

Go Cowboys!

The Goodland Star-News

MIDWEEK

**Tuesday, Oct. 31
2006**

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Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather report

66°

noon Monday

Today

• Sunset, 4:48 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:14 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:47 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 49 degrees
- Humidity 24 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds north at 29 mph
- Barometer 29.67 inches and rising
- Record High today 87° (1950)
- Record Low today 12° (1991)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 75°
Low Monday 35°
Precipitation —
This month 2.73
Year to date 21.97
Above normal 3.48 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, high near 42, and a low near 23. Calm winds

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high near 47, low near 24. Calm winds. Thursday: Partly cloudy, high near 52, low around 29. Friday: Partly cloudy, high near 56, low near 34. Saturday: Mostly sunny, high near 61, low near 37. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.71 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.81
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$3.28 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.98
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2.85 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.61 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.54
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$7 hundredweight
Sunflowers
NuSun crop — \$11.50
Pinto beans — \$19 (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



Cowboys win

Goodland defeated the Colby Eagles 8-6 to advance to the Class 4A state playoffs today. See story, photo on Page 11.

Hoxie Sheriff's funeral today

Story, photos on Page 3.

K-27 dirt work moves south



Graders, scrapers and water trucks continued pushing dirt and filling part of a dip south of the town on a new alignment for K-27 from Goodland to the Wallace County line. Wednesday, the work had reached a tie-in with the north approach to the new bridge over the Smoky Hill River about seven miles south. Rocky Racette, superin-

tendent for Sporer Land Development of Oakley, said his crews working on the road base would be moving south of the bridge by this week to start on the rock cut. Racette said a plan to pave part of the road this winter has been called off because of the recent rains. Instead, paving will begin in March, he said.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Council searching for people

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The Sherman County Economic Development Council is looking for nominations for two council positions, but so far has no volunteers.

Terms of Kim Bohme, treasurer, and Don Newell, vice-chairman, are expiring. Bohme said at the annual meeting on Oct. 19, she is not going to seek another three-year term. Newell said he has not made a decision.

Chairman Shelly Thompson asked for nominations from the floor, but there was none. She said the council will accept nominations at the office at 104 E. 10th until Friday, Nov. 17. She said the nominees will be asked to come to the council meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 21, when the election will be held.

Thompson said the term of Dwane Timm, member from the First National Bank, is expiring, but that position is nominated by the bank.

Development Director Tiffani McMinn asked why there was no representative from People's State Bank.

Thompson said there has not been a representative from the bank since Randy Schoenthaler left over a year ago. Thompson said it is up to the bank to nominate a person for the position.

Council member Steve West of Western State

See COUNCIL, Page 9

Three vie for District 1 County Commissioner

Conrad Pettijohn

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

As an independent candidate for county commissioner District 3, Conrad Pettijohn says he hopes to capitalize on a “common sense” approach to problems.

Pettijohn says he thinks the No. 1 issue facing the county is that people are moving away, not coming back and there is no

one to replace them.

“We need industry,” he said, “but we need to take care of the business that is already here.”

The county needs to provide the things that retirees need so they don't move away, he said. Regulations shouldn't antagonize groups the town wants to attract and keep. He said he figured about 55 percent of Goodland's population is retired.

“I think that there should be an exemption to the two-hour parking for motor homes that are from out of town,” he said.

He said he's concerned that laws and regulations should not force people to leave their homes to go to retirement communities or housing.

Pettijohn said he thinks the county and city should cooperate on anything they can. Each item should be looked at, he said, and some common sense used. He did not want to speculate on what, saying that as a commissioner he would have more

Candidates give answers

Three Sherman County men are running for the District 1 County Commissioner seat in Tuesday's election.

Chuck Thomas is the incumbent commissioner who is facing challenges from Darin Neufeld and Conrad Pettijohn. Thomas won the four-way Republican Primary Election in August defeating Neufeld by 14 votes.

Neufeld decided to run as a write-in candidate because the vote was so close, and he felt it would have been different if there had not been four candidates to split the votes.

insight as to what the two could do together.

On any question, he said, he would like to look at the facts before making a decision, not just rely on gossip or information from a specific group.

“I would need to see all sides of the story,” Pettijohn said, “and I hope I would have enough common sense to listen to all sides before making a decision.”

