

weather report



33°
noon
Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 5:55 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 7:08 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:53 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 42 degrees
- Humidity 85 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds northwest 27-35 mph
- Barometer 30.03 inches and rising

- Record High today 88° (1915)
- Record Low today 20° (1975)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 44°
- Low Wednesday 38°
- Precipitation .19
- This month 4.22
- Year to date 19.15
- Above normal .91 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 56, winds out of the north at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 34. Saturday: Sunny with a high near 69, winds out of the west at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 36.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny with a high near 56 and a low around 31. Monday: Sunny with a high near 60 and a low around 36. Tuesday: Sunny with a high near 65 and a low around 39. Wednesday: Sunny with a high near 66.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Woman running for county seat

By Pat Schiefen

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A former county commissioner, Cynthia Strnad, has thrown her hat in the ring to rejoin the commission. She is running against Democrat Mitch Tiede in District 2 in the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

Strnad was a commissioner from 1995 to 1998. She resigned in 1998 when her husband, Paul, was diagnosed with Lymphoma.

"I enjoyed being on the county commission the first time," said Strnad. "I especially enjoyed the budgeting."

The main job of the commission is the allocation and raising of funds, she said. This

commission has not paid enough attention to that duty.

"Raising the taxes so high in 2008 was unnecessary in view of the fact there was so much carry over they were able to drop taxes 3 percent for next year," she said. If the commission had paid more attention before they raised taxes in last year the increase would have been smaller or not at all.



Strnad

One of the things she would like to see change is to increase the commission's size from three to five members. Strnad thinks that would enable the commission to make better choices because it

would eliminate "the two to one clicks that we've had for four plus years, make a broader

base for decision making and one person or special interest group would not have as much influence."

She would like to see the issue of voting at-large for commissioners be voted on. She said this is such a small county that everyone knows everyone else. And that voting at large has worked for the school board.

"I believe in transparent government," Strnad said. All decisions and discussions should be made in the commissioner's room and open to the public.

"I also don't believe in daisy chaining," she said. Daisy chaining is where a third party acts as a go between two elected officials to make decisions.

I would do away with health insurance for the commissioners that is paid for by the

county because county employees work 30 hours a week before they get health insurance and the commissioners do not work 30 hours a week, she said. She would like to reduce the salary the commissioners receive from the present \$12,000 to \$14,000 a year down to \$6,000.

"I will have no conflicts of interest where my livelihood will be affected by decisions that will be made by the commissioners," she said.

Strnad was born and grew up in Scandia. She has a Bachelor of Science in nursing and a minor in modern art from Marymount of Salina. She moved to the county in 1980. After Paul died in April 1999, she worked as an

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Early voting begins

Early voting for the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 4, has started, said Sherman County Clerk Janet Rumpel.

Early voting started Tuesday. Anyone who is registered to vote can vote early. Early voting can be done until noon on Monday, Nov. 3.

Rumpel said the clerk's office hours at the Sherman County Court House, 813 Broadway Ave., are from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. weekdays.



Mass clinic for flu shots on Tuesday

The Sherman County Health Department is having a mass flu shot clinic from 2 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday at the Goodland Elks Lodge for anyone who wants to get a flu shot.

Kathy Ryan, health department administrator, said state officials are urging the county to do the mass clinic as an annual exercise. This is a change from the way it has been done in the past.

October or November is thought to be the best time to get the shot. People can still be vaccinated in December or later. Flu season can begin as early as October and lasts until May.

Appointments are not required. Medicare, Medicaid, Unicare and commercial insurance are accepted; otherwise the shots cost \$20.

Winds, snow mark season's first storm

Winds whipped up to 62 mph overnight near Goodland as the first winter snow storm backed in from the northeast. Wednesday afternoon the winds ripped out a tree at Jerry Freeman's home (above) at 1607 Broadway Ave. By Thursday morning Megan Marrs, manager at Pizza Hut, was shoveling the two inches of snow that had fallen overnight. The National Weather Service office in Goodland had a winter storm warning in place through mid-afternoon on Thursday. Today is expected to be mostly sunny and warmer.

Photos by Jessica Corbin
The Goodland Star-News



Homeowners given time to fix, demolish homes

By Tom Betz

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City commissioners held two hearings on unsafe houses at their meeting on Monday and agreed to give the homeowners time to either demolish the houses or fix the problems.

