

The Goodland Star-News

MIDWEEK
 Tuesday, July 15
 2008

\$1

Volume 76, Number 56

12 Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather report

90°
 noon
 Monday



Today

• Sunset, 8:12 p.m.
Wednesday
 • Sunrise, 5:34 a.m.
 • Sunset, 8:12 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 77 degrees
 • Humidity 29 percent
 • Sky sunny
 • Winds south southwest 21 - 28
 • Barometer 29.95 inches and falling
 • Record High today 106° (1925)
 • Record Low today 52° (1990)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 88°
 Low Sunday 54°
 Precipitation none
 This month 1.94
 Year to date 6.22
 Below normal 5.63 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 93, winds breezy out of the south at 10-20 mph and a low around 66. Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 96 and a low around 68.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 95 and a low around 64. Friday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.
 (National Weather Service)
 Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
 * Readings taken at 7 a.m.



Wheat harvest said to be fair, good

The wheat harvest in Sherman County was winding down over the weekend, and Dana Belshe, Sherman County agent for the Sunflower Extension District, said it was better than expected, though not really great.

He said the farmers he has talked to said yields get better in the eastern part of the county, and there is a large variation in what has been cut.

He said it looks like the county-wide average would be around 30 bushels per acre. Some fields to the east will be higher, in the mid 40s, he said, but a large band of the south part of the county was hit by hail and most of that was not even cut.

"I have not seen any real numbers," he said Monday, "but it is a little better than expected."



A combine driven by Chuck Ihrig (above) cut wheat on top of a hill east of K-27 about six miles north of town Saturday afternoon. A grain cart (top photo) pulled up next to a combine as it rolled through a field south of U.S. 36 about two miles east of Wheeler on Saturday afternoon.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Belshe said farmers who harvest a wheat crop should make money at \$7.65 a bushel, but said the harvest expense is running about \$24 an acre with the increase in diesel cost. He said he thinks the cost is up about \$6 an acre from last year or about a 33 percent increase. With an average of 30 bushels an acre the wheat harvest is worth about \$230 an acre.

No Penneys decision received

By Tom Betz
 ntbetz@nwkansas.com

No word was received from the J.C. Penney Co. last week, and with City Commissioner John Garcia out of town for a week, it maybe today or Wednesday before an answer comes about the incentive package sent to keep the Penney's store in Goodland open.

A package put together by the city, county, Chamber of Commerce and Sherman County Economic Development Council was delivered June 25, and a decision was expected last week.

Monday during a city budget workshop, Garcia said Penney's officials had not called him, but he hoped to have an answer on Tuesday.

At the city budget work session on Tuesday, Garcia again said he had not heard anything.

He said he was leaving town on Wednesday, but would try to contact Penney's. Garcia is not expected back until Thursday.

"I am going to call them," he said before leaving town, "and will call if I have an answer."

Garcia said before he left town that a Penney's official had told him the company wasn't really looking for money, but was impressed with the effort the Goodland people are putting forth to keep the store.

The proposal from Sherman County and the city would reduce the store's city utility for two years, about \$10,000.

The Economic Development Council pledged \$25,000 for two years and landlord Pete Whalen offered to cut the store's rent in half.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$7.65 bushel
 Posted county price — \$7.80
 Corn — \$6.08 bushel
 Posted county price — \$6.37
 Milo — \$5.63 bushel
 Soybeans — \$14.55 bushel
 Posted county price — \$15.26
 Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 Sunflowers
 Oil current crop — \$29.65 cwt.
 Confection — \$30/\$20 cwt.
 Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)
 (Markets by Scouler 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

County attorney running for district judgeship

By Sharon Corcoran

slcorcoran@nwkansas.com

The county attorney for two counties is running for district judge for Division 2 in the 15th Judicial District, and says even though it's a job she has always wanted, she might not even be running if others hadn't suggested that she enter the race.

Andrea Wyrick, 33, county attorney for Thomas and Logan counties, threw her hat in the ring by filing May 22. She says that even though being a judge has been a goal since she began her legal career, she didn't even think about seeking the spot that will be vacated with Judge Jack Burr's retirement until others suggested it.

