

weather  
report

79°

noon  
Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 6:57 p.m.
- Sunrise, 6:29 a.m.
- Sunset, 6:55 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 70 degrees
- Humidity 44 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds south at 20 mph
- Barometer 29.79 inches and falling
- Record High today 99° (1955)
- Record Low today 34° (1951)

Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday 84°  
Low Thursday 50°  
Precipitation —  
This month .34  
Year to date 18.54  
Above normal 1.59 of an inch

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, high near 91, low near 58. Breezy, south to southwest wind between 20 and 25 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, high near 82, low around 46.  
Sunday: Mostly sunny, high near 65, low around 38. Monday: Mostly sunny, high near 63, low around 41.  
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high near 72, low around 48.

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

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.06 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.21  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Corn — \$2.18 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.98  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 00¢  
Milo — \$1.77 bushel  
Soybeans — \$4.56 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.52  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 17¢  
Millett — \$6.50 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
NuSun crop — \$11.50  
Pinto beans — \$15.50 (new crop)  
(Markets by Mueller Grain, Siggo 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



Teams run  
at Wamego

Toby Hurst was one of four Goodland cross country runners to compete at the Wamego meet Saturday. The course is where the state cross country meet will be held. See story, photo on Page 11.

# Engineer launches write-in effort

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

One of the challengers from the Republican primary says he will enter the District 1 county commissioner race as a write-in candidate against incumbent Chuck Thomas.

This time, he says he has the backing of the other two challengers.

Darin Neufeld, an engineer and part owner of Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, said people had urged him after the primary to run as a write-in.

"I said after the primary that I felt the vote spoke for itself," Neufeld said. "Two-thirds of voters, voted for a change. The three challenging candidates split that vote up."

With 371 votes cast in the commissioner race, Thomas, of Edson, won the Republican contest with 133 votes, or 36 percent. Neufeld was a close second with 119 votes or 32 percent. Larry Enfield's 85 votes were 23 percent and former City Commissioner Curtis Hurd had 34 votes or 9 percent. That means 238 voted for a candidate other than Thomas, 64 percent of the total votes cast.

"Immediately after the primary election. I was asked about being a

write-in candidate," Neufeld said. "I told them to let things set for the rest of the month, and I would make a decision in September.

"I have talked with the other two challengers since the primary, and we all agree that we have similar goals and feelings for the issues that need to be addressed within the county leadership.

"Both Hurd and Enfield have agreed to support me in running as a write-in candidate for District 1 county commissioner. Citizens from throughout the county have expressed their desire to see me run as a write-in candidate have approached me for the last six weeks."

"I think we are ready for a change," Enfield said Wednesday. "I am glad Darin (Neufeld) is running. I have said we need to start supporting our local businesses and Darin said that was one of his issues. I think the vote indicated we need a change."

"I would like to see him (Neufeld) win," Hurd said Tuesday. "I told him I would support him 100 percent when he told me he was going to be a write-in candidate. I think we need a change."

The last write-in campaign for



Neufeld

## Candidate sees trust as key issue

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The big issues facing Sherman County are leadership, buying from taxpayers and working better with the city, says a write-in candidate trying to win a county commission seat he just missed in the primary election.

Darin Neufeld, part owner of Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates engineering, which has an office in Goodland, lost to incumbent Commissioner Chuck Thomas by 14 votes in a four-way primary.

In announcing that he will be a write-in candidate, Neufeld said there are some key reasons he is entering the contest.

"I believe the key issue facing the county is that there is no focus or trust within the county government system," he said. "There is a split in the county leadership and there are splits in department and between departments.

"There is a huge lack of trust by the citizens in nearly every county department. The county needs a goal to get everything moving in a positive, united direction.

"I am not saying that differences will not surface, but it is up to the commissioners to discuss the differences, decide on the most favorable solution and lead the county in the most economical and countywide beneficial manner."

Neufeld said other issues are accountability, responsiveness and increased cooperation with the city.

"There is a serious problem within the county about purchasing outside the local community, even when the service is available in our county," he said. "Why are we not supporting our local economy? The current commission has skirted this issue and never fully given an answer to any citizen who has brought it forward.

