

**weather  
report****94°**

noon

Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 8:12 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:12 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil temperature 73 degrees
- Humidity 18 percent
- Sky Mostly sunny
- Winds southwest at 22 mph
- Barometer 26.24 inches and rising

• Record High today 99° (1935)

• Record Low today 39° (1955)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High Wednesday	95°
Low Thursday	67°
Precipitation	—
This month	.12
Year to date	7.22
Below normal	.59 of an inch

**The Topside Forecast**

Today: 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorm after 3 p.m. Partly cloudy, high near 95 and a low near 59.

**Extended Forecast**

Saturday: 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 3 p.m. Partly cloudy, high near 90 low near 58. Sunday: 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 3 p.m. Partly cloudy, high near 92 and low near 61. Monday: Partly cloudy, high near 92, low near 61.

(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local  
markets****Noon**

- Wheat — \$4.49 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.44
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$2.19 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.12
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$1.96 bushel
- Soybeans — \$5.03 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.16
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$8.60 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — \$9.60
- Confection — Call
- Pinto beans — \$15.50 (new crop)

(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

**Legion loses  
to Wray, 8-6**

Wyatt Dautel got a hit that stretched to three bases as he slid head first into third on a Wray throwing error Wednesday at Memorial Field. Goodland lost the game to Wray 8-6. See photos on Page 7a.

## City donates money for fireworks

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

More than 60 percent of the money for the July 4 fireworks show has been raised, with the city approving a \$1,500 donation on a 3-1 vote Monday.

The city's grant matches one given by Sherman County, and combined the donations so far are at \$4,500 of the goal of \$7,000.

City Commissioners Dave Daniels, Josh Dechant and Annette Fairbanks voted in favor of making the donation, with Mayor Rick Billinger against. John Garcia was absent.

Daniels said he was at a meeting on May 25 with a group of citizens who want to see the fireworks tradition continue.

"If they had not decided to go forward," he said, "it might not be going to happen."

He said the group is asking the city to give as much as possible, and that other organizations are being asked to help out.

Daniels said Sherman County Community Services, which operates the homeowned carnival, may be willing to take over the Freedom Fest beginning next year.

The money will go into a separate account through the Sherman County Community Foundation to

## Center wants money

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

The Carnegie Arts Center board Monday asked the City Commission for \$2,500 from next year, and city commissioners said they would consider the request in the budget process.

Tina Goodwin, Arts Center director, told the commission the request is \$500 more than the center received this year. She said the center had about 2,000 visitors last year, hosted a traveling exhibit and shows by artists from the surrounding area and Colorado.

She said the center has over 100 children enrolled in the summer arts classes, and sponsored an outdoor movie night last year and again this summer. She said the city-owned building is used by organizations for

meetings, and there have been receptions for other civic groups.

Goodwin said it's important that the center does not depend on one source for money, especially since they are seeing a cut in grant funds. She said memberships are a vital part of the group's budget, but that everyone is welcome to attend events.

Mayor Rick Billinger said he thought the center and its people do a great job. City Manager Wayne Hill said it was a beautiful place, and great for the city to be involved.

In other business, the commission:

- Approved a two-year telephone franchise for AT&T. Hill explained that the new franchise

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ensure the money was used to pay for fireworks, Daniels said.

Kin Huang, foundation president, said the board unanimously supported creation of a special Freedom Fest Fireworks Fund. She said the foundation was pleased to be able to manage the fund, and hopes it will become a year-around effort to make sure there is money each year to keep the Independence Day tradition going.

Huang said the foundation is tax exempt, and that contributions made to the special fireworks fund should be tax deductible.

Daniels said if the money goes through the foundation, no one can spend it for anything else. The foundation will pay the vendor.

Billinger asked who else given money to the foundation. He was concerned that some of that money might be used to pay for fireworks.

Daniels said that was not true, that all the foundation programs have separate accounts.

"Is the city going to give some money to the fireworks?" Huang asked.

"That is what this commission is about to do," Daniels said.

"I would sooner see us give it to the carnival," the mayor said. "With fireworks, we have nothing to show for it."

## Private drive posted

Stop signs have been taken down on the north and south of the old Gibson's property, Police Chief Ray Smee said Wednesday, and new signs saying the parking lot is not a through street have been installed.

The old Gibson's property houses the Herl Chevrolet-Buick showroom and car lot. It has been an open thoroughfare going back to when TG&Y built the building.

However, Chief Smee said the landowner, Chuck Wilkens, has been complaining about people parking on the lot and people driving through at high speeds to avoid the stop light at U.S. 24 and K-27.

Smee said the lot is private property and there is no city street across it. He said with the new private property signs posted, the city stop signs have been taken down.

"This is not a city street," Smee said. "We will be patrolling the area, and for about a month we will issue warnings to those caught driving through the property."

Smee said driving through the lot is not a problem for people who are doing business with Herl or have business with Wilkens, but it would be considered criminal trespass for



New signs have been installed at the old Gibson's parking lot to keep people from driving across private land. The parking lot is not a city street, and Police Chief Ray Smee said Wednesday the stop signs have been taken down. People driving across the private property can be ticketed for trespassing if they have no business there, the chief said. Photo by Anne Selfridge/ Goodland Star-News

people who are trying to take a shortcut.

The chief said the police department made 44 stops during a recent "Click It or Ticket" campaign. He said officers wrote 10 tickets for seat belts, two child restraints tickets, 26 speeding tickets and six other tickets.

