

weather report



87°

noon
Wednesday

Today

- Sunset, 8:17 p.m.
- Friday**
- Sunrise, 5:26 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 79 degrees
- Humidity 32 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds northeast 12-17 mph
- Barometer 30.01 inches and falling
- Record High today 108° (1964)
- Record Low today 42° (1915)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Tuesday 99°
- Low Wednesday 55°
- Precipitation trace
- This month trace
- Year to date 4.28
- Below normal 6.17 inches

The Topside Forecast

Friday: Mostly sunny, high around 90 with 20 percent chance of isolated thunderstorms in afternoon. Friday night: Partly cloudy with chance of isolated thunderstorms overnight with low in lower 60s wind southeast 10-15 mph. Saturday: Mostly sunny with high in mid 90s mostly clear in the evening with a low in the mid 60s.

Extended Forecast

Sunday and Monday: Mostly sunny with 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in mid 90s and lows in mid 60s.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Freedom Fest celebration Friday

July 4 schedule

Here is schedule for Goodland's annual Freedom Fest Fourth of July celebration at the Sherman County fairgrounds on Friday:

- 5:30 p.m. 4-H Junior Leaders' \$5 barbecue.
- Goodland Rotary Club free watermelon feed.
- 6 p.m. Band Pieces of Eight plays in front of Agriculture Building.
- 6 to 9:30 p.m. Carnival rides open, \$10 wristbands.
- 7:30 to 9 p.m. Blue Healers band from Hays, classic rock.
- 9:30 p.m. Joe Diaz fireworks show begins at dark.



Fireworks, like this from last year, will fill the sky Friday night as Goodland celebrates the nation's birthday as part of the annual Freedom Fest celebration. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Freedom Fest — a celebration of the nation's 232nd birthday on Friday, July 4 — includes two bands, a hamburger feed, carnival rides, a watermelon feed and a grand fireworks display begins about 5:30 p.m. at the Sherman County fairgrounds.

The 4-H Junior Leaders' \$5 barbecue feed will begin at 5:30 p.m. Goodland Rotary Club members will hand out free slices of watermelon as long as they last.

The local band Pieces of Eight will open the entertainment at 6 p.m., said Brad Schields, chairman of the Freedom Fest committee, and the Blue Healers, a classic and old-time rock band from Hays, will play from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Carnival rides will run from 6 to 9:30 p.m., he said, with a \$10 wristband for unlimited rides. The carnival has a couple of new rides they will test out, Schields said.

The Kiwanis Snack Shack will

be open after the 4-H barbecue, and some other concession stands are expected, including sno cones and funnel cakes, he said.

Joe Diaz, who has been putting on the fireworks show for more than 10 years, promises another grand display. Goodland Fire Department volunteers will help set up the show, and Diaz said it should begin about 9:30 p.m., or when it gets dark.

The fireworks show is paid for with donations and Schields said a special fund has been set up with the Sherman County Community Foundation to allow people to make tax-deductible donations to the fireworks or the entertainment to help pay for next year's show.

Checks can be sent to the foundation at Box 888, Goodland, Kan. 67735, and earmarked for the Freedom Fest fireworks or entertainment funds, said Kin Huang, foundation director.

Candidate believes experience critical for judge

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansan.com

The Republican primary race to replace District Judge Jack Burr pits an experienced Goodland lawyer with 25 years in practice against a young attorney from St. Francis and a young county attorney from Colby in Thomas County.

Republican voters from the entire district — Thomas, Sherman, Cheyenne, Wallace, Rawlins, Sheridan and Logan counties — will decide the winner in the primary on Tuesday, Aug. 5.

Scott Showalter, 48, who has lived in Goodland since 1973, is running for the District 2 position in the 15th Judicial District.

Because of a combination of the county and

district judge positions more than 30 years ago, County Clerk Janet Rumpel said, state law requires the person holding this district judge position to live in Sherman County.



Showalter

Showalter said he believes his experience as a city judge in Kanorado and assistant judge in Goodland, and his 10 years as Sherman County attorney gives him the experience to be a good judge.

