

## weather report



**88°**  
noon  
Thursday

### Today

• Sunset, 8:11 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
• Sunrise, 5:36 a.m.  
• Sunset, 8:10 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 78 degrees  
• Humidity 41 percent  
• Sky cloudy  
• Winds southeast 10 mph  
• Barometer 30.03 inches and rising  
• Record High today 106° (1936)  
• Record Low today 50° (1972)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday 95°  
Low Wednesday 63.50°  
Precipitation none  
This month 1.95  
Year to date 6.23  
Below normal 5.98 inches

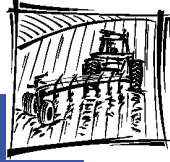
### The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent of thunderstorms, a high in the mid 80s, winds northeast 10 to 15 mph and a low in the lower 60s. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high in the lower 90s, winds out of the south at 10 to 15 mph and the low in the lower 60s.

### Extended Forecast

Sunday and Monday: Partly cloudy with a high in the mid 90s and a low in the mid 60s.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\*Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets



### Noon

Wheat — \$7.57 bushel  
Posted county price — \$7.75  
Corn — \$5.77 bushel  
Posted county price — \$6.07  
Milo — \$5.32 bushel  
Soybeans — \$14.16 bushel  
Posted county price — \$14.82  
Millet — \$7 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$27.90 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



## Junior golf tourney here

Goodland junior golfer Gage Ihrig hit a tee shot on Hole No. 8 at Sugar Hills Golf Course during a golf tournament held in June. The regional junior golf tournament will be held at Sugar Hills on Monday. See photo, story on Page 12.

# Penney's decides to close store

By Tom Betz

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Silence was not good news for the Goodland J.C. Penney store as the liquidation is scheduled to begin on Monday, a store spokesperson said on Wednesday.

The silence of more than a week led many to believe the Penney's officials were not going to accept the package put together by the city, county, Chamber of Commerce and Sherman County Economic Development that had been sent to them on June 25.

City Commissioner John Garcia had been out of town, and when he returned Wednesday

he had a letter from Michael A. Dastugue, director of property development for J.C. Penney, confirming the store would be closed.

"The decision to close a store is never an easy one," Dastugue wrote. "Unfortunately the Goodland store is not meeting our business objectives, and even with the support that has been offered the store would still not meet those objectives. As a result, we are continuing with our original plan to close the store."

"We are disappointed," Garcia said. "We know we made a good effort, and all the people who helped should be proud of that

effort. We did not win this time, but what we did working together has shown what can be done. We will pick up and go on looking for other ways to grow our town."

The town put together a letter writing campaign asking the Penney's corporate office to keep the store open, and many letters, calls and e-mails were sent from Goodland and surrounding counties plus from state elected officials asking to keep the store open.

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.

Garcia said before he left town he had been told a Penney's official had been in town looking at the possibility of keeping a catalog store open after the main store was closed.

The Sherman County Economic Development Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday in the basement at Western State Bank, and Vice-Chairman Steve West said the city commissioners and county commissioners have been invited to the meeting to talk about the future direction and funding of the joint economic development effort.

## St. Francis attorney running for judge

By Karen Krien

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District Judge Jack Burr of Goodland will not be seeking another term in the second position of the 15th

Judicial District — opening the door for three candidates to vie for that seat.



Berens

Kevin Berens of St. Francis, Andrea Wyrick of Colby and Scott Showalter of Goodland, all Republicans, have filed for the position.

The Tuesday, Aug. 5, primary will decide which one will most likely be the next district judge. The three candidates have been out in the seven-county area, beating the streets, knocking on doors and several weeks ago, met in Sharon Springs for a forum.

If elected, Berens plans to use "integrity and impartiality with the right kind of knowledge and experience."

Berens has been an attorney with James Milliken, Chartered, in St. Francis since 1999. His legal practice takes him all over the 15th Judicial District and in other parts of Kansas and Colorado.

Berens said his diverse practice has provided him with a broad understanding of the law, the ability to apply the law to the facts of each case and the competence to make

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## Candidate forum Monday

Candidates for the Tuesday, Aug. 5, Primary Election have been invited to a public forum at 7 p.m. on 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. (Republican candidate Cynthia Strnad does not have an opponent in the Primary.)
- 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.

## Kids help business move to Main Ave.

Members of the Shine on Sherman County Involved and Engaged Youth Committee helped move the office of Homeland Real Estate on Wednesday afternoon from 144 W. 12th to the remodeled office at 1112 Main, formerly the Mr. Jim's His and Hers Shop.

Jacob Garcia (right) carried a television while Tom Harrison worked the lift on the truck. Shaina Varney (above) moved a chair to the sidewalk to wait its turn to be loaded. The group is raising money for a skate park to be built.

Photos by Pat Schiefen  
The Goodland Star-News



## County treasurer has primary opponent

By Sharon Corcoran

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The incumbent Sherman County treasurer faces competition in the Republican primary and says her experience in the position will be an asset. She hopes voters agree, as she would like to remain in the job as long as her predecessor.

Iris Scheopner, 50, has served as county treasurer since 2005 and worked in the office since 2000 as a clerk. She says she enjoys her job and has the training and experience to do it well, and she is hoping to continue in the office far into the future. She faces competition in the primary from Wanda Schritter.

"I enjoy working with the public," Scheopner said. "I've been working at the job trying to do my best. I've learned a lot in the past few years,

and there's a lot still to learn."

Scheopner said she has finished the first level of four levels of training for county treasurers, making her a certified treasurer. You have to complete 30 credit hours for each level, she said, 120 hours total, the equivalent of an associates degree.

The training is through Fort Hays State University, she said, but is held around the state wherever the county treasurers meet three times a year. Each time, she said, they have two days of conference and one day of class.

"The training is important," she said — "you can't learn everything hands-on."

And even though she had worked in the office four years before running for treasurer, she wasn't com-

pletely prepared for all the job required.

"I thought I understood quite a bit," she said, "but there's a lot behind the scenes I didn't know about. There are a lot of reports and things I didn't know about. They're a challenge, but I met my challenge."

She has discovered, though, she's not the only one still learning. Some treasurers have been in office 30 years, she said, and still go to the meetings and learn something every time. A lot changes over the years, she said.

Scheopner won the 2004 election, replacing Shelby Miller, who had retired after 20 years, but she didn't take office until October 2005. You wait 10 months before taking office, she said. Scheopner would like to remain in the job as long as Miller.

"Shelby was here 20 years," Scheopner said. "Hopefully, I'll make it 20 years — it's a good round

number."

Some of the challenges Scheopner faces are problems with paperwork for vehicles and working with the owners and the state to fix the problem and collecting delinquent taxes. She is trying to educate people about how to avoid having their property sold in a tax sale.

For one thing, she wants them to know they can put their property taxes in escrow and make payments ahead of time to avoid owing a large sum at the end of the year.

And all is not lost if they are only a year behind. Properties go to tax sale when they are delinquent on taxes for three years, she said; if people just came in and started making payments after the first year, they could catch up and avoid that.

"There are over 100 parcels of land on the tax sale coming up," she

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**Have you said something good about Goodland today?**

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**Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce**