

weather report

88°

noon Monday



Today

- Sunset, 8:10 p.m.
- **Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 5:37 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:09 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 76 degrees
- Humidity 00 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds south 12 mph
- Barometer 30.03 inches and falling
- Record High today 109° (1939)
- Record Low today 52° (1988)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	90°
Low Sunday	62°
Precipitation	none
This month	2.05
Year to date	10.90

The Topside Forecast

Today: mostly sunny and hot with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 3 p.m., high around 97, low near 67, winds south southwest 7-10 mph. Wednesday: partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon, high near 95, low around 64, winds south 8 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday - Saturday: partly cloudy with a chance of showers. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.18 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.32
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.33 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.21
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$1.92 bushel
Soybeans — \$6.94 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.94
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5.25 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$10.65 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
NuSun — \$10.90 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



Camps mean season close

Andrew Taylor showed his receiving skills in front of Coach Jon McLean during football camp last week. Head Coach Tony Diehl and Coach Greg Craig worked the young hopefuls. Photos on Page 12.

Brewster man enters guilty plea

By Kathryn Gurfinkel

The Goodland Star-News

A Brewster man pleaded guilty Monday to second-degree murder and kidnapping in the shotgun slaying of his wife last winter, and the state agreed in a plea bargain to a 19-year sentence.

Lanny Bevington, 33, entered the plea Monday in Sherman County District Court to one count of the second-degree murder and one of aggravated kidnapping, both level 1 person felonies, in the death of his wife Kerrie on Dec. 28.



Bevington

More than a dozen friends and family of the victim filled the first couple of rows in the courtroom to hear the plea, along with a version of the murder as told by Bevington. The supporters were all wearing buttons with pictures of Kerrie and ribbons that read "Voices Against Violence."

He described the night of Dec. 28, starting at a dance in Colby, when he and his wife left for home. He said he reloaded his shotgun on way when he saw a raccoon.

The couple argued on the drive and, he said, in the truck when they arrived home about 3 1/2 miles south of Brewster, just inside Sherman County.

He said the gun was next to him throughout the argument and he took it with him when he left the vehicle.

As he got out of the truck, he said, Kerrie told him that she didn't love him.

"She said she hated me," he said. Bevington said at that moment he "did what he did with the gun." District Judge Jack Burr asked if that led to the death of his wife, to which

Bevington answered "yes."

Kerrie Bevington, 27, was found dead of a shotgun wound to the head at 7 a.m. on Dec. 29 by her father, Tom Aschenbrenner, former Brewster fire chief. He found her sitting in the cab of a pickup outside the Bevington home. The time of death was estimated at between 3 and 4 a.m. The couple had been married less than six months.

Judge Burr accepted the plea after ensuring that Bevington was aware of the charges and what they contain. The maximum allowable sentencing is 12 to 54 years (147 to 653 months) in prison and a maxi-

mum fine of \$300,000 for each offense.

Under a plea agreement reached by the state and the defendant, the defense is asking for a 227-month sentence, nearly 19 years. Based on the defendant's history, said County Attorney Bonnie Selby, they want consecutive terms of 155 months for the first count of second degree murder and 72 months for the second charge of aggravated kidnapping, with "downward durational departure" from sentencing guidelines.

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Killer granted parole

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The one man in prison for murder from Sherman County is approved for parole once he has an approved release plan.

William Frank Schlicher, 53, is being held at the medium-security Norton Correctional Facility, but he could be released later this year.

The Kansas Parole Board held a sixth hearing with Schlicher in May, and agreed to allow his release once he has submitted a plan and it is approved.

Schlicher, a former technical school student, was convicted Sept. 22, 1980, of killing service station attendant Wallace Patton in November 1970. He has been in prison since Dec. 18, 1980, serving a life sentence.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said she had heard Schlicher was to be released, but had not had any confirmation from the parole board.