"Every time I have heard this, there has been an immediate excuse why (an out-of-county purchase) had to be done. We need to stop with the excuses and figure out a way to make it happen and keep all of the local businesses thriving."

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commissioner was in 2000, when Mitch Tiede defeated incumbent Commissioner Kenny Davis for the District 2 seat. Tiede got 583 votes, or 61 percent, to Davis's 365, or 39 percent.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said

Thursday morning he was not surprised by Neufeld's announcement.

"I expected it," Thomas said. "I heard rumblings after he lost so close in the primary. This is America, and people can do what they want."

Thomas said that Conrad Pettijohn, owner of P.J. Home Improvement Center, will be on the ballot as an independent.

Neufeld said his goals for the

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# Road project bonds sold in flurry of bids

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The bidding opened at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning in a computer auction of county road bonds, but the first bid didn't hit the screen until 10:55 a.m. Before the auction ended at 11 a.m., 11 bids were in.

The winner was UMB Bank of Kansas City with the low interest rate of 4.29 percent on the \$12-million bond issue, which will be paid back out of a special one-cent sales tax that went into effect in July.

For those who have bought things on eBay, the on-line auction of the bonds to pay for the city-county joint road projects was familiar. On eBay, the final minutes of an auction can see dozens of bids crossing in the Internet as the bidders scramble to get the best deal.

Todd Loescher, bond consultant from D.A. Davidson of Wichita, set up an observation screen in the county clerk's office so the commissioners and a city commission representative could watch the bidding.

"The action will come in the last 10 minutes," Loescher said early on. "I expect up to eight companies to be bidding."

Watching the bidding were County Commissioners Kevin Rasure, Chuck Thomas and Mitch Tiede, County Clerk Janet Rumpel and City Commissioner Josh Dechant.

Six bidders signed into the auction, but only five submitted bids. While the bidding was open, bidders could not see the actual rate other bidders were using. The screen ranked the offers so those who were higher could cut their bids to try to improve their position.



Bids for \$12 million in county road bonds came in quickly Tuesday morning. Todd Loescher (seated) of D.A. Davidson of Wichita, had a computer screen set up so County Commissioners Mitch Tiede (left), Chuck Thomas, Kevin Rasure and City Commissioner Josh Dechant (right) could see the offers.

Photo By Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

UMB Bank, which had the winning bid of 4.2935 percent, submitted its only bid at 10:55:05 a.m. Wachovia Bank of Charlotte, N.C., submitted four bids to try to improve its position, but ended up third with a rate of 4.3066 percent. The fourth Wachovia bid came in at 10:59:55 a.m. The second lowest bidder was LaSalle Partners of Chicago with 4.3002 percent at 10:59:06 a.m.

Fourth was Merrill Lynch of New York, which submitted three bids and the last one was posted at 10:58:42 a.m. for 4.32 percent. Salomon Brothers, a division of Citigroup of Tampa, Fla., submitted two bids, the lowest 4.3573 percent at 10:59:27 a.m.

Loescher said Piper Jaffray headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn., was signed in but did not bid.

Loescher said the winning bid from UMB will mean a total interest cost of \$5,678,343 over the life of the bonds.

Once the bidding closed, the county commissioners awarded the bid to UMB and approved the resolution to complete the bond sale.

Loescher said the closing would be on Friday, Sept. 22, and the money will be wired into the First

National Bank in Goodland and then wired back out to an investment firm. Thomas and Tiede voted to have Rasure review the investment bids on Wednesday.

Charlie Langhoff of the D.A. Davidson in Denver said the winning investment bids was from Aegon for 5.055 percent. He said the spread between the interest paid on the bonds and the interest the county makes on the money should add about \$125,000 to the road project.

There were nine bidders for the investment Aegon is an international life insurance and pension investment company headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands. Their major markets are the United States, Netherlands and United Kingdom.

A Federal Express envelope arrived before the bidding, and when Rasure opened it, there was a check from UMB for \$240,000, the deposit required for the bond sale.

"They must have been pretty confident," Rasure said.

The money was taken to First National, where Rasure and Rumpel helped set up a separate account for the sales tax bond money, since County Treasurer Iris Scheopner was out of the office.

