

weather report

47°
 noon
 Monday



Today

• Sunset, 6:08 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:59 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:07 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 57 degrees
- Humidity 68 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds northwest 20-25 mph
- Barometer 29.96 inches and falling
- Record High today 93° (1991)
- Record Low today 19° (1966)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	53°
Low Sunday	42°
Precipitation	trace
This month	00.36
Year to date	13.62
Below Normal	04.30 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 70, winds calm turning to southeast 10-15 mph, low around 42. Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high near 70, low around 43 and winds out of south at 5-10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly sunny with a high near 65 and a low around 35. Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 63 and a low around 37. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$7.66 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$7.96
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Corn — \$3.21 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.06
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Milo — \$3.05 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$8.30 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$8.45
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
- (Markets by Sclur Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Former Cowgirl runs

Whitney Dautel placed fourth, running for Sterling College, at a cross country meet at McPherson. Kerek Mason placed 11th, running for Emporia State University. See photos on Page 9

Wind power to become reality

By Ramona C. Sanders

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Despite a delay of more than 2 1/2 years and a failure to execute a final contract with the City of Goodland, ReNewable Energy Resources still plans to provide wind-generated electricity to the city, managing partner Mark Justus says.

"We are planning on starting the foundation (for the wind turbines) in about two weeks," Justus said Thursday, adding the wind farm will take about 60 days to build once the concrete cures.

All that, however, is news to city officials. City Manager Wayne Hill said he has "no clue" on the status of the wind farm and has not had any discussions with Justus.

"I've been here for almost 2 1/2 years and I haven't heard squat from them," Hill said of ReNewable.

Told that Justus said construction would begin shortly, Hill replied: "That will be wonderful. We just would like to be informed of that."

ReNewable entered into a contract with the city in February 2005 to provide wind-generated electricity to city residents. A second contract was executed by the city in April 2006 changing the delivery voltage from the original 13,800 volts to 115,000.

The increased voltage is needed because the lower voltage causes problems with the city's generators, Hill said.

Hill said he submitted the amended contract to ReNewable and never received a reply.

"We sent it to them and they haven't signed it," he said.

Justus said he never received the second contract and was not aware one existed. He said he did know about the city's requirement for increased voltage, but said he thought it was a verbal agreement.

Justus said the increased voltage was one of the things that has delayed the project.

"We actually are kind of delayed in the fact that the city asked us to install the towers on a high-voltage line," Justus said. "We're going to be installing on the GER (Goodland Energy



Wind turbines have arrived at the Goodland Energy Center (above) and are being stored with the tower sections and blades (below) that arrived on site in May 2006. The wind towers and turbines are part of a program from ReNewable Energy Resources to provide supplemental power to the city of Goodland.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Resources) power line."

Justus said Goodland Energy Resources will begin building a line to connect the coal-fired power plant at the Goodland Energy Center west of town to the city's system. ReNewable wants to time construction of the wind farm to coincide with completion of the power line. He said construction should be completed by the end of the year or first part of next year.

"We will be close to running," he said, "but we're going to time it with (the power lines) because the contractor (who does the wind tower installation) needs to be tied into the grid."

Justus said other delays included the late delivery of turbines from Europe. The turbines arrived this summer, he said. They are currently stored at the energy center site.

ReNewable agreed to provide 3 megawatts of power to the city at a price of 4.112 cents per kilowatt hour the first five years and 4.5 cents per kilowatt the remainder of the contract period. The wind farm will have four turbines that generate 3 megawatts based on a wind speed of 13 mph, Justus said.

The 20-year contract prohibits the city from seeking wind power from another company,



Hill said, no matter how long it takes ReNewable to begin providing service. The contract also binds the city to the lower voltage.

"I talked to the city attorney yesterday," Hill said Thursday. "It looks like we're still

stuck with the old contract until RER signs (the amended one), and we're locked into that one paragraph that talks about we cannot enter any agreement with any competitor."



City Assistant Chief James Miller (above, from left), Chief Brian James and firefighters Bob Juleson and Justin Stasser talked to first through fourth graders in the after school program at Central Elementary Thursday afternoon. Bobby Moore (left photo), a student from West Elementary, tried on Stasser's hat during the presentation.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Firemen visit with After School Project kids

By Sharon Corcoran

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How often should you check the batteries in your smoke detector?

How often should you put in new batteries?

How much does a firefighter weigh in his bunker gear?

Members of the Goodland Fire Department asked children in the Northwest Kansas After School Project these questions, provided safety tips and demonstrated what to

do if you're in a burning building, then let the kids play with a fire hose Thursday afternoon at Central Elementary School.

Children tried on a firefighter's jacket and hat while listening to the volunteers and answering questions. City Fire Chief Brian James, Assistant Chief James Miller and firefighters Bob Juleson and Justin Stasser handed out red plastic "fire hats" and talked to the kids about safety.

They reminded the kids that the smoke detectors in their homes should be checked

once a month and the batteries changed every time their clocks are moved forward for Daylight Savings time or back for Standard Time.

The told the kids fire fighters carry compressed air in the tanks on their backs, not oxygen as many people believe. Oxygen is flammable, Stasser said, which means it could catch on fire. Firefighters wouldn't go into a building with a fireball on their back, he said — that would be crazy.

Juleson got into his "bunker" gear and

showed the kids what a firefighter would look like coming in to rescue them. He got down on his knees to show them that a fireman would crawl on the floor, and he showed them how he would use the handle of his ax to feel ahead and around him to find them and to pound on the floor and walls to make noise, so they could find him.

He told them they should make noise as well to help firefighters find them. If firemen

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State looking into motel's failure to pay guest tax

By Sharon Corcoran

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State officials should be contacting one Sherman County motel about transient guest tax that hasn't been paid after tourism officials here noticed tax collections were lower than usual.

Board members of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau commented at last month's meeting that the tax collection

reported by the state was low for this time of year. Hotel owners and restaurant owners said their numbers were up from last year and wondered how the state could collect less guest tax, especially with the tax being collected at the new Holiday Inn Express that wasn't open last year.

Bureau Director Donna Price told board members at their meeting last Tuesday that Sherman County Treasurer Iris Scheopner

had been looking into the situation. She said they know that one motel hasn't paid but don't know which one or how much.

The state will handle it, Price said; once they know there is a problem, they send letters to the business that hasn't paid. It's handled like delinquent taxes, she said, and property can be seized if they don't pay.

If a business isn't paying guest tax, she said, it probably isn't paying sales tax either,

but it could take a year or more to collect the back payments.

Price said she doesn't know who hasn't paid or how much because the details are confidential.

The board members voted against donating money to the Flatlander Festival Committee in September and to Shine On Sherman

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