Colene Fischli, parole board administrator, said the board had approved Schlicher's parole after a hearing in May. She said the county attorney would be advised when Schlicher has an approved parole plan and when he is to be released.

Bill Miskell, Department of Corrections public information officer, confirmed Tuesday that Schlicher had been approved for parole, but that he has not submitted a plan for approval so far.

"He is still in Norton," Miskell said, "and he will be there until he has submitted and had a parole plan approved."

Selby said it is her understanding that if Schlicher does not submit a parole plan, that he will stay in prison, that the state cannot force him to take parole.

Patton was working at a gas station near the east I-70 exit in Goodland when he was robbed at gun-

See PAROLE, Page 10

Young artists make 'pop-up' cards



Brooke Lockhart (above) adjusted a glue stick to use to make a homemade card Tuesday as part of the Summer Art Institute at Carnegie Arts Center. Rachel Hageman (right) trimmed the edges of her card, while Chantel Coates and Paige Weishaar (top right) folded the paper to use for "pop-ups" inside their cards. Brittney Redlin helped Amy Anderson teach courses this summer.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News



Undersheriff believes he is ready for top job

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Part of being the No. 2 person in any organization is filling in for the boss when needed, and in some jobs, especially when dealing with public safety, the second banana must be capable and decisive.

This is the situation Kevin Butts has faced since January 2001 when he was appointed as undersheriff for Sherman County.

Butts has been with the sheriff's department since July 1994, starting as a part-time deputy, then going full-time in October 1995. Now he is one of four candidates for the Republican nomination for sheriff.

On May 2, 1997, Butts graduated from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Hutchinson.

In May 2002, he received the Gold Award for valor from the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police for his actions in October 2001 during a rampage by an Indiana man that started in Colorado and ended in Kansas. The Gold Award is the highest award given by the association to a living law enforcement officer.

Prior to becoming a deputy, Butts operated ECS Trash Removal, which covered northwest Kansas and eastern Colorado. He said he sold the business in January so he could give 100 percent to the sheriff's office.

"As an successful business owner and employer for over 15 years, I'm no stranger to business management and working with government agencies," Butts said. "I think I can plan

a better budget, create more jobs and enhance our employee' working conditions."

One of the problems that will get a lot of attention from the sheriff's office, Butts said, will be drugs in Sherman County, especially meth labs. Not only is the drug itself dangerous, but the waste products from its manufacture can be toxic.

"I feel strongly on educating the public on our drug problem," said Butts. "I plan to set up programs designed to educate people on what to look for. I believe that the educating the public is an on-going process, not just a one-time thing."

Butts said he would like to start a program for educating the county's senior citizens on scams and other deceptive activities that are sometimes targeted against them.

Butts wants to see a Neighborhood Watch program set up for the entire county, expanding on the one

already started for Goodland. He said many people believe such programs can only be set up inside the city limits but that is a misperception. Butts also wants to establish an Explorer Scout program through which students can "shadow" law enforcement officers and see what goes on during an officer's day.

"This is a great way for our youth to appreciate what law enforcement officers do," Butts said, "and open the lines of communication between them."

Butts said his choice for undersheriff, if he is elected, is Deputy Roger Studer. Butts said he has worked with Studer for 10 years. He said Studer has experience in all aspects of the department. He served as a Sherman County deputy off-and-on since August 1989 and continuously since October 1994.

"I plan to assemble a part-time

deputy unit," said Butts. "These officers will be trained through the Kansas Law Enforcement Center and will be fully capable of performing the same duties as full-time officers."

He said these deputies will help out when extra manpower is needed and will allow the sheriff's office to patrol outlying areas of the county, such as Kanorado and Edson, more frequently.

Butts was born and raised in Goodland, graduating from the high school here in 1984. He married his wife Cynthia in January 1990. They have two children: Shawnie, 14, a softball and volleyball enthusiast who will be a high school freshman next month, and Brock, 5, who will enter the first grade.

"I want everyone to realize that my door is always open," Butts said, "and I want them to feel free about calling me."