

weather report

56°

noon

Thursday

Today

Sunset, 7:33 p.m.

Saturday

Sunrise, 5:57 a.m.

Sunset, 7:34 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 54 degrees

• Humidity 86 percent

• Sky cloudy

• Winds southeast 20 mph

• Barometer 29.69 inches and falling

• Record High today 90° (1989)

• Record Low today 24° (1907)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 68°

Low Wednesday 46°

Precipitation 0.54

This month 1.84

Year to date 4.37

Above normal 1.35 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers, a high near 62, winds out of the west at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 41. Saturday: Cloudy with a 50 percent chance showers and thunderstorms, a high near 55, winds out of the northwest at 20 to 40 mph and a low around 37.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 60 and a low around 37. Monday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers, a high near 59 and a low around 36. (National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.04 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.97

Corn — \$3.06 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.34

Milo — \$2.82 bushel

Soybeans — \$9.02 bushel

Posted county price — \$9.13

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$15.35 cwt.

Confection — \$28/\$15 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

Junior varsity meet results

Cowboy Andrew Shores got ready to tee off on hole No. 1 at Sugar Hills Golf Club on Tuesday for the junior varsity golf tournament. He finished the nine holes with a score of 78. See story, photo on Page 12.

Fallen soldier part of hall of fame

Goodland Sgt. Derrick Lutters, who was killed in Iraq on May 1, 2005, was one of 10 Kansas Army National Guard soldiers inducted into the Kansas Non-Commissioned Officer Hall of Fame on April 18, in Salina.

All 10 Kansas Guardsmen have been killed in the Global War on Terrorism, and family members were present for the unveiling of special plaques dedicated to each of the fallen soldiers.

Staff Sgt. Mark Reasoner, who was stationed in Goodland until the armory was closed, attended the special induction ceremony in Salina.

He said members of Derrick's family present included Chuck, Marion, brother, Paul and two of his children.

This was the first induction of members into the NCO Hall of Fame held at the Salina Kansas Army National Guard's 235 th Regional Training Institute. The families of all 10 soldiers and members of the Kansas Army National Guard attended the ceremony to celebrate the lives and contributions of the first inductees.

The regional training institute started as a State NCO and Officer Candidate School in a handful of old wooden World War II barracks on what used to be Schilling Air Field. As the home of the NCO and Officer training for the Kansas Army National Guard, it was deemed the ideal location for the Hall of Fame, conceived by Command Sergeant Major John Ryan last year, which the U.S. Army declared as the Year of the NCO.

"Despite the time that may have transpired since some of the sacrifices, the sense of loss and pain is still palpable," said CMS Ryan, "and the Kansas Army National Guard is grateful for the presence of

Chuck Lutters, father of Sgt. Derrick Lutters visited with CSM John Ryan, at the NCO Hall of Fame induction ceremony held on April 18, in Salina.

Photo by SSG. Mark Reasoner/Kansas National Guard

City commissioners re-elect mayor

By Tom Betz
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City commissioners opened the meeting on Monday re-electing two members as Mayor and Vice-Mayor for the year.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she felt Commissioner Josh Dechant had done a good job as mayor, and said she felt a person should be mayor for at least two years and nominated Dechant.

City Clerk Mary Volk, who opened the meeting, asked for a second to the nomination. Commissioner Dave Daniels seconded the nomination, and the vote was 4-0 with Commissioner Rick Billinger joining Fairbanks, Daniels and Dechant in voting in favor. Commissioner John Garcia was absent.

Daniels nominated Billinger for vice-mayor with Fairbanks seconding. The vote was 4-0.

Volk had Dechant and Billinger each swear the oath of office and turned the meeting over to Dechant.

Dechant started the meeting reading an Arbor Day Proclamation declaring Friday, May 7 as Arbor Day in Goodland. Goodland has

been a Tree City for 31 years, and a special celebration will be held at Rosewood Park with the planting of a tree and burial of a special time capsule.

Volk said details of the plans for the Arbor Day ceremony will be coming after the city tree board meets.

Volk introduced Joyce Sanderson, city employee of the quarter, and said she was nominated for her hard work for the city. She is the janitor for the building.

"She has always been willing to do anything she is asked," Volk said. "She has been a big part of the painting in the building, and we appreciate her efforts."

City Manager Doug Gerber said he would echo what Volk said, and add that the staff had some good choices this quarter, and had an outside nomination from the public.

"I think it speaks volume that Joyce was the selection," he said.

Dechant thanked Sanderson for her work and for keeping the front and grass looking good.

Billinger said he agreed that Sanderson was a good worker for the city.

In other business the commissioners:

- Approved the Goodland Public Library board recommendation to appoint Jeff Bhend, to replace Robert Boyle, who's term expires on April 30, after serving the maximum of eight years.
- Gerber introduced the newest member of the city street department, Mike McLaughlin. He said Mike previously worked for the City of Colby, and moved to Goodland in the summer.
- Gerber said the pool drain covers have been installed. Apparently there was a problem with the covers last year and someone got hurt, he said.
- Rich Simon, public works director, said the water line project is going well, and the company is ready to start down Sherman Ave. to get to Well No. 3. He said the company is getting close to having all the raw water lines installed to connect all the city wells together at the site of the collection and treatment plant on Kansas Ave. He said once the lines are in the city crew will flush and test the lines.