"The important thing is not how many stops we made or how many tickets we wrote," the chief said, "but whether the drivers we stopped

learned from their experience. If so, we have made the roads a little safer.

"We will continue to do all we can to see that the roads in Goodland are as safe as we can make them. The campaign may be over, but our enforcement never is."

Smee said overtime for the campaign was paid through a grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Smee said the grant could provide some new equipment for the depart-

ment, and the program will be in high gear over the Labor Day holiday in September.

There were rumors that Goodland officers had been told to make a stop at least once an hour, but Smee said the grant requirement is that over the campaign, the department is supposed to average a stop an hour.

"If I stop someone for speeding, and find they aren't wearing a seat belt, I have two in that one stop," Smee added.

Dechant said Freedom Fest was more than the fireworks. He said there is meaning behind it, and that people gather on Independence Day to celebrate.

"The citizens group doesn't want to see this go down," Daniels said. "We figured there would be more complaints if it does not happen."

"I don't want to see Goodland shrug this off and let it die."

"We were told last year it would be self-sufficient. That didn't happen, but I think this group is on the right track."

Dechant said he had been talking to people, and none could remember when the city did not have fireworks on the Fourth of July.

"We had \$500 in the budget," Billinger said.

"I think we need to support it," Fairbanks said. "...My kids remember it and I love it myself."

"I told the group I would bring it to the commission," Daniels said. "The hope is to make it similar to Flatlanders... and be self-sufficient next year."

Dechant asked City Clerk Mary Volk if there was more than the \$500 available.

Volk said there was.

Dechant made a motion to match the county's \$1,500. Fairbanks seconded and the vote was 3-1.

## Filing deadline Monday

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

Monday noon is the deadline for Republican and Democratic candidates to file for the primary election, but the question of who will run for Sherman County commissioner has not been answered.

No one has filed for the commission seat from District 1, Deputy County Clerk Mary Ann Snethen said Wednesday afternoon.

She said Chuck Thomas, an Edson farmer who holds the seat now, has picked up papers, but has not filed them yet.

Commissioner District 1, represents all of Goodland Ward 3, Ward 4 south of Sixth Street and Iowa, Itasca, Union and Washington townships.

Thomas said he is running, and expects to file the papers by Monday. The commissioner is finishing his first four-year term.

There have been rumors about another candidate. Thomas came under fire for comments about "hysterical women" during the tense moments of the commission meetings to choose an engineering firm to design the county part of the joint

**See ELECTION, Page 6a**

## Offices to be all under one roof, share equipment

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

Next month, the economic development office, visitor's bureau and Chamber will be reunited under one roof in the Centennial Building downtown.

The Sherman County Economic Development Council agreed at a special meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday at Western State Bank to move the office to the old hotel at 925 Main.

The visitor's bureau moved to the back office in the Centennial building when the building at 1206 Main was sold in October to Goodland Energy Resources.

Shelly Thompson from Bankwest, council chair, said they had two offers from owner Larry Minner. The first offer was for two offices on the main floor and the reception area at \$450 per month. The second offer was for all five rooms and reception area at \$650 per month. Both include utilities.

Thompson said Minner told her he would lease the offices for \$200 a month for the first couple of months if Pete Whalen would not release the development office's existing lease, which runs through September.

Tiffani McMinn, economic development director, said Whalen told her he would let the economic development office out of the lease with a 30-day written notice.

Harlan House, council member and farmer and rancher, made a motion to move the development office in July and to take the larger space at \$650 per month.

Gary Slough, a member from S&T Telephone, said the council should get some input before approving the motion. He asked Debbie Reed, Chamber secretary, if the Chamber board has discussed a move

Reed said there was a board meeting Tuesday morning and the Chamber does not have a problem with moving. The Chamber moved in

with the development group in October to save money after closing its own office and laying off its director.

"We can work out the rent to either the Convention and Visitor's Bureau or the Development Council," Reed said. "We are paying \$100 a month."

"As of Aug. 1 we would take over paying for our own phone. We would like to continue to share the copier and fax."

Kay Younger, economic development project coordinator, said right now the average rent and utilities at 1208 Main is \$513 per month and the Chamber phone is \$67 per month.

West said it appears the council would be a little bit ahead and have more space with moving the office.

Thompson said there would be a workroom, reception area, two offices and a conference room shared with the visitor's bureau. McMinn said there is a second conference

room available upstairs.

Price said the visitor's bureau has the office up front and is using one in back for storage. She said if the council or Chamber needs that office, they can use another room for storage.

West asked McMinn if she had looked at the space.

"I think it would be good for the people to come to one place for all three organizations," McMinn said.

Thompson said the lease could be for one, two or three years. She said Minner said he would prefer it at least two years, and that the rent price would be good for two years.

Bill Stoic, visitor's bureau board member and owner of Super 8 Motel, asked if Minner had been asked about improving the appearance of the building. He said it would be good to have better sidewalks and wondered how the signs for the council and Chamber would be handled.

Price said Minner told her he was

going to have a section of the sidewalk replaced while the intersection out front is being rebuilt.

Don Newell, council vice-chairman from S&T Telephone, said the move should spur cooperation among the three development agencies.

"If we are going to make it work," Newell said, "this is where the three can share the signage and the equipment. We need to focus on working together for the betterment of the community."

West seconded House's motion, saying it would be for up to two years. West suggested leaving it up to Thompson and McMinn to work out the details.

"The way I see it we are all ahead," West said, "with the Chamber subleasing from the council."

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. The development council will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20, at the bank.