

weather report

61°

noon
Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 5:46 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:06 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:47 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 40 degrees
- Humidity 36 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds south at 20 mph
- Barometer 29.87 inches and falling
- Record High today 83° (1989)
- Record Low today -4° (1932)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	57°
Low Thursday	33°
Precipitation	—
This month	tr
Year to date	.98
Below normal	.13 of an inch

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, high near 60, low around 31.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Partly cloudy, high near 31, low around 30. Sunday: Mostly sunny, high near 62, low around 31. Monday: Mostly sunny, high near 71, low around 34. Tuesday: Sunny, high near 71, low around 32. Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high near 65.

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

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$4.55 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.64
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Corn — \$4.10 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.86
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Milo — \$3.85 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$6.67 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.52
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - NuSun crop — \$16.45
 - Pinto beans — \$25 (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

Rural firemen handle first rescue



Rural Sherman County volunteer firemen assisted with their new equipment (above) to extricate the driver of a 1995 Honda Civic who blew a tire and rolled eight miles west of town Wednesday morning. It was the first rescue run for the rural volunteers and first use (below) of the new equipment the county purchased last week.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The emergency rescue equipment the county purchased was delivered on Friday, and the rural fire department's first call came Wednesday morning on a rollover accident eight miles west of town.

Six rural firemen responded in two trucks to the injury accident where the driver had to be extricated from the vehicle.

Trooper Joe Greene reported that Michel Leduan Mataredonet, 23, of Miami, was driving west on I-70 in a 1995 Honda Civic when the left tire blew and the car went into the north ditch and hit the end of a guardrail on the passenger side. The car rolled over one time coming to rest on its wheels.

The driver was trapped in the car, and Deputy Rural Fire Chief Chris Bauman said the rescue workers had to remove both doors and get into the motor compartment under the hood to get him free.

Bauman said the rescue workers helped the ambulance crew get the driver out and into the ambulance.

Greene reported that Mataredonet was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center and later flown to Denver. He said the driver was wear-

ing a seat belt at the time of the accident.

Mataredonet was flown to Swedish Medical Center in Denver Wednesday afternoon.

Bauman said the other volunteers on scene were Kenny Studer, Stan Duell, Michael Dorn, Cary Amos and David Avila.

Don Spangler of Weiss Fire and Safety of Salina delivered the rescue equipment to the rural fire department on Friday.

At the county commission meeting on Tuesday, the commissioners approved financing the \$76,344 for the rescue equipment through Bankwest at an interest rate of 4.99 percent.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure made the motion to go with Bankwest to keep the financing local. Commissioner Mitch Tiede seconded and it passed unanimously with the vote of Commissioner Chuck Thomas.

Other interest bids received included First National Bank 5.5 percent, Western State Bank 5.95 percent and People's State Bank at .7 percent over New York prime making it 8.25 percent.

Weiss Fire and Safety had offered to finance the equipment for 4.75 percent.

Phones ring when people see electric bills

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

City office phones and some city commissioners were getting calls when people got their February electric bills with the new electric rates and the cost adjustment.

City Clerk Mary Volk said there were a lot of calls to complain about the cost adjustment last Thursday when people got their monthly city bills.

For some the cost adjustment was over \$75 for a commercial account using 2,441 kilowatt hours and \$12.55 for a residence using 406 kilowatt hours.

Volk said the cost adjustment was higher than had been estimated, but

said part of the reason was the higher use of electricity through the cold days and nights in January.

The National Weather Service had reported there were 12 days in January when the high temperature was below freezing, and -8 degrees was the lowest temperature of that period. Scott Mentzer, manager of the National Weather Service office in Goodland said the city had broken all previous records from Dec. 20 to March 1 with 73 days of snow on the ground, and 78 days with the temperature below 50 degrees.

"It is higher," Volk said, when asked by Commissioner Dave Daniels at the meeting on Monday. "Was it higher than before?"

Daniels asked.

"The bills are based on the new rates," Volk said, "and the total cost adjustment is around 3 cents per kilowatt hour."

"What is included?" Commissioner Josh Dechant asked.