Billinger asked if the city could

begin blending the water at that point. Simon said the water would be collected and piped into the main lines from the plant location, but the blending would not really be completed until the treatment plant is up and operating.

- Fairbanks asked about what was being done to control pigeons. Gerber said the city has signed a contract with Tri-State Exterminating of Goodland (Floyd Studer), and he has a plan.

Daniels said he thought the city was leaving the pigeon control up to the businesses.

"We are handling problems around the city," he asked. "Do they have permission from the businesses?"

Gerber said the city has a signed contract, and it is his understanding the company has permission from the businesses.

Daniels asked what the pigeon control was costing.

Gerber said there was an initial fee of \$2,400 and a monthly fee of \$60.

- Dechant suggested it was time for the city staff to look at the fireworks ordinance. He said after last

year the commissioners had talked about allowing fireworks to be shot off in the city on July 4. He said he was asked about the portion of the ordinance that forbids fireworks from being sold within three miles of the city.

He said the city staff could look into the sale and use of fireworks within the city.

Gerber asked if there was a willingness among the commissioners to change the ordinance.

Billinger said he would have to think about it as it has been something outlawed since he has been in town.

Daniels said he could see a problem with the sale if there was an accident that might create a bigger problem.

"I have no problem with allowing people to use fireworks in the city on July 4," he said, "but not the day before or the day after."

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m. The next commission meeting will be 5 p.m., on Monday, May 3, in the commission room on the second floor of the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th.

Tech college students excited about iPads

Northwest Technical received their first iPads last week and students from some of the departments had an opportunity to experience first-hand what it would be like to have an iPad as a class tool.

Northwest Tech will provide an iPad to each student in their enrollment package in the Fall.

Northwest Tech is the first college in Kansas to offer this enhanced learning tool campus-wide, said Dr. Ed Mills, college president

With the national launching of the Apple iPad, the level of excitement is not only with young people, but adults alike, he said.

Students will be able to view lectures, demonstrations and with the iPad will be able to develop content directly on their iPad, he said. The opportunities are wide-spread to students and will give them access to iTunes U and eTextbooks in addition to over 150,000 applications that are available on the iPad.

For more information on programs and upcoming events go to the Northwest Tech website at www.nwkte.edu or call (800) 316-4127.

Northwest Tech diesel technology students got a chance recently to test out the new Apple iPad. The college has announced beginning in the fall each student will be equipped with an iPad as part of the educational program.

Photo by Tiffini Overstreet/Northwest Tech

Soccer ball Air Force captain receives Bronze Star

The son of a former Goodland couple won the hearts of many with a special program "Andy's Gift" to bring 1,000 soccer balls to kids in Afghanistan, and now the Air Force has recognized his bravery while serving in Afghanistan by awarding him the Bronze Star.

Capt. Andrew Stewart was presented the Bronze Star and Air Force Combat Action Medal on March 29, for actions during his one-year deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Capt. Stewart is the son of Carol and Tom Stewart formerly of Goodland who now live

Stewart

in Clay Center. While the Stewart's lived in Goodland they helped start the soccer ball program that provided more than 1,000 soccer balls to be given out by Capt. Stewart while he was stationed in Afghanistan.

Many Goodland people and organizations contributed to make "Andy's Gift" a success.

The Bronze Star was awarded for Capt. Stewart's meritorious service from July 4, 2008 to July 4, 2009, while operating at Forward Operating Base Vulcan, Ghazni, Afghanistan.

He advised and led more than 350 Afghan National Army personnel on all logistical

issues to include vehicles, weapons, fuel, communications equipment and all other classes of supplies.

He completed over 85 successful combat missions covering over 7,000 miles in hostile territory advising and supporting logistics missions with the Afghan National Army.

While completing a 14-hour combat mission escorting a counter narcotic battalion from Muqor to Kabul, the convoy came under small arms and mortar fire on three different occasions. While conducting a logistics and engineering escort mission from Ghazni to Band-e-Sardeh, Captain Stewart's Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle was struck by an improvised Explosive Device. Capt.

Stewart maneuvered the heavily damaged vehicle out of the kill zone and his quick actions ensured the safety of the crew and the vehicle. For this particular action Captain Stewart was presented the Air Force Combat Action Medal.

The Afghanistan tour was Capt. Stewart's third (the two previous to Iraq and currently scheduled to return to Iraq for another combat tour in the summer).

Capt. Stewart is assigned to the Air Force Petroleum Agency at Fort Belvoir, Va.. He is married to Jami (Bergman) Stewart. Jami and Andrew have two children, Wrigley and Kearny, and are expecting their third child in May.

Census rate lagging

Sherman County's Census return rate reached 63 percent on Thursday, but lags behind the national rate which is up to 71 percent and the Kansas state average of 74 percent.

The latest return figures bring Sherman County within 2 percent of the 65 percent returned for the 2000 census.

The Kansas return rate is up to 74 percent. Other counties in northwest Kansas include Cheyenne 69 percent, Rawlins 59 percent, Decatur 60 percent, Thomas 69 percent, Sheridan 69 percent, Wallace 68 percent, Logan 69 percent and the highest in the neighborhood Graham 76 percent.

After May 1, the largest field operation associated with the 2010 Census will begin and anyone who has not filled out a form can expect a knock on the door.