

weather report

80°

noon Thursday

Today
• Sunset, 8:08 p.m.
Saturday
• Sunrise, 5:40 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:07 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil temperature 79 degrees
• Humidity 55 percent
• Sky partly cloudy
• Winds northeast 10 mph
• Barometer 30.10 inches and steady

• Record High today 110° (1936)
• Record Low today 51° (1951)

Last 24 Hours*
High Wednesday 92°
Low Wednesday 69°
Precipitation none
This month 2.06
Year to date 10.91

The Topside Forecast
Today: mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers after noon, high near 68, low near 53, winds east northeast 15-29 mph.
Saturday: mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers, high near 74, low around 55, winds southeast 6-14 mph.

Extended Forecast
Sunday: partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers, high around 76, low around 55. Monday: partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers, high around 79, low near 57.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon
Wheat — \$3.12 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.22
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.25 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.08
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$1.76 bushel
Soybeans — \$6.41 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.79
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5.25 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

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Painting curbs a summer job

Jessica Osborn painted curbs on Main Avenue yellow Wednesday as one of her assigned jobs while working for the city/county recreation department this summer. Story, photos on Page 9.

Senate candidates spar at forum

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The two Republican candidates for the 40th District state Senate seat spared over state money for education and other issues at a Farm Bureau Candidate Forum held Tuesday at the Goodland High School auditorium.

About 60 people attended the event, which featured the candidates for Sherman County treasurer and sheriff before the two Senate candidates took the stage.

Master of Ceremonies Dale

Schiels said Democratic Senate candidate Tim Peterson had to cancel at the last minute.

Dan Rasure of Goodland opened the Senate portion by saying that his youth — he is 22, and his only jobs since college have been congressional internships — is an advantage. He said the main issue facing northwest Kansas is the dwindling population, which affects everything from the declining enrollment in the schools to cuts in city and county services.

"We have talked a lot about eco-

nomc development," Rasure said. "We have spent a lot of money, but we haven't seen much happen.

"We need to have a change, and need to increase our population. The state has pushed up the property taxes, and that makes our state less business friendly.

"Forbes magazine reported that Kansas is one of the top business friendly states, but I haven't heard any businessman in this district say that he agrees."

Rasure said schools are struggling and he feels frustrated by the stale-

mate over the last four years.

"I feel the lack of progress is forcing the local taxpayers to pay more through the local option budgets," Rasure said.

Ralph Ostmeier, R-Grinnell, said he is a farmer and his son is the fourth generation of his family to farm the same land. He has seven children.

In the years he has been in the Legislature — two terms in the House since 2000 — Ostmeier said he has been on the education committee, the budget committee his

first term, the ag committee, and is now vice chairman of the local affairs committee.

Before running for the Legislature, Ostmeier was a Gove County commissioner and was on the Grinnell School Board for 14 years.

"I think we did some positive things this last year," Ostmeier said. "I thought it was good to have passed the 'concealed carry' bill, allowing people to carry firearms with a permit and training, out of

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County sheriff candidates answer questions

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

All five candidates for Sherman County sheriff were on hand Tuesday night to introduce themselves to the voters at a candidate forum sponsored by the Farm Bureau.

