

weather report

70°

noon Monday



Today

• Sunset, 8:05 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 5:43 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:04 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 63 degrees
- Humidity 61 percent
- Sky clear and sunny
- Winds south 20 mph
- Barometer 30.22 inches and falling

• Record High today 104° (1931)

• Record Low today 50° (1994)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 67°

Low Sunday 52°

Precipitation none

This month 4.04

Year to date 12.89

The Topside Forecast

Today: mostly cloudy with 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high around 83, low near 60, winds south 15-18 mph. Wednesday: mostly cloudy with a 70 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high around 76, low around 58, winds north northwest 8-16 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday-Saturday: partly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms, high 82-88, low 59-61.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Thunderstorms drench area

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

A cold front moved through northwest Kansas on Thursday afternoon, bringing a sudden, strong thunderstorm and two days of rain that added up to nearly two inches of water.

Rainfall totaled 1.98 inches from the storm and following rain, though the total might be much less on the southwest side of town. Limbs were down, some roads flooded in the north part of the county, and at least one power line fell in the wind.

The thunderstorm struck about 4:15 p.m. Thursday, when the National Weather Service in Goodland reported a severe thunderstorm about 11 miles north of Goodland moving south along K-27, and expected it to hit town about 4:30 p.m.

Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson reported high winds and heavy rain at K-27 and County Road 78, about two miles south of the county line.

Whitson radioed that he encountered heavy hail, up to golf-ball size and larger.

"I lost my windshield," Whitson said, "and the highway looks like it snowed there is so much hail."

Reports of hail damage included broken windows and at least one vehicle had a mirror broken by the large hail.

Police Chief Ray Smee positioned himself on the north edge of the city to watch the storm, and as it approached he reported high winds and low visibility before the rain hit.

The storm tracked slightly to the east, moving the brunt of the hail east of the city. As the storm blew past Goodland, the winds whipped at trees, knocking down large limbs and dropped a power line at 300 N. Main.

Visibility dropped to a few feet as wind whipped the rain around at the airport, on the north edge of town. Out west, by the industrial park on K-27, the sun was shining and the road was dry. A low, fuzzy sort of rainbow developed under the storm as it moved off to the southeast.

As the rain hit the city, the Sherman County Rural Fire Department

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Thursday's thunderstorm dropped nearly 1.5 inches of rain on Goodland. After the storm passed, Adam Rust (top, right) and a friend were enjoying the water running in the gutters. Anna Coons,

10, (bottom, right) checked out a tree that had split in front of Kennedy and Coe building at 520 Main. A frazzled rabbit (bottom, left) was wiping himself off in front of a city well on the corner at 519 College.

Photos by Tom Betz and Steve Haynes / The Goodland Star-News

Sheriff candidate says 'work' is byword

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

"Work" is the byword Republican candidate Art Lovington uses to describe the atmosphere he will create as the Sherman County sheriff.

Lovington said he will emphasize teamwork within the department and with other agencies. He stresses the need for more formal training each year for all deputies and use of the latest technology to help make the force as capable as possible.

Lovington has been a family development specialist with Harvest

America since September, starting as a part-time counselor then going full-time in February. In addition,

since March 1999 he has been a surveillance officer for Northwest Kansas Community Corrections, checking on adult felony offenders and parolees.

Lovington moved to Goodland with his family in the spring of 1986 and went to work as a certified nurse's aide at the Golden West Skills Center.

One day in the summer 1987, he said, he and his brother-in-law were told of an accident close by. When

they got to the scene they saw that nobody was helping the victims, so they went to work. Lovington said that was the spark that motivated him to serve the public.

Lovington became a Goodland police officer in December 1987, graduating from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Hutchinson in April 1989. In January 1993, he became the department's communication officer, rising to temporary sergeant before he went to work for the Sherman County consolidated communications center in April 1996.

In October 1998, Lovington became a full-time sheriff's deputy and served almost four years. In

September 2002, he went became a corrections officer at the Kit Carson Correctional Facility near Burlington, leaving there in February 2003. After that, he worked for Western Uniforms in Goodland for the six months before joining Harvest America.

Born and raised in Texas, Lovington graduated from Seagraves High School in 1982, after which he joined the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, serving for five years as a motor transport operator.

