

**weather
report****84°****noon
Thursday****Today**

- Sunset, 7:57 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 5:50 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:56 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil temperature 85 degrees
- Humidity 29 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds southeast at 11 mph
- Barometer 30.20 inches and falling
- Record High today 104° (1934)
- Record Low today 47° (1974)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	90°
Low Thursday	66°
Precipitation	—
This month	—
Year to date	12.80
Below normal	1.28 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, high 91, low around 66. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Partly cloudy, high near 95. A 20 percent chance of rain and thunderstorms after noon. Sunday through Wednesday: Partly cloudy, highs in the low 90s, lows in the mid 60s.

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

**local
markets****Noon**

Wheat — \$4.40 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.36
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.25 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.09
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$1.90 bushel
Soybeans — \$4.92 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.98
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$9.35 cwt.
NuSun crop — \$10.35
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

**High score
wins money**

Ryan Stevenson of Selden came out of the chute on the bull Gizmo on Wednesday at the Thunder on the Plains, but did not make it to the eight-second whistle and finished with a zero score. See story, photos on Page 12.

Canvass will confirm winner

By Pat Schiefen*The Goodland Star-News*

The primary election on Tuesday left the Republican side of the county commission race almost too close to call, but incumbent Commissioner Chuck Thomas had a 14-vote lead.

Thomas had 133 votes in the final preliminary count and challenger Darin Neufeld with 119 votes. Two other candidates had 118 votes together.

Thomas seemed pleased with his margin.

"I want to thank everyone for their support in a close race," he said. "I'm happy I won."

Sherman County Clerk Janet Rumpel said there probably are not enough provisional ballots to

**Thomas****Neufeld**

change the results. Those will be counted on Friday when the county commissioners canvass the vote.

Rumpel said there are 18 provisional ballots, 11 from advance voting, one in Ward 1, four in Ward 2 and two in Ward 4. Provisional ballots are cast by people whose names do not appear in the poll book because they have never registered in

the county, moved or changed their name due to marriage. Rumpel said the canvass usually accepts votes from people who have moved in the county or changed their name.

After the provisional ballots are counted on Friday, she said, a recount could be requested by one of the candidates. The person who asks for the recount has to put up a bond to pay the cost. If the recount changes the outcome, the county pays. If not, the person who requested the recount does.

The unofficial return for 1st District county commissioner was Larry Enfield 84 votes, Curtis Hurd 34, Neufeld 119 and Thomas 133.

Neufeld got into the race after a controversy in May over the design contract for county roads financed

by an increase in sales tax. His firm, which has an office here, was shut out of the work by a 2-1 vote in the commission, but eventually got part of the contract.

Thomas will face Conrad Pettijohn, running as an independent, in the general election in November. There is no Democratic candidate.

Rumpel said there were 974 votes cast with 166 of those in advance. Only 24 percent of the 4,050 registered voters turned Tuesday. Four years ago, 51 percent or 2,073 people voted.

"The turnout could have been better," said Rumpel. "There should have been a lot more people voting."

In the contested Republican race for District 5 on the state Board of Education, challenger Sally Cauble

had 54 percent with 13,673 votes and Connie Morris from St. Francis, a controversial conservative who backed antievolution science standards, had 46 percent with 11,658 votes. In Sherman County, Cauble got 52 percent with 415 votes to Morris' 48 percent and 380.

In Thomas County, though, Cauble had 48 percent and Morris 52 percent; in Morris's home county, Cheyenne, Cauble had 53 percent and Morris 47 percent; in Wallace, Cauble had 44 percent and Morris 56 percent; and in Decatur Cauble had 45 percent and Morris 55.

Roy Dixon, formerly of Brewster and Goodland, ran for the Republi-

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More fair fun tonight

Peri Sieck, 5, daughter of Mike and Teresa Sieck, had a 6-foot, 3-inch pull in the pedal tractor pull during Family Fun Night on Monday. Children competed for prizes by age division in the tractor pull, had turtle races and raced on stick horses. Regina Barnes (right) caught one at a catch-and-release catfish pond, one of the new features along the midway, said Greg Williams of Just Ponds and More. Tonight is the last night for the carnival rides and games. Fair events begin at 4:30 p.m. with the 4-H appreciation barbecue, followed at 5:30 p.m. by the 4-H livestock sale and at 7 p.m. by the Kiwanis demolition derby. Saturday is the last day of the fair, with the Tri-State Royal at 1 p.m.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran and Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



County delays road contract

By Tom Betz*The Goodland Star-News*

Sherman County commissioners got their first look Friday at the contracts from Penco Engineering of Plainville for engineering on Eighth Street west of K-27 and a one-mile stretch of County Road 16.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede had the contracts and handed copies to Commissioners Kevin Rasure and Chuck Thomas, but Rasure had a lot of questions about the agreements.

Rasure asked about a section about getting copies of the plans to the county clerk's office.

"That is what we talked about," Thomas said, looking at the contract.

"Let me think about this," Tiede said. "I'd have to call and ask."

Thomas said he wondered if the language was from a standard contract, noting that the commissioners had talked to Jerol DeBoer, an engineer and owner from Penco, about making sure copies of all the plans were sent to the clerk's office.

"He is supposed to be giving us written reports," Rasure said. "We haven't seen anything yet."

"I know they were core drilling on Eighth and old U.S. 24," Tiede said. "I could see them from where I was working at the energy center. I saw Darin Neufeld and Jerry Nemechek working on County Road 14."

"It says preliminary plans. That is what we want him to put down on the bids and make the recommendations on."

"I don't like the language," Ra-

sure said. "I think completed project is after the whole project is done and that is not what I want. We are supposed to be the decision-making body."

"He does say all documents dealing with the contract will be delivered to the county clerk's office," Tiede said, reading another section of the contract.

"I think this needs to be clarified," Rasure said.

"I can get a hold of them," Tiede said. "When do we meet again? I can have him come in on Aug. 8."

Rasure and Thomas agreed it would be good for DeBoer to come to the commissioners and report on his progress.

See ROADS, Page 11

City budget hearing at 5 p.m. Monday

Here's your chance.

The city budget for next year — which includes an 8.5 percent spending increase but drops the property tax levy by .4 of 1 percent — is open for public comment at a hearing at 5 p.m. Monday.

Later on the agenda, the commission will set the property tax mill levy and adopt the budget.

Total spending for next year would be \$1,395,499, or \$109,839 more than this year, but with increased valuation for taxable property, the tax levy would drop from 56.53 mills this year to

56.29 for next year. That is a drop of .24 of a mill.

Taking a \$50,000 home as an example, City Clerk Mary Volk said, the property taxes would decrease about \$1.32 for the year. Volk said commercial property taxes on a \$50,000 business would go down about \$2.86.

City commissioner worked Monday and Tuesday, July 10 and 11, for about eight hours total to shape the budget, but agreed this year was easier than the past two or three, when they faced big

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