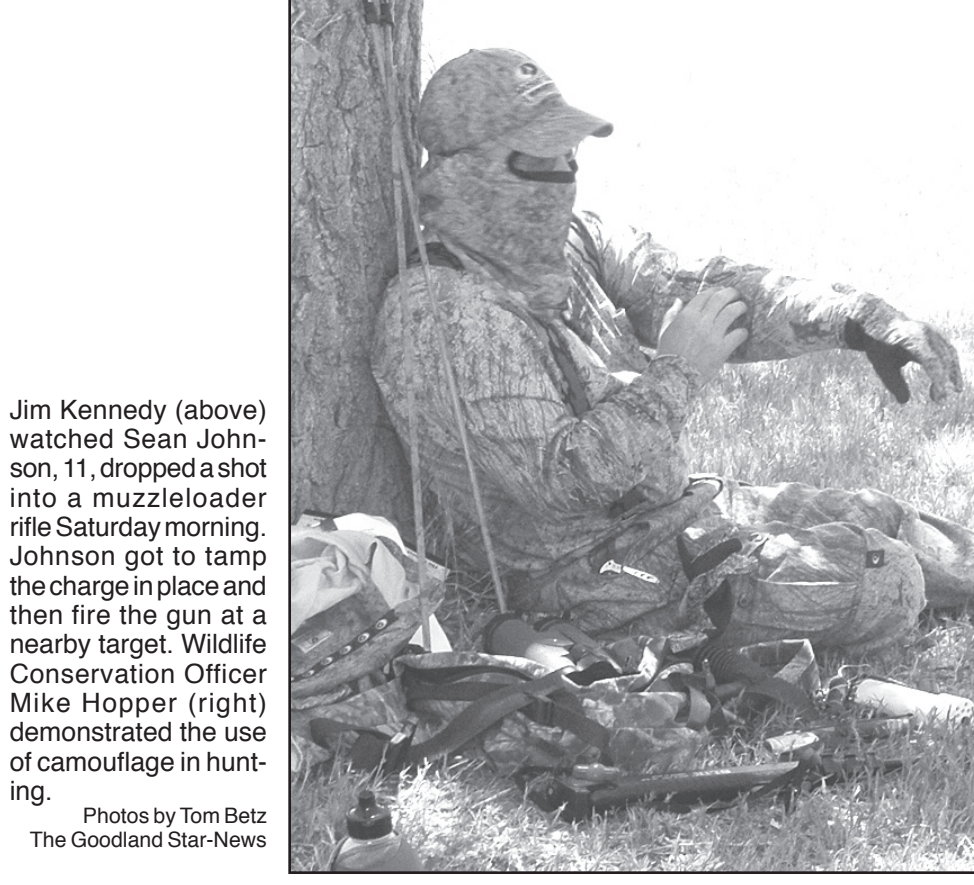
Melvin Crow and Dana Wilfong were there to show off their hunting dogs.

Andy Kear brought his red-tailed hawk out in the afternoon to show the kids falconry. Mannis, who has taught hunter safety for years, said he was happy with the number of kids who came out and the amount of help he got from sponsors and adults.

Randy Bellamy provided the place for no charge, he said, and only asked that everyone clean up after themselves. Mannis said 51 sponsors donated to the event.

Mannis said they want to keep attendance somewhere about 50 for the annual event. Other people who helped with the day included Michael Dorn, Tim Dinkel, Greg Unger, Terry Thatcher, Travis Brown and Dorinda Krueger, who took photos.

Everyone was treated to a lunch of hot dogs, buffalo burgers until they ran out, and then elk burgers with cookies and pop. The kitchen crew was headed up by Steve, Colleen and Aaron Duell.



Jim Kennedy (above) watched Sean Johnson, 11, dropped a shot into a muzzleloader rifle Saturday morning. Johnson got to tamp the charge in place and then fire the gun at a nearby target. Wildlife Conservation Officer Mike Hopper (right) demonstrated the use of camouflage in hunting.

Photos by Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News

## Judge candidates talk about shrinking dockets

By Julie Samuelson

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The three candidates for the district judge position left by the retirement of Jack Burr — Andrea Wyrick, Kevin Berens and Scott Showalter — were on hand for a candidate forum Tuesday at the Wallace County High School auditorium.

The event was sponsored by the Sharon Springs Rotary Club and Wallace County Bar Association. The three candidates, all Republicans, have filed for the Aug. 5 primary election, and the winner will have no opposition for the Nov. 2 general election.

