

weather  
report

66°

noon Monday

Today

• Sunset, 5:46 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:06 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:47 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 38 degrees
- Humidity 26 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds northwest 15 mph
- Barometer 30.33 inches and falling
- Record High today 83° (1989)
- Record Low today -4° (1932)

Last 24 Hours\*

High Sunday 56°  
Low Sunday 23°  
Precipitation none

The Topside Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high around 65, low near 32, winds northwest 6-10 mph. Wednesday: partly cloudy and breezy, high around 53, low around 27, winds north northwest 10-32 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: partly cloudy, high around 55, low around 28. Friday: partly cloudy, high around 60, low around 30. Saturday: partly cloudy, high near 56, low around 26. Sunday: mostly sunny, high around 52.

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

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.36 bushel  
New Crop — \$3.35 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.50  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Corn — \$2.76 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.72  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Milo — \$2.58 bushel  
Soybeans — \$8.62 bushel  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Millet — \$6.50 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$11.90 cwt.  
NuSun — \$12.15 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Pinto beans — Withdrawn  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



Lady Trojans  
win at Salina

Freshman Jayci Stone (center with Lady Trojan shirt) enjoyed a "send off" Friday morning as the Lady Trojans headed to Salina for the Region VI basketball tournament. See story and photo on Page 12.

# Sheriff race gets unwilling candidate

By Tom Betz  
and Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

The field in the race for Sherman County sheriff may increase by one if a political action committee formed Thursday gets enough signatures to put bar owner Rod Cooper on the ballot as an independent.

Virgil Baumfalk, owner of McB's Motor and Radiator Repair, admits he is one of the organizers of the campaign to run Cooper, owner of Crazy R's. Baumfalk is listed as chairman of the committee on papers filed with the Kansas Secretary of State.

Baumfalk said the committee treasurer is Jackie Dautel, who works at Wal-Mart, and Cooper's campaign manager is listed as his wife Michelle, owner of Gambino's.

The hitch is, Cooper isn't exactly co-operating with his "supporters."

Why is he trying to run a reluctant Cooper for sheriff?

"He keeps screwing with me," Baumfalk said Monday. "It all

## Republicans hold voting lead

As of Friday afternoon, the county clerk's records show there are 3,968 registered voters in Sherman County, with Republicans outnumbering all others with 56 percent of the total.

The party breakdown is:

- Republican: 2,243
- Democrat: 904, 23 percent
- No party affiliation: 790, 20 percent
- Libertarian: 28, 1 percent

started with a headlight and grill. He had 30-40 people call me about buying them out of an old 1935 Diamond REO truck I have, and he knew they weren't for sale separately. I told him for \$3,500, he could have the whole truck, but I was not going to sell the

### • Reform: 3

County Clerk Janet Rumpel, who is the county's election officer, said people who have moved or have legally changed their names should re-register as soon as possible, at least 15 days before election day.

Candidates for sheriff include Kevin Butts, the current Sherman County undersheriff; Greg Kroskey, a city policeman; Dee Albers, a former undersheriff; and Art Lov-

ington, a former deputy. All are running as Republicans.

Incumbents Carol Armstrong, the register of deeds, and Rumpel have turned in their petitions and paid their fees for re-election. Iris Scheopner, a clerk in the county treasurer's office, has filed a petition and paid fees as a candidate for Sherman County treasurer. Incumbent Treasurer Shelby Miller is not running.

headlights and grill. I have the original title for that truck."

Baumfalk was one of the instigators who got Cooper elected as honorary Mayor of South Goodland last November. After Cooper was declared the winner, Baumfalk placed

a desk and chairs on a vacant lot at 17th and Main with a sign saying it was the new office for the "mayor."

Apparently the next round of the challenge went to Cooper, who knew Baumfalk was having a disagreement with the city over mow-

ing the weeds at his property at the old rest area on east Business U.S. 24. Cooper apparently arranged with someone to fertilize the lot to encourage the grass and weeds.

That, said Baumfalk, prompted him to put Cooper's name on the ballot as an independent candidate for sheriff. The official title of the committee as filed with the Secretary of State, and received by Baumfalk on Monday, is "Committee to Elect Rod Cooper for Sheriff."

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said she was with Baumfalk on Thursday at Cooper's restaurant, when he tried to get Cooper to sign the papers creating the committee. She said she told him Cooper wouldn't sign, and he assured her he would, so she went along to watch the action.

Cooper took the form, she said, with an unprintable comment, wadded it up and threw it away.

Baumfalk said he would file the

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## Apache choppers grounded by weather



Three U.S. Army pilots prepare one of four AH-64 Apache attack helicopters for take off Friday morning. Four of the helicopters landed here Wednesday morning for fuel but were grounded for nearly two days by the weather. The helicopters are on the way

to Johnston, Pa., as part of a transfer from the Utah Army National Guard to the Pennsylvania Guard. The Utah unit, the 211th Aviation Group, was activated in January and will depart for Afganistan later this month.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

## Tornado siren test, training next week

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Sirens will sound around 9:30 a.m. next Tuesday, when the National Weather Service has scheduled a tornado for Goodland.

Well, it's only a test, not the result of some new scientific method for predicting tornados, but emergency management officials hope people will pay attention to the drill. It's part of the Kansas Severe Weather Awareness Week, beginning Monday and going through Friday, March 19.

A test tornado warning will be issued by the Goodland office of the National Weather Service at 9:30 a.m. next Tuesday. Sherman County Communications and Emergency Management will sound the warning sirens as if it were a real tornado warning.

David Floyd, warning coordination meteorologist for the Weather Service in Goodland, said he hopes everyone will take emergency action as if it was a real tornado. About 15 minutes after the warning is given, the weather service will issue a "severe weather statement" ending the test.

Floyd said the focus of the week is to increase awareness of the dangers of severe weather and teach people of what to do when a tornado threatens. In 2003, Kansas was hit by 91 tornadoes which killed seven

people and hurt 84 others.

During the week, weather stations in Kansas will broadcast information statements about severe weather watches and warnings, lightning and tornado safety, thunderstorm winds and flash flooding. The schedule for storm spotter classes will be aired daily.

In Goodland, the class will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, at the National Guard Armory, 720 E. Armory Rd. For information, call Timothy Renner at the communications and emergency management office at (785) 899-4575 or e-mail trenner@eaglecom.net.

Part of the effort to help the county prepare for severe weather and other disasters was the creation of the Sherman County Mitigation 20/20 Task Force, a joint effort by city and county governments and public and private organizations to develop a Sherman County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The process consists of assessing the county's vulnerabilities to disasters and developing a plan to eliminate or reduce them.

The members are asking people to share their experiences of past disasters and make suggestions that could help lessen the impact of future disasters. Contact the task force by calling (785) 899-4575 or e-mail shcolepo@hotmail.com.

## Scout adds benches to Gulick Park



Tim Gittinger, a member of the Goodland Boy Scouts, smoothed out the dirt before finishing work for the day on his Eagle Scout project Saturday in Gulick Park. Gittinger, the son of Kendall and Marilyn Gittinger, anchored two benches onto concrete poured a few weeks ago near the playground.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News