"Everything," Volk said. "It includes all the system costs for the month."

This is the first time the bills have included the higher base rates, and the cost adjustment, which was approved by the commission in December.

Each city commissioner had a copy of the figures used to arrive at the operating cost adjustment.

Operating costs for January were

\$574,100 plus the transfer to the general fund of \$67,232 for a total of \$641,331.

The kilowatt hours billed for the month were 4,550,910 for a base income of \$500,600, which is based on 11.2 cents per kilowatt hour.

The operating costs minus the base cost is \$140,731. Volk said the cost adjustment is reached by dividing the different by the 4,550,910 kilowatt hours billed to get .0309. That figure is multiplied by the kilowatt hours used by a customer to determine their portion of the cost adjustment.

"We were \$140,000 short of paying all the bills?" Daniels asked.

"Yes," Volk said.

"That would mean we needed to collect that amount to keep from being in the red," Daniels said. "I had people tell me to bring the fuel adjustment back."

Volk said the cost adjustment for an average city customer using 650 kilowatt hours was \$20.10. She said that figure will change each month depending on the costs for power and system maintenance.

A question was asked if the cost adjustment included the city snow removal costs from the storms in January?

"No," Volk said. "The snow removal cost does not affect the electrical system costs. Snow removal is paid out of the general fund."

Petitions presented on fire issues

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Two citizen petitions were handed to the city commission at the end of the meeting Monday asking for the resignation of the city manager and the fire chief.

Tina Roe presented the petitions saying she had a lot of calls about the resignation of the 12 volunteer firemen and that the people who signed the petitions wanted to let the commission know their concerns.

"Thank you for bringing them," Mayor Rick Billinger said.

Roe said the petition asking for City Manager Wayne Hill to resign had 106 signatures and the petition asking for the resignation of Fire Chief Scott Gilmer had 109 signatures.

However, when the names were counted on Tuesday seven had been blacked out on the petition about the city manager leaving a total of 99.

Hill said Wednesday he could understand that some people would

not be pleased with the decision, but he believed he did the right thing based on the city employee policies.

Hill told the city commission on Monday that the county had received their new emergency extraction equipment and did not end up borrowing the city equipment.

He said all the city hazardous material equipment was given to the county on Monday, and the county will be handling all the hazardous material spills, and will handle all the rescue calls outside the city limits.

The letters of resignation from the 12 volunteer firemen were to be official on Monday, and Hill said all of them turned their equipment in to Gilmer at noon on Monday.

Gilmer said Thursday he had three more volunteers sign up bringing the total to 14 after one man dropped out.

He said and Mitchell Cochran from the Insurance Services Office (ISO) was in town Wednesday to see how the training was going and talk

about how to maintain or improve the city ISO status.

Gilmer said there are three variables that go into the rating. Cochran said 50 percent comes from the fire department, 25 percent from the city water distribution system and 25 percent is from communications and the dispatch center as to how fire alarm information is handled.

There have been some improvements on the equipment and water system since the last rating, Gilmer said. We are concentrating on the training part now.

Gilmer said Cochran told him he would see him in about a year for an official review.

Bill Schweinmann, a University of Kansas fire-training officer, and J.L. Ellis, senior vice president of the state firefighters association, are in town to help with the volunteer training, Gilmer said. He said the two men worked with the volunteers on Wednesday and Thursday and will continue training tonight.



League title season high

Sophomore Greg Farris shot over the arms of taller Larned Indians last Thursday in the Class 4A sub-state semifinal. The Cowboys finished their season with a 16-7 record. See story, photo on Page 12.



Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday. Set clocks forward one hour.

The evenings will seem a little longer starting Sunday, as Daylight Saving Time begins three weeks earlier this year. That's right; clocks will spring forward an hour at 2 a.m. Sunday. Remember to set the clocks forward before going to bed Saturday night — or you might miss church. The time change means as the weather gets nicer, people will have more time after work or school for fun. Daylight Saving Time will end Sunday, Nov. 4, a week later than usual. Congress decided last year to include the new dates in the energy bill.