

weather
report

66°

10:30 a.m.
Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 6:41 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 6:37 a.m.
- Sunset, 6:40 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 60 degrees
- Humidity 20 percent
- Sky clear and sunny
- Winds west 12 mph
- Barometer 3.22 inches and steady
- Record High today 95° (2005)
- Record Low today 29° (1946)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	66°
Low Wednesday	46°
Precipitation	trace
This month	.38
Year to date	16.45
Below Normal	.26 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near 80, winds out of the north at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 50. Saturday: Sunny with a high near 84, winds breezy out of the north at 10 to 30 mph and a low around 49.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny with a high near 79 and a low around 49. Monday: Sunny with a high near 82 and a low around 49. Tuesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 79 and a low around 49.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local
markets

10:30 a.m.

Wheat — \$6.66 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.93
Corn — \$6.38 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.63
Milo — \$6.01 bushel
Soybeans — \$11.74 bushel
Posted county price — \$12.34
Millet — \$5 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$31.95 cwt.
Confection — no bid
Pinto beans — \$28
(Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside
today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowgirls
finish third

Cowgirl Cortney Cowan putted for a par during her round at the Russell tournament on Monday. The Cowgirls finished third at Russell and Colby. See photo, story on Page 10.



School district looks at future

By Pat Schiefen

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Of the 35 community members invited to a Goodland School Board strategic planning session on Tuesday night at West Elementary School 21 were able to attend.

The school board decided to seek community input because the district has a new superintendent, Bill Biermann, and four new board of education members; Diane Stiles, Gennifer House, Jessica Cole and Teresa Sieck.

It has been five years since the district has done strategic planning.

The facilitator Dr. Kelly Gillespie, from Southwest Plains Regional Service Center of Sublette, explained the process to the group.

The board had identified six areas that it felt were important to the district in an August meeting.

The issues were academic performance, 21st Century classroom, communication, finance and budget, school climate and leadership.

The people from the community were divided into six smaller groups.

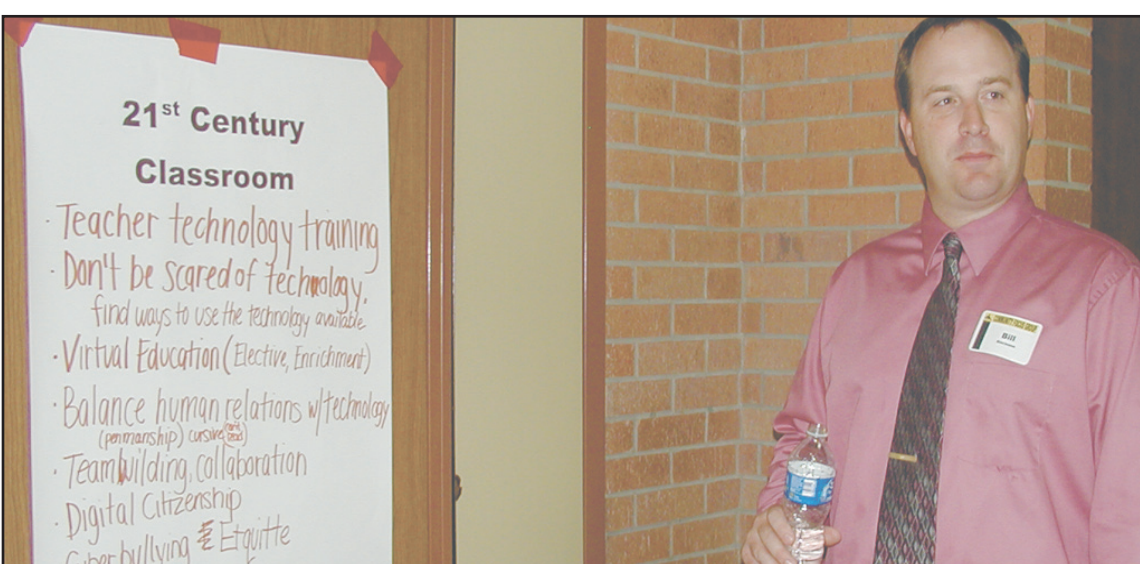
The six areas were posted in different spots at the West gym and each group got a chance to spend five to 10 minutes at each station and have their ideas listed on the poster. A board member was at each station to give a brief explanation and answer any questions.

Sieck had academic performance, Stiles had 21st Century classroom, House had communication, Amy Sederstrom had finance and budget, Cole had school climate and Mike Cochran had leadership. Board president Gary Slough filled in where needed.

After everyone had been at each topic the board member related what items were listed in each category.



KLOE, KKCI and KWGB's new sports broadcaster Brice Kesler listened to Goodland School Board member Jessica Cole explain the school climate topic with his breakout group at the community strategic planning session on Tuesday night.



Superintendent Bill Biermann stood by one of the topics at the Goodland School Board strategic planning session on Tuesday night at the West Elementary School gym. 21st Century classroom was one on the six topics that community members were able to give their input on. The others were academic performance, communication, finance and budget, school climate and leadership.

Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Attorney General declines to investigate county sheriff

By Tom Betz

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The Sherman County Attorney received a letter on Friday saying the Attorney General's office has decided not to take any further action to investigate the Sherman County Sheriff.

The letter from Lee J. Davidson, assistant attorney general in the criminal litigation division, said the information sent to Topeka had been forwarded by Attorney General Derek Schmidt to Deputy Attorney General Vic Braden, and then to Davidson.

"After thoroughly reviewing the materials you submitted, we are declining to take further action," the letter said. "Even if the allegations are substantiated through further in-

vestigation, it is our opinion that the allegations at this point do not rise to the level of criminal conduct."

The letter indicates the issue is not one the Attorney General was willing to expend resources to investigate.

"I am sorry we are unable to help you in this matter, but our resources do not allow us to offer assistance at this time when criminal liability is not at issue," Davidson wrote.

Sherman County Attorney Bonnie Selby had sent investigative materials to the Attorney General asking for an investigation "of a pattern of continuing, abusive conduct of Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts, which may provide the basis for civil actions of hostile work environment and or conduct sup-

porting criminal charges."

Selby said she had been told the Attorney General had accepted the material and was considering doing an investigation before she received the letter on Friday.

She said that is a decision by one of the agencies she sent the material to at the same time, and she has not heard any decision from the others.

Sheriff Butts said Wednesday he had not seen the letter, but he was glad to hear the decision of the Attorney General.

"It is a relief," he said. "I can get back to business and put that behind me and do what the citizens of Sherman County elected me to do."

New City Police Chief handles officer's search warrant mistake

By Tom Betz

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Goodland Police Chief Cliff Couch hadn't officially begun his duties, and found himself handling an embarrassing mistake when police officers searched the wrong house.

Chief Couch said Tuesday he was sorry the officers made a mistake in trying to execute a search warrant involving the home and college burglaries. He said it was the night before he was due to begin his duties as chief and he went along with the officers.

He said the officers were to search the house at 224 E. First, but instead went to 208 E. First. He said the screen door was open and the lady was in her living room and saw the officers approaching.

"She was upset at the time," Chief Couch said, "and I talked with her that night to deal with what had happened."

He said during the search of the house an inside closet door latch

was damaged and city employees went to the house and repaired the latch.

"I have done an internal investigation," Chief Couch said, "and have taken some disciplinary action."

Chief Couch said he has made several policy changes.

"There is a new policy on search warrants," he said, "and we will do training to make sure this does not happen again. All search warrants will require my approval."

To allow for more training time Chief Couch said the department will be going to a different shift schedule allowing for overlapping time one day a week for training.

He said the new shift plan will allow overlap on Monday for training, and he wants the training to improve the professionalism and efficiency of the department.

"We have a good group of people," Chief Couch said, "and I feel with the new policies they will do a better job for the citizens."

Chief Couch said back in the days when his great grandfather was a police officer in Douglasville, Ga., "you handed a man a gun and sent them out on duty."

"Today we have different rules and procedures to follow," he said.

Asked if his grandfather or father were police officers, Couch said they were both mechanics. He said he did not want to be a mechanic, and went into law enforcement.

He said he is looking forward to having his wife, Traci, and girls Reagan, 6, and Hannah, 11, move to Goodland as soon as their house is sold in Tallahassee, Fla.

Chief Couch said, after the police officers discovered their mistake on the search, the officers had gone to the right address and in the search arrested three people for possession of stolen property.

He said the department continues to investigate the series of burglaries that had been happening before he arrived.

2011 Flatlander Festival Schedule

Friday, Sept. 23rd:

- 5:30 p.m.-Stock Car Races (Sherman County Speedway)

Saturday, Sept. 24th:

- (Main Street, Goodland)
- 6:30 a.m.-GAC (8th & Main) Flatlander 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run Registration
- 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m.-Brick Top Cruisers Car Club Show

Registration (14th & Main, Central School)

- 9 a.m.-9 p.m.-NWK Bike Show (9th & Main, VFW)
- 9 a.m.-3 p.m.-Street Festival (Vendors, Food, and Games)

- 8 a.m.-3 p.m.-Brick Top Cruisers Car Club Show
- 11 a.m.-12 p.m.-Scruffy Dog Contest (On the Grandstand)

- 12 p.m.-3 p.m.-Talent Contest/Live Music on the Grand Stand
- 12:30 p.m.-Brick Top Cruisers Car Club Valve Cover Races in front of Central School at 13th & Main St.

- 4:30 p.m.-Stock Car Races (Sherman County Speedway)
- 8 p.m.-Motorcycle and Car Parade on Main Street

Sunday, Sept. 25th:

- 8 a.m.-11 a.m.-Brick Top Cruisers Car Club Show continuation at Elks Lodge, 1523 Arcade

- 8 a.m.-11 a.m.-NWK Bike Show Continuation (VFW, 9th & Main)

- 11 a.m.-4 p.m.-Picnic in the Park (Chambers Park 13th & Center). Live Music, Free Food, Games and Vendors