"From when I went into law practice," she said, "it has always been what I wanted to do.

But now, it hadn't even crossed my mind until April, when I had people ask me, with Judge Burr's retirement, if I was interested. "Judge positions don't come open every day."



Wyrick

Wyrick said she talked about it with her husband Travis and prayed about it before making the decision, and the timing seemed right. Now is as good a time as any, she said.

One irony is that the family was already planning to move to a farm near Brewster, just over the Sherman County line. Whoever replaces Burr as district judge is required to live in Sherman County, she said, because that person would also serve as the magistrate judge for the county.

Wyrick said they have had a contract on the farm since March and were going to close in

May, but put off moving until after the campaign, deciding that doing both at the same time would be too much.

"My husband and I were both raised on farms," she said, "and were looking for a farm, and we just fell in love with the place. Whether I win or not, we will move there."

Wyrick said she grew up in Long Island, Kan., about 20 miles northeast of Norton. She earned her Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Tulsa College of Law and was assistant general counsel for a large petroleum company in Houston before joining Shook, Hardy and Bacon, an international products liability firm in Kansas City.

"I was always told if you get a chance to work for a large law firm," she said, "you should take it. It was a good experience. I saw a different side of the law."

After the Wyricks had their first son, she

said, they decided to move to northwest Kansas to be near her parents and live a small town. They have three boys now, ages 6, 4 and 20 months.

"We wanted to raise them with grandparents," she said, "and Kansas City was too big to think of putting the kids in the school system there."

She had a private practice for a year or so before being elected county attorney in 2004, operating out of the Homeland Real Estate office in Goodland. She handled divorces, child custody cases, criminal defense and civil suits.

In her private practice, Wyrick said, she got to know most of the area lawyers and judges and has worked in most of the courthouses in the district.

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Man running for sheriff from Iraq

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

A former Goodland police officer is running for Sherman County sheriff in the Republican Primary on Tuesday, Aug. 5, but he is campaigning these days from Iraq, where he is helping train the Iraqi police.

Frank Tabor, 32, said people had asked him to run for sheriff to give them a choice, and after thinking it over, he decided to file for the primary election.

Tabor, who was home for part of June, got some yard signs made and placed some advertising before boarding a plane back to the Mideast.



Tabor

He said if he wins the primary, he will probably do the same for the November general election. He said his current contract in Iraq ends in December, and if he were to be elected sheriff, he would be back in Goodland in time to be sworn in next January.

"I have been a police officer for roughly 10 years, and been doing this mission for the last two years," he said. "I am running for sheriff because I believe I can improve the service to the community and strengthen the relationship between the city police and sheriff's department."

Tabor said he feels the relationship

between the city police and the sheriff is at an all-time low, and he believes the lack of cooperation hurts all citizens.

He said if elected, he would make a few changes, and one would be extending patrol times and adding community support.

"Extending patrols will cost a little more fuel wise, but tweaking shifts and moving people around should offset most of the cost," he said. "The sheriff will have to take some shifts, which in a small community needs to happen anyways."

"As far as the budget goes, I have not looked at it at this point. The big thing about budgets is to plan things out for

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Primary candidate forum planned for Monday

Candidates for Tuesday, Aug. 5, Primary Election have been invited to a public forum at 7 p.m. Monday at the Goodland High School auditorium.

Amy Sederstrom of the Sherman County Farm Bureau, which is sponsoring the event, said those invited include:

- County treasurer, Republicans Iris Scheopner and Wanda Schritter.
- Sheriff, Republicans Kevin Butts and Frank Tabor (who is working in Iraq).
- Commissioner in District 2, Democrats Mitch Tiede and Dee Miller.
- Commissioner in District 3, Republicans Kevin Rasure and Max Linin.
- District Judge, Republicans Scott Showalter of Goodland, Kevin Berens of St. Francis and Andrea Wyrick of Colby.

Slammers win two



Stephanie DeLaRosa pitched a strike for the Goodland Slammers 12 and under fastpitch softball in the first inning of a game at Centennial Park ball complex on June 25. The Slammers won two Wednesday. See story, photos on Page 12.

Have you said something good about Goodland today?

Brought to you this week by:
Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce