

weather report

47°



noon Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 4:41 p.m.

Friday

• Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:42 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 29 degrees
- Humidity 38 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds northwest 25-30 mph
- Barometer 30.16 inches and rising
- Record High today 74° (2002)
- Record Low today -14° (1937)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 38°
Low Wednesday 18°
Precipitation none

The Topside Forecast

Today: sunny and breezy, high around 48, low around 24, winds northwest 14-38 mph Friday: sunny, high near 53, low near 22, winds northwest 9-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: mostly sunny, high near 58, low around 27, winds southwest 7-11 mph Sunday: partly cloudy, high near 46, low around 15. Monday: partly cloudy, high around 41, low near 12. Tuesday: mostly sunny, high near 44, low around 16.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.68 bushel
New Crop — \$3.50
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.41 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.28
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2.25 bushel
Soybeans — \$7.30 bushel
Posted county price — \$7.42
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$11.20 cwt.
NuSun — \$11.45 cwt.
Confection — \$16/\$9 cwt.
Pinto beans — Withdrawn
(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowgirls win over Indians

The Goodland High School C team formed a defensive perimeter to keep St. Francis from scoring during the third period of Monday's 35-23 Cowgirl victory to open their season. See story and photos on Page 12.

Murder hearing set for March 17

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

The preliminary hearing for Lanny Bevington, 33, charged with the shooting death of his wife Kerrie was continued until 9 a.m. on March 17.

Sherman County attorney Bonnie Selby and Bevington's attorney, Calvin Williams of Colby, agreed to reschedule the hearing.

A second search warrant was issued Tuesday morning by district magistrate judge Richard Kvasnicka of Logan County and executed that afternoon by the Sherman County sheriff's office, however Sheriff Doug Winston said no new evidence was found.

Bevington was charged with first-degree murder Dec. 29. Kerrie Bevington, 27, was found dead of an apparent shotgun wound to the head about 7 a.m. in the morning on Dec 28 by her father Tom Aschenbrenner. He found her sitting in the cab of a pickup outside the Bevington home about 3 1/2 miles south of Brewster. The time of death was estimated at between 3 and 4 a.m. Dec 28. The couple had been married less than six months.

Bevington is being held in the Sherman County Bastille in lieu of \$1 million bond.



Brewster firemen were called about 10 a.m. Thursday morning about to the house 3 1/2 miles south of the city where Lanny and Kerrie Bevington were living because of a fire in the basement which appeared to start around the hot water heater. There was damage

around the water heater and the ceiling. Dave Bowman, a Brewster fireman said the Sherman County Sheriff was contacted to investigate the fire. The house belongs to Toni Ackerman.

Photo by Doug Jackson/The Goodland Star-News

Last murder was 17 years ago, unsolved

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Murder is a rare event in Sherman County with less than 20 cases in the 116 years since the county was organized.

The murder of Kerrie Bevington in Dec. 2003 was the 17th case in the county, and four of those remain unsolved.

With the help of Lloyd Holbrook, who has been researching murders in Sherman County, we have a list of murders that go back to April 1887.

The most recent murder was the case of John Charles Hunt, 38, of Sacramento, Calif., whose body was discovered in Tom Livengood's field two miles south of Kanorado in Sept. 1986. There was no identification on the body and he had apparently been there from three to seven days.

The body was identified in November 1986 through the fingerprints which were sent to the FBI. Hunt had been shot and it was believed his body was dropped in the

field. Sherman County Sheriff Jack Armstrong said at the time there was no evidence concerning the murder, and it remains unsolved today.

It was four years between the previous murder of Kirk Denton Hartman, 21, who died of a gunshot wound to the heart in Dec. 1982. Hartman was found sitting in his pickup three miles east and one and one-half mile north of Goodland by electric workers on Jan. 7, 1983. He had been missing for three weeks, and his body was frozen solid from a prolonged cold snap and snow storm.

The autopsy had to be delayed for two days to allow the body to thaw, and while there were several suspects in the case no charges were ever filed. Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson said there were suspicions and he even went to Pampa, Texas to interview one, but the man did not give them any information.

This is the second of the four unsolved murder cases in Sherman County.

In the past two years William

Murder victims in Sherman County

April 17, 1887 — Frederick Boalt
Jan. 3, 1890 — Sena Bloss
June 6, 1894 — Malmstadt baby
March 18, 1902 — William H. Frazer
April 29, 1905 — John P. Hill
Oct. 4, 1928 — Maude Goebel
Nov. 12, 1932 — Robert A. Williams
Jan. 18, 1937 — Song C. Kim
July 1, 1962 — Roy Russell, Jr.
Oct. 26, 1963 — Joey Vernon Kuyper
Nov. 14, 1968 — Lucio Garcia
Nov. 8, 1970 — Wallace Newton Patton
May 22, 1982 — Eugene C. Berry
June 14, 1982 — Jesus Saavedra
Dec. 18, 1982 — Kirk Denton Hartman
Sept. 16, 1986 — John Charles Hunt
Dec. 28, 2003 — Kerrie Bevington

Schlicher, a former technical school student who killed Wallace Patton in Nov. 1970, has been trying to win his parole after 20 years in prison. Patton was working at a gas station in Goodland when he was robbed at gun point by Schlicher, Charles Kauffman and Marvin Dale Seigrist. They loaded Patton into Schlicher's car and drove around

with him for most of the night before taking him out to a field and shooting him four times. Seigrist, turned himself in 1980 because he was afraid Schlicher would kill him. Seigrist received immunity for his testimony and Schlicher and Kauffman were charged with first degree murder. Doctors declared Kauffman was not sane enough to

defend himself. Schlicher was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison. In 1980 "life" in Kansas meant 15 years until a criminal was eligible for parole. Schlicher has been turned down by the parole board at least four times.