Showalter said a judge does not have a lot of flexibility in determining if a person is going to jail, as that is determined by the sentencing guidelines passed by the legislature.

"It is only after the person has committed another infraction that the judge has some discretion," he said. "Standardized sentencing was the objective of the state Legislature.

"It has advantages and disadvantages. In a small community, you would think the judge would be able to determine how much time to sentence a person for a crime. However, the other side is that if you committed a crime in Wichita, the penalty should be the same."

Showalter said as district judge, he could wind up dealing with any case in the seven counties, but as normal practice Judge Burr has handled cases in Sherman and Cheyenne counties. He said he understands that Burr is one of the longest serving district judges in Kansas. He has been the administrative judge for the district for the past 12 years.

Many cases in Cheyenne and Wallace counties are covered by magistrate judges elected in those counties, but with the combination, the district judge in Sherman County handles all the county cases plus cases from other counties in the district.

Showalter said state law calls for having one judge per county, though this provision has been under assault from the eastern part of the state. Legislators would like to move judgeships from less-populous counties to the east, where they have a heavier caseload, he said.

Showalter said the dockets are going down in some of the counties, but that Sherman County has stayed pretty consistent. He said Thomas County dropped from 400 cases three years ago to 300 last year.

Showalter has practiced law in Sherman County for 25 years. In his work as county attorney he handled 2,600 cases, he said, and assisting County Attorney Bonnie Selby, he has been part of 406 felony cases. He said he has served as assistant county attorney for

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local markets



Noon

- Wheat — \$8.12 bushel
- Posted county price — \$8.08
- Corn — \$6.92 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.75
- Milo — \$6.47 bushel
- Soybeans — \$14.63 bushel
- Posted county price — \$15.29
- Millet — \$10.75 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$29.70 cwt.
- NuSun — \$20.70 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

City asks people to cut water use

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansan.com

With temperature hovering in the 90s, sprinklers are running nearly every day to keep lawns green, putting a strain on the city water system.

Officials are asking people to cut back and to avoid wasting water so the city can avoid rationing.

City Manager Wayne Hill said Tuesday that the system is having trouble keeping up with the seasonal pressure. With well No. 3 shut down because of high nitrate levels, he said, the city needs people to conserve water this summer.

"I would rather ask for voluntary conservation rather than get into any sort of city-ordered restrictions," Hill said.

He said the city has been notified that one of its wells had been pumped past the limits on its permit, and that well has to be shut down under state law.

"That puts us down two wells," he said. "What we have available is enough to handle the needs if we can get some voluntary conservation."

Hill suggests that people go to watering their yards on every other day, on odd or even days, depending on their address.

In past years, he said, the City Commission has declared a water emergency when the system had problems, but Hill said he wants to avoid that.

"I do not want to get into the mandatory restrictions," he said. "That is not a good situation; it ends up pitting neighbors against neighbors."

"People need to understand we do not have an unlimited supply of water, though."

Hill said Rich Simon, city public

Weeding and pulling ...

Master Gardeners Christie Rasure (right with hoe), Carol Gattshall (on her knees to the left of Rasure), Judy Willems and Joe Murray weeded the flower bed on the northeast corner of Gulick Park Tuesday evening. The flower bed has been a project of the Master Gardeners for the past few years.

Sheriff Kevin Butts (in truck below) asked the Sherman County commissioners for permission to pull out the overgrown shrubs along the northeast of the courthouse on Monday morning, and by mid-afternoon the shrubs were gone.

Butts said he used the Sheriff's department emergency truck with the winch to pull the shrubs out with the help of Undersheriff Roger Studer, deputy Lance Goodman and Sherman County Bastille inmates Ron Thompson and Brad Cramer. Butts chained the truck to a larger tree to provide enough leverage to pull the shrubs out.

Photos by Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News



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Slammers win honors

Goodland Slammers fast-pitch softball team member Lindsay Bauman slid into second base against Sharon Springs last Wednesday at the Centennial Park ball complex. The team won honors at Burlington. See story, photo on Page 10.

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