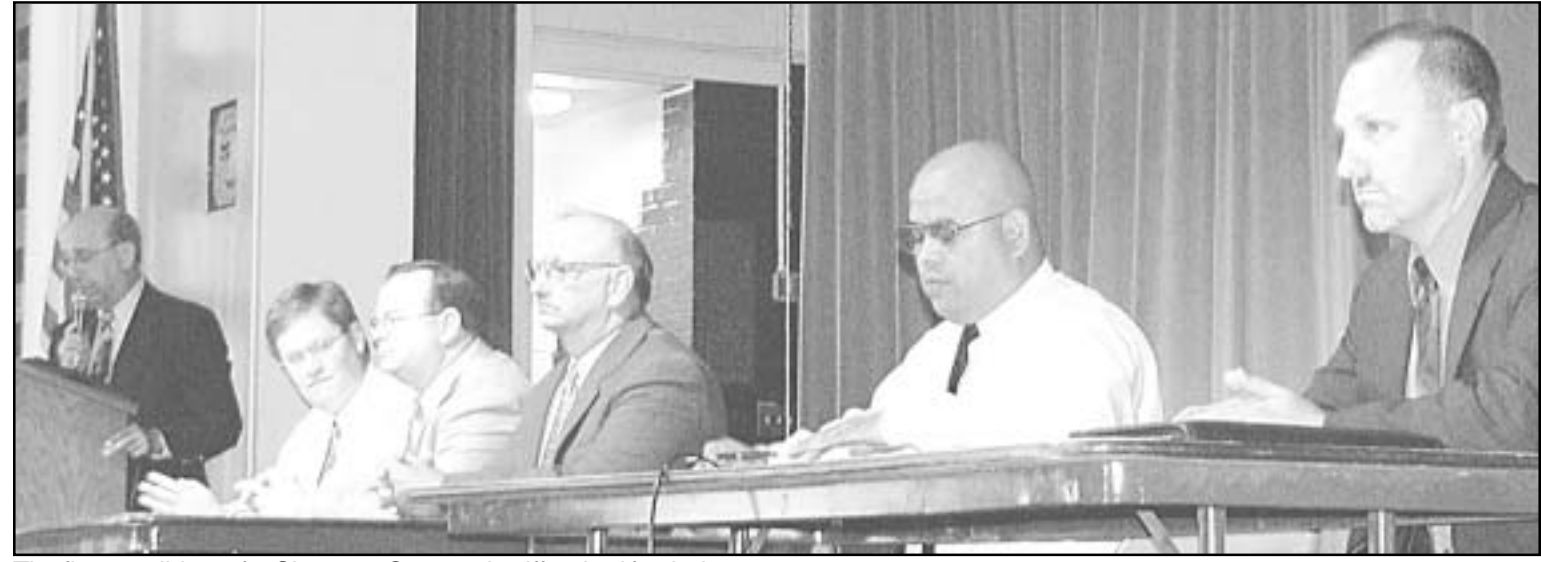
About 60 people attended the forum held at the high school auditorium.

The first to speak was Undersheriff Kevin Butts, one of four Republicans, who said he intends to take a businesslike approach to running the office and provide structure with leadership.

Butts said there are good people working on the force, but he would like to see the number of hours of formal training they get each year increase from 40 to 80 and perhaps 100, including the detention deputies. He said he would like add some more part-time deputies to be better prepared for emergencies.

Republican Arthur "Dee" Albers, a former undersheriff, emphasized a need to increase the patrols throughout the county, especially in the remote areas, so that the people living there and the deputies can get to know each other.

Albers said the department needs to work more closely with the Quad-County Drug Task Force and the



The five candidates for Sherman County sheriff waited for their turn to speak Tuesday night as master of ceremonies Dale Schields (far left) explained the forum's format to the about 60 people who at-

tended. Seated from left to right were Greg Kroskey, Dee Albers, John McCool, Art Lovington and Kevin Butts.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Kansas Bureau of Investigation to close down the methamphetamine labs in northwest Kansas and prosecute those who operate them.

Art Lovington, also running as a Republican, is a former sheriff's deputy and has experience as a corrections officer. He said "work" is the word he uses to describe the attitude he intends to bring to the sheriff office and instill into its force.

Lovington said he wants to give the people of the county what they expect from the sheriff's office, to provide for their safety. He said all members of the force need to keep up formal training and education. Lovington said he will use the latest technology available to make the force as capable as possible.

John McCool, the only Democratic candidate, said he first started

in law enforcement in 1978 in Oklahoma, and his experience includes time as a corrections officer.

McCool said he will not be an "8-to-4" sheriff, but will get out and look, work the road and meet the people to find out where the problems are.

Greg Kroskey, a corporal with the Goodland police, has 24 years of law enforcement experience, military and civilian, which includes three

years as a Sherman County deputy.

Kroskey said one of his top priorities is to increase community involvement with the sheriff's office so people can help each other look after the welfare of Sherman County. One way he plans to do this is to educate the public on what to look for and what law enforcement needs to do to help make it easier for them to take action.

Treasurer candidates outline experience, plans

By Kathryn Gurfinkel

The Goodland-Star News

The candidates for Sherman County treasurer, Iris Scheopner and Crystal Wright, took their debate to the public Tuesday night at the Farm Bureau forum.

The forum was held at the high school auditorium and about 60 people attended.

Wright spoke first, outlining her history starting with her move to Goodland in 1991. She said she started working for the county in the



Wright



Scheopner

appraiser's office in 1995 and then moved to the clerk's office in 1998.

In her work with the county, she

said she learned why tax values are set and how the taxes are calculated. Wright said she currently works in payroll and as the computer manager for the county.

"It's a very joyous job, but I think I need more of a challenge," she said.

She said her plans for the office are to keep it running basically the same with a few technical updates.

She said she likes working in accounting and bookkeeping and with people.

"I just think I would do a very

good job for the people of Sherman County," she said.