Bernita Nothdruff, 40 at the time, was charged in May 1982 in the shooting death of Eugene C. Berry, 46. She was charged with first degree murder for shooting Berry following an argument at their apartment complex at 1508 Center. In December Nothdruff plead guilty to voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced by District Judge Jack L. Burr to a minimum of four to 20 years.

In his comments Judge Burr said, "Because of the evidence that a human life was taken with the involvement of the use of a firearm, there will be no consideration for any probation for Nothdruff until the first four years have been served."

In June 1982 Jesus Saavedra, 89, was found beaten at his home at 1618 Sherman, and died three days later at the hospital. He had been beaten with a three-foot, quarter-inch steel rod about the head, left arm and shoulders Sheriff Armstrong said.

Gregorio Gomez, Jr., 17 at the

See MURDER, Page 3

Congressman here Monday afternoon

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran will visit Goodland Monday afternoon as a stop on his eighth annual "Big First" Listening Tour.

Everyone is invited to meet Moran from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. (Mountain Time) in the community room downstairs at the Western State Bank, 815 Center Ave.

Moran is asking for input and advice from people on issues that are important to them. Some of the issues he wants to focus on are improving the economy, assisting small business and creating jobs, making health care more affordable, supporting our troops and veterans, enhancing educational opportunities, and helping farmers and ranchers.

During his tour, which started Dec. 16 and is scheduled to end Feb. 19, Moran will visit all 69 counties in the First District, the largest of the four districts in Kansas.

Moran is serving his fourth consecutive term in the U.S. House of Representatives. He serves on the House committees for agriculture, transportation and infrastructure, and veterans' affairs. Last January Moran became the chairman of the agriculture subcommittee for general commodities and risk management. He also serves as the vice chairman of the veterans' affairs subcommittee on health.

Moran graduated from the University of Kansas in 1976 with a bachelor of science in economics. In 1982 he earned his law degree, also from Kansas, and was admitted to the bars in Kansas and Missouri.

Moran served for eight years, 1989 to 1996, in the Kansas Senate, the last two as the majority leader.

Goodland will the third of four stops for Moran on Monday. He will be at the Colonial Steak House in Oakley between noon and

1 p.m. (Mountain Time) and at the Senior Progress Center in Colby between 2:30 and 3:30. After visiting Goodland he will head for St. Francis where he will meet people at the Windmill Restaurant, West U.S. 36, from 5:30 to 6:30.

Tuesday morning Moran will be in Sharon Springs between 8 and 9 at the Senior Center, 223 N. Main St. Next he will be at the Kuder Senior Center in Tribune from 9:30 to 10:30. After visiting Tribune Moran will spend the rest of the day visiting, in order, Syracuse, Lakin and Holcomb.

Moran said he learns a lot every time he hears from the people of Kansas and that their input is important to him. He said the tour gives him the opportunity to meet thousands of Kansans and answer their questions about federal issues.



Moran



Rasure

Goodland man to run for state senate

Republican Dan Rasure is running for the Kansas State Senate seat for the 40th District which is up for election in November.

Rasure said he will focus on economic development, education and infrastructure.

"The current legislature continues to put counties, cities and schools in tough financial positions," Rasure said, "instead of addressing state spending."

Rasure has already registered his campaign committee with the Kansas secretary of state's office. Ron Vignery of Goodland is the campaign chairman with Cliff Leach of Bird City as the treasurer and Royal

Reid of Goodland as the finance committee chairman. Campaign leadership for each of the 17 counties will be chosen in the near future.

The 40th District consists of Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Graham, Greeley, Lane, Logan, Ness, Norton, Rawlins, Rooks, Scott, Sherman, Thomas, Trego, Wallace and Wichita Counties.

"We need a strong voice in Topeka," said Vignery, "and we feel

that Dan is the right person for the job."

Vignery said he is new to politics but he is excited about the upcoming campaign. He said he accepted the job with the campaign about a month ago, two weeks after Rasure offered it.

"It's time for change," Vignery said. "We're in dire need for economic development in northwest Kansas."

Rasure, the son of Kevin and Christie Rasure, graduated from Goodland High School in 2001 and received his bachelor of science in business management from McPherson College in December.

Citizens help police bust meth lab

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Alert citizens helped police take down a meth lab last Friday night in Goodland.

Someone reported suspicious activity in the alley behind 211 Center Ave. about 11 p.m., said Police Chief Ray Smee. Two city police officers, backed by two Sherman County sheriff deputies, stopped a pickup which had the necessary

materials for a meth lab in the back. Officers found two people with the pickup, but one of them, white male, ran away and is being sought.

Frank Hand, believed to be in his 30s, was arrested and charged with manufacturing a controlled substance (methamphetamine), and illegal possession of anhydrous ammonia and pseudoephedrine. During processing, officers found that he was wanted under a different

name in California, but Smee wouldn't say what for.

Hand had been arrested Dec. 26 and charged in municipal court for stealing two tires from Frontier Equity Exchange.

Smee said the lab was in between stages, explaining that it takes four or five steps to make methamphetamine. It appeared the lab was started in one place and was being transferred to another.