

weather
report

94°

noon Thursday

Today
•Sunset, 8:13 p.m.
Saturday
•Sunrise, 5:34 a.m.
•Sunset, 8:12 p.m.

Midday Conditions
•Soil temperature 82 degrees
•Humidity 30 percent
•Sky clear and sunny
•Winds southeast 7 mph
•Barometer 30.06 inches
and falling
•Record High today 107° (1934)
•Record Low today 55° (1972)

Last 24 Hours*
High Wednesday 96°
Low Wednesday 62°
Precipitation none
This month 1.23
Year to date 10.08

The Topside Forecast
Today: partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon, high around 84, low near 60, winds north 9-11 mph. Saturday: partly cloudy, high near 90, low around 62, winds east 10 mph.

Extended Forecast
Sunday: mostly sunny, high near 91, low around 63. Monday: partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers, high near 93, low near 63.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon
Wheat — \$3.19 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.41
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.40 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.29
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$1.99 bushel
Soybeans — \$8.01 bushel
Posted county price — \$8.32
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$10.70 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
NuSun — \$10.95 cwt.
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

More local
news and
views from
your
Goodland
Star-News



Swimmers
finish fourth

Holton Witman approached the turn-around point in the 8-and-under boys 50-yard freestyle during the Northwest Kansas Swim League Championship Meet in Wray, Colo., last weekend. Story, photo on Page 11.

Plea expected in murder case

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

A motion hearing in the case of Lanny Bevington, 33, charged with first-degree murder in the death of his wife Kerrie on Dec. 28, set for Monday in Sherman County District Court has been postponed.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said the hearing was put off because the defense proposed a plea bargain on Thursday. Trial in the case was to have begun Monday.

Calvin Williams, Bevington's attorney, had filed 10 motions to be heard by District Judge Jack Burr, asking the judge, among other things, to move the trial out of the county.

Selby said she met with the family and law enforcement officers involved in the case Friday afternoon, and decided not to accept the proposal.

"We felt the offer was not what we were after," Selby said. "We submitted a counterof-

fer, and it appears it might be accepted. We do not have official word that he has accepted the plea, but we expect he will accept the plea on Monday, which was to be the first day of the trial."

She said Wednesday the ball was in the defense attorney's court, and that if the plea is not accepted, there will be a problem on Monday because the judge has dismissed the jury pool.

Bevington was charged with first-degree

murder on 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, former Brewster fire chief. He found her sitting in the cab of a pickup outside the Bevington home about 3 1/2 miles south of Brewster, just inside Sherman County.

The time of death was estimated at between 3 and 4 a.m. Dec. 28. The couple had been married less than six months.

County renews
joint grant writer

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County commissioners decided Tuesday to renew the joint grant writer for another year, although they did not get the changes they wanted in the way the program is set up and paid for.

"I believe the grantwriter program is a good concept," Commissioner Kevin Rasure said. "I will live with it one more year, but she (Penny Nemechek) needs to make it work."

Commissioner Chuck Thomas, who represents the county on the program's committee, said that all of the representatives were at the meeting on Thursday morning, and the other three wanted to keep the program the same as it has been for the first two years.

"Each one of us gave our reasons for keeping the program and what we thought should be changed," Thomas said. "I told them we felt that the program needed to be changed so there was less base (pay) and more built into an incentive plan.

"Ron Schilling, the school district representative, said the school board wanted to leave the program as is because they had budgeted it as a straight amount each month, and do not want to do it on a commission basis.

"Mayor Rick Billinger said he felt the program was doing good, and that when she got any grant money, it helped all of the county. Billinger asked the county to stay, and said he felt the program should be contin-

ued on the same basis as the first two years. He did agree there needed to be some changes and better communication.

"Jay Jolly, hospital administrator, said they had only been in the program for a short time, but were satisfied with how it was working."

Thomas said that the two volunteer members, Dan Hayden of Bankwest and Linda Knott of Knott Just Books, said they thought the program should be continued.

"She (Nemechek) needs to do a better job of communicating," Rasure said, "and she needs to know this is a two-way street."

Thomas said that Nemechek had said she would keep the boards better informed, and that she would report to them on a regular basis so all the board members know what is happening.

"We agreed to make some changes in the contract," Thomas said, "but we left the salary the same."

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he felt there should be an incentive plan with a lower base salary.

"I hope she understands our point," Rasure said. "I will go one more year, but she needs to know the ball is in her court."

Rasure made the motion to approve the program for another year and Thomas seconded. It passed unanimously.

The commissioners reviewed the county bills for the first half of the

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Giant arm unloads pipe



Residents of Goodland could see railroad cars loaded with pipes along the tracks Tuesday as the town saw the first load of pipe for the Cheyenne Plains Pipeline delivered here. Large cranes and tractors kicked up dust and rocks as crews from the Pe Ben Industries out of Houston unloaded 30-inch pipe. The El Paso Corp. pipeline will extend 379 miles from Wyoming to Greensburg, cutting a diagonal across Sherman County from south of Kanorado to the southern border.