Scheopner started out with the personal history of her family. She said she moved to Goodland when she was 2 and graduated from high school here in 1976.

She has been in the treasurer's office for four years, she said, and she understands how it works.

"I know quite a bit about what goes on at the treasurer's office," Scheopner said.

She said most of the changes for

the treasurer come down through the state and they are implemented in the office. She said she doesn't plan to make any big changes herself.

Although she doesn't have extensive experience with investments, she said she knows they need to be insured.

"I would just like to continue working in the office," she said. "I like the job, I like working with the people there and I'd like to continue."

Neither of the candidates was asked questions from the audience.

Loan payment approved for Aircraft Seal and Gasket

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The president of Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp. assured the Goodland City Commission at a special meeting at 8 a.m. on Thursday morning that the plant is moving forward and he expects production to begin soon.

The commission then approved, on a 4-0 vote, a \$35,000 economic development loan payment request which had been tabled at Monday's meeting.

Herb Menold, president of Air-

craft Seal and Gasket, was at the special meeting to answer questions about the progress of the Goodland plant.

Commissioner John Garcia asked Menold if he has a date when production will start in the Goodland plant.

"I think we will be making parts by the third week of August," Menold said. "We are waiting for two pieces of equipment to be finished."

"When will they get here?" Garcia asked.

"We are waiting on some air cylinders," Menold said, "and they have to be paid for."

"Do you think the revenues are there for these?" Garcia asked.

"Yes I do," Menold said.

"When we began last fall, there was a lot of pressure to get it started," Commissioner Dean Blume said. "It seems to have slowed down, and people ask if it going to happen. Some ask if they are still here."

"I realize things don't always fall into place, but we need to know what

is happening."

"When I came here, I laid out in general discussion what resources it would take," Menold said. "That up-front investment did not happen, so we had to slow down, but we are close and should be raising additional funds in the next two weeks."

"I am concerned that we spend \$500,000 of public money to remodel the building," Blume said, "and people are asking what is happening."

"I am not disappointed," Menold

said. "Other than not raising the money up front, we are moving forward."

"There have been many things going on behind the scenes, such as the recent approval by the Federal Aviation Administration and a large contract with Boeing."

"It is still going to happen here?" Commissioner Dave Daniels asked.

"Yes, it is going to work," Menold said. "We have had to slow down to

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Merchants receive sidewalk permit for weekend sale

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Merchants in the 1100 block of Main asked the City Commission Monday for a sidewalk display permit so they can hold a sidewalk sale from Thursday through Saturday.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Courtney Warden and Chamber President Donna Swager were at the meeting to discuss another matter, but told the commission that the request was being submitted by Wayne Aten for all the merchants in the 1100 block.

The commission approved the request unanimously.

Warden and Swager asked the

commission to consider accepting water volleyball equipment at the pool in lieu of the \$150 rent for the pool for the Freedom Fest. Warden said the equipment cost about the same amount, and that the pool might be able to promote a water volleyball or basketball night to bring in more adults.

The commission asked if Warden had talked to Jason Hickson, head of the city/county recreation department, about this idea.

Swager said they had not talked to him, but had talked to the pool manager, who thought it was a good idea.

Commissioner John Garcia said it sounded like a good idea to him, and

that it might be a way to bring in some revenue.

Commissioner Chuck Lutters said it sounded like a good idea, but he felt they should talk to the recreation commission.

Swager said the Chamber would be willing to help promote a game night if the city decided it was a good idea.

"I think it is a good idea," said Commissioner Dave Daniels. "It might bring some people there who haven't been there before."

Swager said the Chamber is moving forward on the planning for the Flatlander Fall Festival in September, and wanted to know who they

should meet with in the city and police to be sure they are all on the same page.

The suggestion was that she meet with the city manager.

In other business, the commission:

- Approved a payment to Strukel Electric of Girard, of \$76,642, for the first part of the airport runway lighting project. The project is a combination of a federal grant for replacement of the main runway lights, and a state Department of Transportation grant for lights on the crosswind runway.
- Approved a request for reimbursement to the city of \$52,499

from the Federal Aviation Administration on the runway lighting project, and \$14,363 from the state.

- Approved an ordinance repealing two sections of the city code that are in conflict with a charter ordinance on the sale of alcoholic liquor and cereal malt beverages. Pickman said this was a clerical error, and that City Attorney Perry Warren recommended these sections be repealed because they are not the sections the city goes by. Pickman said the city passed a charter ordinance years ago dealing with the sale of alcohol, and this is more of a clean up because the

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