

weather report



62°

10 a.m.
Monday

Today

• Sunset, 5:48 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 7:13 a.m.
• Sunset, 5:47 p.m.

Middy Conditions

• Soil temperature 45 degrees
• Humidity 29 percent
• Sky mostly sunny
• Winds west 5 mph
• Barometer 30.12 inches and steady
• Record High today 91° (1950)
• Record Low today 7° (1993)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 64°
Low Sunday 36°
Precipitation none
This month 0.41
Year to date 9.02
Below normal 9.37 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near 69, winds out of the northwest at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 40.
Wednesday: Sunny with a high near 73, winds out of the northwest at 10 mph and a low around 40.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Sunny with a high near 72 and a low around 38. Friday: Sunny with a high near 69 and a low around 38. Saturday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of rain and snow, a high near 56 and a low around 36.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

Hunter safety



A group of around 20 future hunters attended the required hunter safety class on Saturday at Northwest Kansas Technical College. Anyone wanting to hunt must complete the course if they were born after July 1, 1957. Officer Mike Hopper of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism was the instructor.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Voting under way for election

By Kevin Bottrell

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The general election may not be till Tuesday, Nov. 6, but Sherman County residents are eager to get their vote in.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said that as of early Monday morning, 262 advance ballots have been cast. More than 150 have been mailed out, she said. Voters have until noon on Monday, Nov. 5, to walk in and pick up an advance ballot. All advance ballots are due back to the Court House by 7 p.m. on Nov. 6.

Rumpel said the increased turnout is probably due to the presidential election, which always sees more voters than mid-term elections. During a previous presidential election, she said, Sherman County had more than 1,000 advance voters.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 6, at the Goodland Veterans of Foreign Wars post.

On the ballot this time are presidential contenders Barack Obama and Mitt Romney with their running mates Joe Biden and Paul Ryan. Also in the presidential race are Libertarian Party candidate Gary Johnson and Reform Party candidate Chuck Baldwin.

U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp is running for re-election in the 1st District. This year he is running unopposed, while two years ago, after Jerry Moran announced he was running for Senate, Huelskamp faced six Republicans in the primary and Salina Democrat Alan Jilka in the general. This year, Jilka is running for state representative in the 71st District.

For the Kansas Senate, 40th District incumbent Ralph Ostmeyer of Grinnell is facing 36th District incumbent Allen Schmidt of Hays. Ostmeyer, a Republican,

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Constitutional amendment on ballot this year

On Tuesday, Nov. 6, Kansans will have an opportunity to vote on a constitutional amendment that would allow the Kansas Legislature to change the way watercraft are taxed for property tax purposes. For tax purposes, a watercraft is any boat powered by gasoline, diesel, electric, oars or sail, including sailboards, personal watercraft (jet skis), kayaks, and canoes.

The amendment would allow

lawmakers to classify and tax watercraft on a basis different from other property. The amendment would not directly change how watercraft are taxed; rather, it is a required first step before legislators can make changes in the future, if they choose to do so.

A vote for the proposition would allow the legislature to separately classify and tax watercraft or to exempt watercraft from property taxes

and impose another form of tax.

Watercraft property taxes vary by county and value of the watercraft. For county property tax purposes, watercraft are taxed at a rate of 30 percent of a vessel's value multiplied by the county mill levy. This rate is higher than many other states, and is set by the Kansas constitution, which is why an amendment is necessary to allow lawmakers to consider classification and tax

rate changes. Three neighboring states — Oklahoma, Nebraska and Missouri — do not have a property tax on watercraft, and neither do Texas and Iowa.

Boats powered by gasoline, diesel, electric, or sail must be registered with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. The department annually sends its list

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local markets



10:30 a.m.

Wheat — \$8.50 bushel
Posted county price — \$8.40
Corn — \$7.38 bushel
Posted county price — \$7.32
Milo — \$7.01 bushel
Soybeans — \$14.43 bushel
Posted county price — \$14.93
Millet — \$14 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$26.55 cwt.
Confection — no bid
Pinto beans — \$28
(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



Cowboys beat Colby

The Goodland High School varsity football team finished their season on Thursday with a 20-8 win over the Colby Eagles. See Page 10.

Sherman County has paranormal history

Due to the popularity of the *Goodland Star-News*' special history section in August, we will be running monthly history articles highlighting a variety of topics throughout the rest of the year.

By Kevin Bottrell

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Despite the many little ghosts and ghouls running around this Halloween, Sherman County might be surprised to learn there have been many real ghost sightings in the area over the years.

Sherman Center, one of the four small towns that competed for the county seat, was built on the site of a ghost town. Little is known about the town of Inez. An 1880 census of the then-unincorporated Sherman County lists 13 residents in the settlement. A map of Sherman County from the same year shows Inez in the center of the county on the North Fork Sappa Creek.

"The Encyclopedia of Kansas History" lists Inez as the first settlement in the area, but said all trace of it had disappeared by the time the county was organized in 1887. Nothing is known of who founded the town or who lived there.

Sherman Center was founded in the same area in 1886. It was absorbed into Goodland when that city won the county seat war.

Voltaire, another of the four original towns, is also listed in places as a ghost town. It was located in the northeast corner of modern-day Goodland. Nothing remains of the townsite, which is on private property.

In addition to ghost towns, there have also been haunted houses. A 1917 issue of the *Sherman County Republican* has a story about a haunted farmhouse 2 1/2 miles northwest of Goodland. The two-story house was said to be haunted by its former resident, Jim Wheeler, a homesteader in the late 1800s.



Myra Crawford (left) and Alice Jackson investigated paranormal activity at the National Guard Armory earlier this month.

Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

People said they heard strange noises in the house, but no one was certain what they were. What was certain is that "ghosts" robbed the abandoned house of almost everything by 1917.

Some say the Ennis-Handy House, one of Goodland's major historical attractions, is haunted. Sightings include phantom footsteps, doors that open and close on their own, flickering lights and even objects flying across the room.

An article in a 2005 issue of *Kansas Traveler* speculated that the ghost may be Edythe Handy, who was found dead in the house in the 1970s.

Edson has been the site of many paranormal happenings. Myra Crawford and Alice Jackson say they have had ghost sightings at the Edson school and cemetery as well as several houses in the area.

Crawford and Jackson run Northwest Kansas Paranormal

Investigations. They go to a site where paranormal activity has been reported and investigate using many different tools such as a voice box — which scans low frequency radio waves for sounds or voices — flashlights, motion detectors and laser grids. They ask questions, hoping a spirit might use one of these avenues to answer.

Crawford said they always have the landowner's permission before investigating a site.

At the school, the investigators saw full-figure shadows as well as the figures of children.

"It definitely has an eerie feeling," Jackson said.

One of things the investigators often do is dig into the history of a paranormal site. Jackson said that in the late 1800s there was a smallpox and diphtheria outbreak in Sherman County, and the Edson school was used as a hospital.

Crawford said they were not allowed inside the school since the

building is unsafe.

At the Edson cemetery, the investigators found voices and full apparitions while investigating after dark. Crawford discourages anyone from trying to go to the cemetery.

The investigators toured an abandoned house south of Edson where they said a spirit responded to their questions by turning a flashlight on and off. They also set up motion detectors, which went off without anyone in the room.

Jackson said there is little to no history available on the house.

Crawford said she and Jackson formed the investigative team not only for fun but also to help people. Sometimes they find natural causes

rather than supernatural.

"We can eliminate some of the fear if we can give them an alternative explanation," Jackson said.

Crawford said they have a process they go through at each site to determine the causes of the strange things people experience. For example, she said, she always measures the electro magnetic field. A high electro magnetic field — which can be caused by bad wiring — can cause hallucinations.

And when there are ghosts, sometimes there's nothing to fear. "A lot of times it's just someone trying to communicate," Crawford said.

While investigating a home in Goodland, they determined through the flashlight and spirit box that they were dealing with the ghost of a 6 to 7 year old child.

They recently investigated the National Guard Armory. Before it was shut down and given to the city, several Guardsmen reported hearing voices, doors slamming and music playing when they were alone in the building. The strange noises continued when the college began holding classes.

Crawford and Jackson set up their equipment in several rooms including a laundry and storage room, and although there have been a voice on the voice box, the investigators found little else. They speculated that during the day there may be too much activity in the building.

If anyone would like a site investigated, Northwest Kansas Paranormal Investigations can be reached by calling 890-3733 after 2 p.m.

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