When asked if why people should vote for him, he said, “I have time to devote to county issues and am older and wiser.

“I have been in business for 30 years and I'm willing to talk to everyone instead of just groups with an agenda.

See PETTIJOHN, Page 10

Pettijohn filed his petition as an independent candidate in July.

The three candidates were asked similar questions by reporters of The Goodland Star-News to give voters a chance to compare the three before the election on Tuesday. All Sherman County voters will vote at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 824 Main. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Registered voters may vote early at the Sherman County Clerk's office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday, and from 8 a.m. to noon on Monday.

Chuck Thomas

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

County Commissioner Chuck Thomas says the central issue for the county is money.

“We have rising costs just like the taxpayer,” he said. “Energy costs and labor are going up for the county just like any business.”

Thomas, the incumbent in District 3, is in a three-way race to hold on to his job, facing Conrad Pettijohn, an independent whose name is on the ballot, and Darin Neufeld, an engineer whom he beat

by 14 votes in the Republican primary, as a write in.

The county didn't raise taxes this year, Thomas said, and is trying to keep the costs down. The department heads are doing a good job with that, he said, but it's difficult when it comes budget time.

“I have a great working relationship with the department heads,” Thomas said. “I understand their needs, and we work together.

“I don't let outside influences make my decisions. I try to use a business-like approach to my decisions like I do for my own farm. I try to get the taxpayers the best value for their money.”

A key part of solving the money issue is drawing different businesses and people to the area, he said, especially with farming taking such a hard hit from the weather. In an agriculture-based economy, he said, when farmers have more income, they spend more downtown. The weather turning around will be a big help, he said, but the county needs money from other sources as well.

Hopefully, things will continue to grow with economic development in the county, he said, adding that the Goodland Energy Center will likely be a big help.

Also, he said, a company from Dallas, Rosewood Resources, is looking for natural gas in the county. They are drilling a lot of wells, which will put money back into the county when they are up and running, Thomas said. Right now, they have a crew of at least 10 staying in motels, eating and shopping here

See THOMAS, Page 10

Darin Neufeld

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Improving trust in the county government and working to diversify the economy are top issues for a write-in candidate trying to win a county commission seat after narrowly losing the primary election.

Darin Neufeld, 36, 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.

The candidate said Sunday he has been canvassing the district house to house, with just a few blocks near the Northwest Kansas Technical College and the Armstrong and Paxton additions to finish this week.

“I am hearing a lot of positive stuff,” he said. “This last week, we did about a third of the city part of the district, and Saturday a lot of people told me and the people helping that they had already voted. A lot said they had voted for me already.

“It worries me about the type of turnout we are going to have. I am glad people are voting early, but it makes me wonder what the turnout will be on Election Day on Tuesday.”

Asked what the top issue is facing

See NEUFELD, Page 10

Treasurer wants to keep driver's license renewals

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

A new federal law will require everyone to have an approved “national” ID to get on an airplane or enter a federal building, and that might stop Kansas county treasurers from renewing drivers' licenses.

If that happens, people would have to drive 30 to 100 miles to a state-run license office, rather than make a quick trip to the courthouse as they do today.

Sherman County Treasurer Iris Scheopner said she is backing a petition to let Congressman Jerry Moran know that the people of rural Kansas do not want to lose the ability to come to her office to renew their driver's licenses.

Scheopner said the new federal law — known as Real ID — was passed by Congress in May 2005 as a rider on a defense department funding bill to pay for the war in Iraq and for tsunami relief. The law requires states to adopt a new federal driver's license format by 2008. She said the problem with the plan was discussed at a recent meeting of the Kansas County Treasurer's Association with state Secretary of Revenue Joan Wagnon.

Scheopner said the law would require everyone to get a new driver's license. Wagnon said the requirements might eliminate the county treasurers from being able to do any renewals. Scheopner said she wrote to Congressman Moran about the Real ID program to say that this would threaten

the quality of life in rural Kansas, and that 82 county treasurers in Kansas who do license renewals wanted to make sure they can provide this service to their residents.

Moran responded by writing to Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff asking that the Real ID regulations “recognize the authority of county treasurers to continue to renew driver's licenses.”

“Kansans should not have to travel long distances to renew their driver's licenses,” Moran said.

Scheopner said she feels eliminating the county offices would be a hardship to senior citizens, disabled drivers and

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