One of the homeowners, James F. Boyles, wanted to argue that his house came under a grandfather clause and that he did not have to follow all the new city codes, and the commissioners agreed to give him time to get the house finished.

City Building Inspector Steve Criswell presented information on each of the two houses beginning

with the one a 625 Washington Ave. owned by Harvey and Tamara DeLaRosa.

Criswell said DeLaRosa has purchased a demolition permit and has been working to save a garage behind the house. Criswell said DeLaRosa has begun the demolition process on the house but does not feel he can get it done in a short time with the winter weather. DeLaRosa was not at the meeting, but Criswell said he had talked to him several times, and felt that he was trying to get the house torn down.

The commissioners agreed to give DeLaRosa 180 days to complete the demolition process, and

that they would review the progress in the spring if more time is needed to finish the demolition.

The second house the commissioners held a hearing on was at 524 W. 11th, and Criswell said the owner, James F. Boyles, was at the meeting.

Criswell said he had met with Boyles, and that he was unhappy with what Criswell had told him about the problems with the house.

"He has done some work on the house," Criswell said. "He tried to get permits and tried to get the city to turn the electricity on last week. I would not let him because the house needs a new electric service.

"He has done some work on the roof, but he used something that is not approved for homes. He was upset when I told him that would not meet the city code requirements."

Boyles presented each commissioner with a yellow folder and handed out photos showing the before and after of the house he has been working on.

He said he disagreed with Criswell on the condition of the house and said he felt the existing electrical would be grandfathered in as the house is not of new construction.

Mayor Rick Billinger asked Boyles how long he has owned the house, and he said they have had it

for 12 years.

He said the house is near Grant Junior High and said he feels he is a responsible and law abiding citizen who is trying to do the right thing.

He said he can't live in the Goodland area in the winter, so they spend about six months in Kansas and have been living in Las Vegas until their home burned down. He said they are now spending the winters in Arizona.

"I have prostate cancer," he said. "It showed up after the house burned down. The doctor said he was going to live for two years. That will be up

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inside today

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Cowgirls win state golf title

Junior Amber Douglas putted in the Cowgirls' home tournament on Sept. 9. She finished eighth in the state at Emporia on Monday. The Cowgirls won the 3-2-1A state championship. See photo, story on Page 7a.

High School band members to perform with Army Field Band

Up to nine members of the Goodland High School band will join the United States Army Field Band during a free concert in Goodland at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6 at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus concert is sponsored by *The Goodland Star-News* and the Goodland School District.

Tickets for the free concert continue to be available through the Star-News office at 1205 Main, and by mail with a self-addressed stamped envelope sent to Attention: Army Field Band Tickets, 1205 Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735.

The Army Band invited members of the high school band to sit in for one of the songs

during the concert and nine of the members have accepted and have a couple of weeks to practice on the music that was sent out from the Army Band. Those participating include LeRoy Prine, Clarinet; J.P. McCool and Tanner Oharah, Trombone; Tyler Jones, Drums and percussion; Andrew Shores, Tuba; BreAnna Nemechek, Tenor Sax; Devin Mangus and Brendan Fulcher, Trumpet and Katelyn Lammers, French Horn.

Sergeant First Class John Lake, advance tour coordinator, said this was a new program for the band, and that it has worked well to give young people a chance to play with the nationally recognized professional military band.

"The high school students who have volun-

teered for the program were excited about the opportunity, and many of their families have been in to get extra tickets," said Tom Betz, Star-News editor.

Sgt. 1st Class Lake said another addition to the concert tour programs this year is that the band's commander and conductor, Colonel Thomas H. Palmatier of Ballston Spa, N.Y., is planning to talk to the audience at Max Jones before the concert begins. Lake said the Fieldhouse doors will open at 6 p.m. to let people get to their seats before Col. Palmatier speaks about 15 to 20 minutes before the concert begins at 7 p.m.

Palmatier is the ninth director in the Field Band's history. Colonel Palmatier brings to

this command more than 20 years experience in military music.

The band — known as the Musical Ambassadors — includes the Army's finest Soldier-musicians. Many have studied at the country's leading conservatories and schools of music, have performed with major symphonies, and taught at colleges and universities before entering the service. All of the musicians have been selected by highly competitive audition for assignment to the Field Band.

The Soldiers' Chorus, the vocal complement of the Field Band, is made up of 29 highly trained and talented vocalists. The chorus presents arrangements of well-known popular and patriotic compositions at each performance.



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