Photos by Kathryn Gurfinkel/The Goodland-Star News

County clerk enjoys challenge of her office

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

After 21 years as the Sherman County clerk, Janet Rumpel is not ready to give it up. She has enjoyed the challenges of the position and has lived up the serious business of the courthouse with office hijinks.

Rumpel is uncontested for the Republican nomination in the Aug. 3 primary. There are no Democratic Party candidates for the post.

Rumpel said she worked in the office four years before being appointed as clerk. She started in 1979 in a "part-time" job, but she ended up working 40 hours a week.

Then when the deputy clerk quit, Rumpel filled that role, and when the clerk retired, Rumpel was per-

sued to fill that spot in April 1983. She said one of the commissioners at that time encouraged her to take the job, as did her husband.

He said he'd help with the housework, Rumpel said. That sounded like a good idea, but the housework ended up being neglected.

And the new job came with some trepidation.

"At first," Rumpel said, "I didn't know what I got myself into."

She said she was fortunate to be able to call former county clerks for advice and instruction, but she has had to continue to learn.

"There have been so many changes since I began," Rumpel said.

The election laws have changed the most, she said, adding she has had to go to training to keep up with



Rumpel

Open forum Tuesday;
registration closes Monday

The Sherman County Farm Bureau Association will sponsor a candidate forum at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Goodland High School auditorium.

Candidates for Sherman County sheriff and treasurer and state Senate have been invited to give the voters an opportunity to meet them, ask questions and hear what they have to say about some of the issues.

The primary election is Aug. 3. The polls will open at 7 a.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall at 824 Main Ave., and close at 7 p.m.

Crystal Wright of the Sherman County clerk's office said the deadline for registering to vote in the primary is 5 p.m. Monday. She said advanced voting begins Tuesday.

the changes and to retrain election board workers.

Among the changes this year, re-

quired by a new federal law, are a requirement that anyone who has not voted in Sherman County before

will have to show some form of identification, and the Democratic primary will be open to people of any party affiliation.

Primaries used to be closed, Rumpel said, and people had to be affiliated with a party to vote. That is still the case to vote Republican, she said, but because of law suits, the Democratic primary is now open.

Besides being the county's election official, Rumpel said, she has to wear many other hats as county clerk. She said her duties include being secretary to the county commissioners; drug and alcohol coordinator, keeping reports and doing random tests on employees; Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator; freedom of information officer; handling payroll for county employ-

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Register of deeds isn't interested in working anywhere else

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

After 10 years as the Sherman County register of deeds and 10 before that as the deputy register, Carol Armstrong isn't interested in working anywhere else.

Armstrong is running unopposed for the Republican nomination for the position in the Aug. 3 primary. There are no Democratic nominees to face her in the general election.

But she doesn't mind.

"I enjoy every minute," Armstrong said. "As long as I have to work, that's where I want to work."

It's very interesting work, she said, taking care of anything that pertains to real estate and keeping records of a great deal of Sherman County history. Armstrong said she does genealogy research, and her office keeps track of more than land transactions.

The office files oil and gas leases, she said, military discharges, mortgage releases and, since the county superintendent of schools office closed, it has old school records.

The land records started in 1886, Armstrong said, with patents for

homesteading, and go clear to today. Everyone who has ever been a landowner in Sherman County is in the records.

Although a lot of land has changed hands in the last 20 years, Armstrong said she has not seen a lot of other changes in her time in the office. It stays pretty much the same, she said; everything is timed and dated, and the books are kept as close to 1,000 pages as possible without dividing a transaction into two books.

She said she has seen two fee raises and one mortgage registration tax increase, but other than that, things have stayed the same.

But with technology always

changing, she said, the office will soon see another change. Armstrong said the records that are now on microfilm will all be on compact disk.

Armstrong said lately her office has been busy with oil and gas leases. Late last year and early this year, she said, there have been as many as six oil and gas companies in the vault doing research at a time. It got pretty crowded, she said, but they were all good people and it went smoothly.

Besides research, she said, the companies have generated a lot of leases. When the leases are hot and heavy, she said, the office may handle up to 136 at a time. Usually, she said, the office deals with one or

two transactions at a time.

This is the first big wave of oil and gas leases since 1988 or '89, she said; right now they're looking for natural gas.

It's interesting work; Armstrong said — it keeps you on your toes.

She said she enjoys talking to interesting people. Besides people from banks, attorneys and real estate people, she said she talks to a lot of people who call in for information. There's a lot of research, Armstrong said.

She credits her success in the job to her predecessor, Dorothea Graybill.

"I had a good teacher," Armstrong said.