

weather report

57°

noon Thursday

Today
• Sunset, 5:58 p.m.
Saturday
• Sunrise, 7:05 a.m.
• Sunset, 5:57 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil temperature 52 degrees
• Humidity 66 percent
• Sky partly cloudy
• Winds southwest 8 mph.
• Barometer 29.78 inches and falling
• Record High today 90° (2003)
• Record Low today 19° (1936)

Last 24 Hours*
High Wednesday 56°
Low Wednesday 47°
Precipitation trace
This month 2.08
Year to date 19.26
Normal 18.16

The Topside Forecast
Today: cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon, high around 69, low near 35, winds south southwest changing to north northwest 15-33 mph. Saturday: mostly sunny, high around 65, low around 36, winds south southwest 6-13.

Extended Forecast
Sunday - Wednesday: mostly sunny, highs 64-70, lows 36-38. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
*Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon
Wheat — \$2.95 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.07
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$1.96 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.73
Loan deficiency pmt. — 22¢
Milo — \$1.59 bushel
Soybeans — \$4.63 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.63
Loan deficiency pmt. — 5¢
Millet — \$4.75 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$11 cwt.
NuSun — \$11.10 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Confection — \$19/\$13 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$25
(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



Cowboys face Panthers

Seniors Derrick Raymer and Lane Winter practice offensive backfield drills Wednesday at the Cowboys' afternoon practice. The Cowboys face the Concordia Panthers at 6 p.m. tonight in Cowboy Stadium. Story, photos on Page 9.

Lease decision delayed six weeks

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland commissioners are worried about the lack of progress by Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp., but the majority at Monday's meeting felt it was a bit premature to terminate the firm's lease of the Ed Wolak building.

After a long discussion, commissioners voted to give the firm until December to get the plant into production. The company had promised to put some people to work last spring, and its lease calls for having at least 15 employees.

The city has invested over \$500,000 in re-

modeling the old IGA building on 10th, which it bought from Bankwest for \$80,000. The California firm has shipped thousands of dollars worth of equipment to the plant, but says lack of local investment has kept it from starting production.

City Manager Ron Pickman brought the issue to the commission because he felt the company was in violation of the lease they agreed to last Nov. 15.

"I believe they are in violation because they do not have the 15 full-time employees as stated in the lease," Pickman said. "and because we received notice the insurance on the building had been canceled, which is a viola-

tion of the lease."

When asked why the insurance was canceled, Pickman said the notice said it was because the firm hadn't paid the premium.

He told the commission the city had contacted their insurance carrier and the building is being insured by the city until the end of the year.

"Our insurance people said they would insure the building until the end of the year," Pickman said, "but that unless there was some activity taking place, they would consider the building to be vacant. The insurance man said the company would not insure a vacant building."

Pickman said the insurance man said they would not insure the building as a storage facility. He said he had heard from a consultant for the gasket firm that training for production would begin next week.

"I had a call from Roy Dixon today," Pickman said. "He said Aircraft Seal and Gasket would begin training on Oct. 27 and that the people would be trained by people from California."

"He said they would work three days the first week, and that over the next six weeks, the schedule would be expanded to four days."

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Raising money for teen

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

A Sharon Springs couple's grandson faces a fight for his life. He needs \$200,000 for a multiple-organ transplant in order to live and have a chance to go to school.

Because of a rare disease, the Hays teen has never led a "normal" life, and now after emergency surgery to save his life, his fight has just begun.

Jarett Basgall, 19, grandson of Hubert and Vonna Basgall of Sharon Springs and Jack and Maxine Odom of Denison, Texas, formerly of Goodland, had been diagnosed with a pseudo-obstruction of the intestines.

He is the son of Steve and Sharon (Odom) Basgall of Hays, formerly of Sharon Springs and Goodland — Steve is a 1973 graduate of Wallace County Community High School, and Sharon is a 1977 graduate of Goodland High.

His grandmother says Jarett has endured a lot of pain, has missed



BASGALL

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Fire destroys combine



Chief Kenny Griffith put his gear on immediately after arriving at the scene of a combine fire Monday afternoon at 2298 Road 65 as other firefighters, who arrived a few minutes earlier, were already at work. Although the Sherman County Rural Fire Depart-

ment responded, the machine, owned by Briney Framms, was a total loss. It was cutting sunflowers when the fire started, but the operator managed to get it back to the barn area.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Sheriff candidate wants people to have confidence

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Democrat John McCool says he intends to be a sheriff for the people of Sherman County.