He married his wife Criselda in November 1984 in Brownfield, Texas. They have two children: Andrew, 18, who works for Res Care and is a shift manager at Pizza Hut,

and Olivia, 16, who works for Taco John's and will be a high school junior this year.

Lovington is a board member of Goodland's Genesis/Salvation Army and Sherman County's Neighborhood Watch program, which is being expanded to cover the entire county. He is a member of the Hispanic Advisory Board and the Crimestoppers board.

He also is active with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Sherman County, Girls Rights and Accountability for their Culture and Education (GRACE) and Youth Reaching out for Motivation plus Achievement

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County attorney fits into her prosecuting role

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Although prosecuting criminals was never her dream, County Attorney Bonnie Selby has settled into the role and wants to continue. Even the most difficult year of her term hasn't made her want to give up.

Selby has been in the office for six years, finishing up two years of Mike Irvin's term, and then serving her own four-year term. Before being asked to finish Irvin's term, Selby said she had never aspired to be a prosecutor.

"I was always a defense attorney," she said. "After being asked to finish the term, I thought it would be interesting to see what the other side is like.

"It has been a good experience. I

wouldn't have missed it."

Selby is running unopposed as a Republican in the primary Aug. 3. There are no Democratic candidates.

Besides criminal cases, Selby said, her office handles juvenile cases, child in need of care, contested traffic tickets, and care and treatment cases, evaluations at a medical facility when someone is considered a danger to himself or others. High Plains Mental Health usually follows up with care, Selby said.

Selby thought it seemed like she had more cases this year than last, but her office handled 102 criminal cases by July 9 last year and had 90 cases by July 14 this year. She had 21 cases involving juveniles by this time last year, compared to 17 this

year, and seven care and treatment cases last year compared to five this year.

Despite the numbers, Selby said she has worked harder this year than any before. One reason, she said, may be the difficulty of some cases. There have been five deaths in the county that are being investigated, she said.

Those include the shooting death of Kerrie Bevington on Dec. 28 last year; the deaths of Christine Williams, Aline Becker and Mary Wyant in a traffic accident on June 11; and the death of Hubert Stewart in an accident during a dust storm May 29.

In Bevington's death, her husband Lanny has been charged with first-degree murder, and in the deaths of Williams, Becker and Wyant, Jennifer L. Adams of Englewood, Colo., has been charged with

three counts of second-degree murder.

The complaint alleges that she was driving under the influence of alcohol and had a breath alcohol level of .265.

When the charges are so serious, Selby said, lawyers file a lot of motions. She said she has been inundated with motions in the Bevington case.

Having two murder cases at a time and five deaths to investigate is not typical for the area, she said. City Attorney Perry Warren, a former county attorney, said that he only had one death to investigate during his time in office.

Selby credits increased traffic on I-70 with many of the cases she has dealt with. The interstate has a greater impact than it used to, she said.

The highway brought in an un-

usual case in October 2001, when Mark Palmer of Carmel, Ind., a student at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, led law enforcement officers on a chase that began in Colorado and ended with Palmer being shot by state troopers just outside of Goodland.

Palmer had wrecked his vehicle and stolen and wrecked two others. When he tried to steal a trooper's cruiser, after injuring a sheriff's deputy, another trooper shot him dead.

His toxicology screen was clean, Selby said, but later the office received information that he had sought drug counseling at the university that weekend and had said he had experimented with mushrooms. Selby hopes such cases serve as an example of what not to do.

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local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.07 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.26

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.24 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.10

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$1.75 bushel

Soybeans — \$6.33 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.41

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$10.25 cwt.

NuSun — \$10.50 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

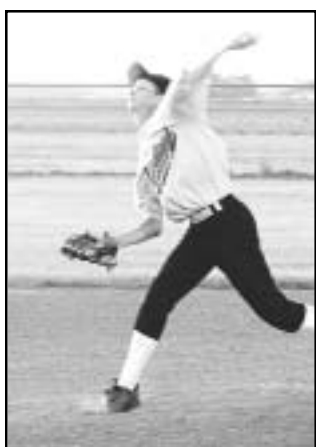
Confection — \$16/\$9 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$15

(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

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K-18 season ends at 4-7

Andrew Pettibone was one of the Goodland K-18 baseball team's pitchers this season on a team which finished its season 4-7. Story, photo on Page 12.