Loescher said the remaining \$11.8 million will come in at closing, and the \$12 million will go out that day to the investment company.

Rasure said the account would be where the sales tax money from the one-cent would be deposited to make the bond payments beginning in July.

Loescher said with the interest rates established, it would be critical to meet the spending dates for the projects set under state law.

# Fireworks to greet Cowboys

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

The only shooting at Cowboys Stadium on Friday will be fireworks, before the game and, hopefully, on the field.

Goodland High fans at the first home game will get an extra treat for the first time in several years as pre-game fireworks return to the stadium.

And maybe no one will call the police this time.

A tradition of having fireworks at the start of the game stopped about four or five years ago when Gordon Birkholtz moved. Ron Lucas, owner of Goodland Greenline, told school officials on Wednesday. He said coach Jonathan Dassel had asked him to revive the practice.

Lucas said he gave a demonstration Wednesday night for Superintendent Shelly Angelos, school

board members Amy Sederstrom and LeAnn Fredrichs, high school Principal Harvey Swager, Central Elementary Principal Sharon Gregory, maintenance supervisor and fire department volunteer Kenny Studer, Dassel and Activities Director Don Smith.

Lucas gave Angelos a copy of his state license to shoot fireworks. He said he had been helping Joe Diaz shoot fireworks for the last seven or eight years on the Fourth of July, and is one of the two people in Sherman County licensed by the state.

Lucas said he would contact Diaz if the fireworks plan was approved because the liability insurance was under him. Diaz also supply the fireworks for games, he said.

Angelos said the timing would need to be coordinated with the football team and the band. She said they had decided not to shoot the fire-

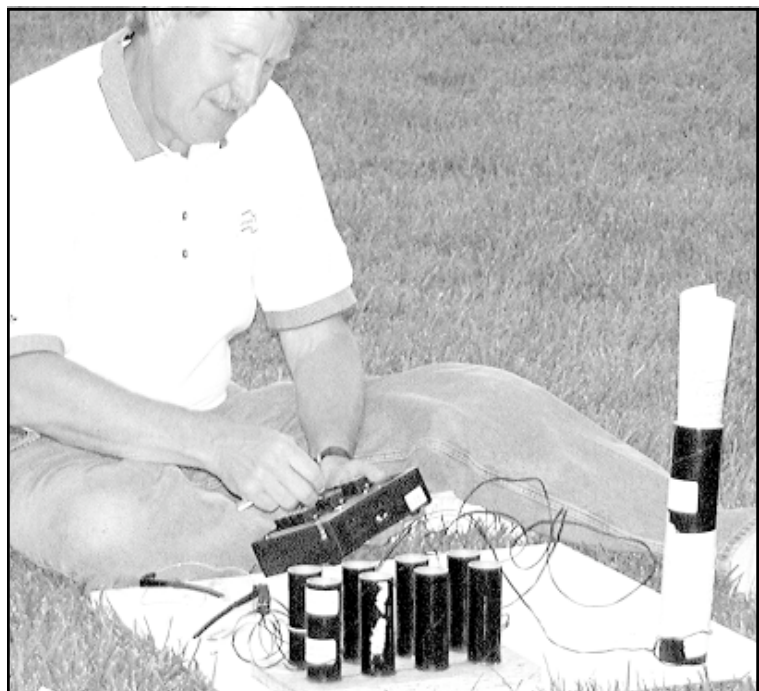
works off the roof of Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Lucas said the fireworks are safer now. He said there is no fire or fuses involved. The ones they will use are an outdoor version of the ones now used inside of buildings at special events.

The school board agreed Monday to OK the fireworks. Angelos said the fireworks at the home games would not cost the district anything. The \$250 cost will be donated by Lucas and others.

Police officers showed up after the demonstration Wednesday, saying they had had 911 calls on shots being fired. Studer said there may have been a miscommunication between the fire and police departments.

Angelos said she was glad to know the police responded so quickly to calls.



Ron Lucas, owner of Goodland Greenline, who is licensed in Kansas to set off fireworks, wired the electronic trigger for a demonstration for the school board at Cowboys Stadium on Wednesday. Lucas plans to have something special for the opening home football game on Friday. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News