Showalter, a Goodland lawyer, filed in October; Wyrick of Colby, the county attorney from Thomas and Logan counties, filed on May 22; and Berens, a St. Francis lawyer, filed on June 6, according to the secretary of state's office in Topeka.

The judge for Division 2 must live in Sherman County or move there if elected, said

Sherman County Clerk Janet Rumpel. Wyrick has not registered to vote in Sherman County, but Berens has, using an address near Edson, Rumpel said.

Each candidate was given two minutes Tuesday to introduce themselves and two minutes to answer each question. Rita Williams of Williams Consulting and Sharon Springs lawyer Allan L. Hurlburt moderated the event, attended by about 30 people.

The first question asked of the candidates was, "What do you perceive as trends for filings in this district?"

Showalter answered first, saying one of the biggest problems for the court here is the drop in the number of cases filed.

"Dockets are shrinking, and with them the type of judicial system we have," he said. "I hope the trend changes and the number of cases increase. This is fairly prevalent throughout the district."

Berens agreed, saying he thinks the trend

will continue. "It is the function of law enforcement and the county attorney on the civil side," he said. "Our society leans towards compromise and settlement and less toward litigation. Many cases are settled prior to the filing of a case. Attorneys need to be more active and aggressive."

He said he feels judicial offices may have to consolidate and that we may end up with district attorneys replacing county attorneys.

Wyrick agreed the "consolidation word" has been used a lot.

"People are questioning the role of the magistrate judge, who may have only 30 cases a year. Law enforcement officers worked well here filing cases. The population is declining, so the cases filed may be declining with it."

She added that agreements are often made before a case is filed.

"We don't want consolidation here," she said, "even though the legislature likes it."

Wallace County Undersheriff Marshall Un-

ruh asked the candidates, "As District Judge, how will you manage a magistrate? If the magistrate is appealed, what will you do?"

Berens answered first, saying a district judge doesn't manage a magistrate, who is an independent judge.

"If he's appealed, it's my job to handle it by reviewing it and applying the law," he said. "Sometimes I'd overrule him."

Wyrick said the manager of the magistrates right now is Judge Burr. Anything that is appealed is independently reviewed.

"If they (judge) agreed with law enforcement, the magistrate's decision shouldn't be upheld," she said.

Showalter said, "We've beaten this horse to death. I'm not sure district judges can control magistrates like you'd like them to. If you don't like what they do, vote against them."

Etta Walker, a Sharon Springs lawyer,

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## M\*A\*S\*H Bash tonight

By Sharon Corcoran

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Organizers say they have a great lineup of celebrity guests and are encouraging veterans to attend a tribute tonight at the "M\*A\*S\*H Bash" during the annual Slice of Life benefit auction and golf tournament.

Tina Goodwin, director of marketing and volunteer services for the Goodland Regional Medical Center, said 13 celebrities have confirmed they are coming, and four more may come if scheduling allows.

Football signed by NFL Hall of Famer Len Dawson, Dallas Cowboys Owner Jerry Jones and Broncos quarterback Jay Cutler have arrived for the auction, she said, and the celebrities will bring a lot of stuff with them.

Celebrities planning to be at the party include:

Retired Denver Broncos players Larry Brunson, Billy Thompson, Fran Lynch, Jack Guerke, Ron Egloff, Dave Preston, Wade Manning, Jim Jensen, John Grant and Tyrone Braxton; Walter White, retired Kansas City Chiefs player; Isaac Stallworth, former University of Kansas and NBA basketball star; Bobby Douglas, former KU and Chicago Bears quarterback; Scott McPhail of DreamWorks; and Josh Vignery, son of Ron and Judy Vignery of Goodland, who works in the film industry.

Tom Bell, president of the Kansas Hospital Association, will present the association's Community Connections Award and a check for \$1,000 to the hospital at 6:30 p.m. at the reception. The money will be put in a fund reserved to help veterans to receive their benefits, Goodwin said, whether for travel expenses or to help in other ways.

The hospital was chosen as the Northwest District winner, said Administrator Jay Jolly, adding that the award recognizes the hospital's effort in bringing a Veterans Affairs outreach clinic to the area.

The VIP Reception and M\*A\*S\*H Bash, with silent and live auctions and live entertainment, is tonight, and the golf tournament will be Saturday.