"I want people to feel free that they can talk with me or any of my deputies at any time," said McCool. "I want them have confidence that they will get a response to any problem or concern they bring to the attention of the sheriff's office."

McCool said his respect for the people he serves and their needs should earn their respect for him and the office. He said he will not be an "8-to-4" sheriff and will always consider himself on-call whenever he is out of uniform.

He said he would focus his efforts on county roads.

"I feel that all the roads in Sherman County should be patrolled, because that is the sheriff office's primary job," McCool said. "This will do more to cut down criminal activity, which is something that cannot be done running up and down the Interstate."

"I feel the only reason deputies need to be on the Interstate is to assist other agencies when needed."

When on patrol, our county roads should be the main concern."

When asked about what changes he intends to make in the office, McCool said he would try to have a better working relationship with

other law enforcement agencies and improve the department's relationship with the people of the county.

McCool said, as sheriff, his office will do a better job following up on investigations. He also wants to increase the level of professionalism in the office, part of which will involve stricter appearance standards of both the deputies and staff.

McCool said he will insist that all policies and procedures be followed and that all the people of Sherman County be treated equally and with respect.

Some of the things he says he wants to accomplish once in office are:

- More education programs for the officers and staff, and for the public as well.
- Establish a search dog team, pro-

vided it can be worked into the budget.

• Initiate a junior officer "rider" program, where young people can ride along with officers and see what a day in law enforcement is like.

• Re-establish a reserve program where trained and ready backup officers are available whenever the need arises.

• Set up a confidential counseling program for parents and their children who need help.

McCool's career in law enforcement began in February 1976 as a communications officer with the Haskell Police Department in Oklahoma. That September, he graduated from the Oklahoma Police Academy in Muskogee.

After two years on the force in Haskell, McCool became a patrol-

men for the Coweta Police Department, also in Oklahoma.

In 1978, McCool became a deputy sheriff for Wagner County for about 18 months. He said budget cutbacks eliminated his job there, and he then returned to the Coweta Police Department until moving to Goodland in 1990.

In his first year in Goodland, McCool worked at Huskey's Truck Stop for a few months, then as a driver for J.B. Hunt Trucking. In 1993, he became a detention officer and patrolmen for the Sherman County Sheriff's Office under Jack Armstrong, serving about two years.

McCool spent the next couple of years as an independent truck driver.

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Undersheriff believes he is capable, decisive candidate

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Part of being the No. 2 guy in any organization is filling in for the boss, and especially in public safety, the second banana has to be capable and decisive.

Kevin Butts has been No. 2 in the Sherman County Sheriff's Department since January 2000, when he was named undersheriff. Now he is the Republican candidate for sheriff after defeating three others in the August primary elections.

"My philosophy on patrolling is simple," Butts said, "I am not only employed by the sheriff's department, but a taxpayer as well. I expect

the department to be readily accessible and seen throughout the county, whether on a country road, city street or I-70. I believe there is no better deterrent to crime than being highly visible.

"From time to time I get comments about deputies on I-70. It is our practice that when the Highway Patrol is out on I-70, we leave the patrolling to them. However, when they are not patrolling in our county we will be dispatched to cover whatever situation may arise."

Butts has been with the department since July 1994, starting as a part-time deputy, then going full time in October 1995. He graduated

from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Hutchinson on May 2, 1997.

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 student that started in Colorado and ended in Kansas. The award is the highest award given by the association to a living law enforcement officer.

Before 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.

When asked what changes he intends to make, Butts said he first pri-

ority will be to make the department more aggressive in pursuing those who make and distribute illegal drugs. He said he will work vigorously with the Goodland Police Department, the Quad County Task Force and other agencies to stop the drug traffic in Sherman County.

"As a parent and lifelong resident, it turns my stomach when I see the amount of drugs being distributed here," Said Butts. "So, if you are making or distributing drugs in my county, be warned. I'll be coming for you."

Butts said the sheriff's office has a great staff, but he wants to see the detention officers receive the same amount of formal jail training as the road deputies, who now get 40 hours per year. He intends to have all de-

tention officers certified through the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center, which he said will enable them to better handle any situation that arises.

Butts said the jail building has been neglected for years and, as undersheriff, he is working with the county clerk and commissioners to set aside money, through a bond issue, for repairs.

"I'm working on a program that will require inmates to pay for their own medical expenses while incarcerated," he added.

The undersheriff said medical needs won't be neglected, and if they can't pay, the county will cover the expense. However, he believes

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