

weather report

42°
noon
Thursday



Today

- Sunset, 5:46 p.m.
- Friday**
- Sunrise, 6:-8 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:47 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 30 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds northwest 10-18 mph
- Barometer 30.15 inches and falling
- Record High today 77° (2006)
- Record Low today -12° (1920)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	39°
Low Wednesday	14°
Precipitation	trace
This month	0.10
Year to date	0.71
Below normal	0.32 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow before 2 p.m., a high near 35, winds north 10-15 mph and a low around 20. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 54, winds northwest 15 mph and a low around 24.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 54 and a low around 28. Monday: Sunny with a high near 61 and a low around 31.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$11.05 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$11.19
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Corn — \$5.25 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$5.25
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Milo — \$5 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$13.02 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$13.67
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Confection — \$30/\$20 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$2500 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Colby wins over Indians

Taylor Young of Colby went up for a shot against the Andale Indians Wednesday at the Bicentennial Center in Salina. The Eagles trounced the Indians 70-41 and advanced to play Holton at 2 p.m. today. See photo, stories on Page 10.

Development director resigns

By Sharon Corcoran

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After about five months on the job, the Sherman County Economic Development Council's executive director resigned Tuesday, leaving the council seeking a new director.

Following three closed door sessions, lasting more than an hour, with Executive Director Jeremy Jennings present for about half of the time, the public meeting resumed, and Jennings was asked to give the director's report.

"In lieu of the director's report," Jennings said, "for personal and professional reasons, I would like to submit my resignation."

The board accepted his resignation effective immediately with Danny Archer, Darwin McClung and Jerry Fairbanks abstaining from the vote and Nancy Cole, Mike Cochran, Walt Linthacum, Don Newell, Chance Schilling,

Shelly Thompson, Steve West and Chuck Wilkens voting in favor. Newell told Jennings he understood his situation.

"You're in the public eye," Newell said — "I appreciate you can get into situations you can't handle."

Once the resignation was accepted, Jennings left, and the meeting continued.

The board voted to put out a job description and advertise for a new director on the television "roll around" ads and in the newspaper.

Dave Daniels, a city commissioner and former chairman of the council, suggested the board contact anyone who applied before who they might be interested in for the position and see if they have moved on or would still be interested.

The board then went into a 10-minute closed door session to talk about personnel and adjourned without taking any action.



Jennings

Council to partner with alumni association

By Sharon Corcoran

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The Sherman County Economic Development Council approved partnering with the Sherman County Alumni Association to contact graduates from the county's schools to let them know about opportunities to return to Goodland and heard an update on the home and business improvement grant project at the board's meeting Tuesday.

The board voted to pay \$3,000 for postage for the Alumni Association to contact everyone on their list and give

them the Sherman County Economic Development Council's web address. The council's board had talked previously about marketing Sherman County to former students, letting them know what is available here, particularly housing, jobs and businesses, with the objective of helping anyone who is interested to move back.

The association had talked to Executive Director Jeremy Jennings about marketing, said Board member Jerry Fairbanks:

See COUNCIL, Page 9

Reviving hippie, disco days



Fifth graders Alec Hamilton (left) and Kolt Trachsel donned wild wigs to be hippies during the Disco Fever section of the fifth grade music program Tuesday night at the high school auditorium. The hippies did their stuff during "You Should be Dancing."

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

City approves incoming power line route

By Tom Betz

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City commissioners and representatives from Goodland Energy Resources agreed in principal about a route for the line from the plant to connect with the city power grid.

The four commissioners agreed with the basic route proposal along 19th Street and that it was too expensive to make the line go underground at Cherry Ave. near Pioneer Park.

John McCullough of JMC Engineering, Norman House president of Goodland Energy Resources and Doug Sederstrom financial officer of Goodland Energy Center met with the city commission on Monday to review the route and answer questions from the commissioners.

Before the discussion began Mayor Rick Billinger left the meeting because of a conflict of interest as an investor in the power plant and the ethanol plant. He returned after the discussion about the power line was completed.

McCullough said he and City Manager Wayne Hill have had discussions about different routes, and walked them numerous times.

"We believe collectively that the best route is what we presently have," he said. "We have some discussion about the age of the existing poles which are 37 years old."

"We recommend going with new poles. It is a better investment than keeping them."

"If we need an extra five feet for clearance we would do that as well. The cross arms would be replaced as well. The placement of the poles is to be set as safely as possible."

Hill said the city had maps of the proposed route.

McCullough said the major question was at Cherry Ave. where the city had suggested the line go underground for about 1,000 feet around Pioneer Park.

"With the cost of doing underground it may not be the best thing to do," he said. "We do not want to distract from the beauty of the park. We

will do what is best for the city, and want to get the route in as soon as possible."

Hill said he had talked with McCullough about the route, and said Charlie Bandel, electrical distribution superintendent, had a map of what was discussed. Hill said they may need to move a few poles, and that Rich Simon has a concern about where the terminal pole would be placed. He said in the proposal it is right on the drainage ditch.

"From my point of view the route is fine," Hill said.

Hill asked Bandel what he had found out about the cost of the underground section.

Bandel said he had called and for the 1,000 feet the cost would be about \$775,000. He said the high cost is way a lot of people don't do it.

Commissioner John Garcia asked if the underground section was only 1,000 feet.

"Yes," Hill said. "It is much higher than I expected. It is the commission's decision."

Hill said he agreed he would like to see the older poles replaced and set up a new easement down the south side of 19th Street.

"I think we need to have an agreement drawn up with the agreement and need to make sure it is all lined out and written up," Hill said.

He said the city has a memorandum of agreement to do a contract, and that they need to hammer that out pretty quickly.

"I would hate for you to put a lot of money in there and find out we can get energy from Sunflower or someone else a lot cheaper. We have the original agreement at \$49 per mega watt and right now we are at \$54 per mega watt. We have had to nominate our power from Sunflower for the year, but if you are up and running we can cut down in the next year and if competitive we can take more from your plant."

Hill said in the summer the power hit a peak of 12.8 mega watts, and if the plant is running the city could buy the difference in needs from the Caruso plant.

"Goodland Energy Resources know they have to sell the power to survive," McCullough said. "The cost of producing the power has been looked into, and they know they have to be competitive."

"We are determining the alternative fuels for the plant. We are close to coming to an agreement. We have the first couple years OK, and are looking for a longer term solution."

"The route is the best way to get to the city and through the city."

"The city will have a new line. We have taken your concerns into account, and feel like we are getting close to having the contract agreement."

Hill said he thought it would be good to get this done. He said Goodland Energy Resources will have to work with Sunflower Electric on pushing power through the city onto their grid. He said there would be transportation fees, but since it is 7.4 miles from the plant to the city and about seven miles from the city to the Sunflower connection and that these would probably be a wash between the city and the plant on transportation fees.

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked what 1,000 feet of overhead lines cost. McCullough said about \$75,000, and the whole line would cost about \$750,000.

House said the underground would degrade the efficiency of the system — not significantly, but it is there — and there would have to be posts saying there is a high power line underground.

"From your standpoint you want to get the approval to run the new line," Daniels said. "Where Wayne is coming from is once you get the line built I don't think you want to put all that money in if the city is not going to buy the power."

"There is a lot of talk about what the price should be," McCullough said. "It is our risk to be the line in. We have been held up by about four

City replaces old 'red'

By Tom Betz

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It took four tries, but finally the city commissioners were in agreement on Monday to replace the fire chief's red Blazer with another used vehicle.

The commissioners agreed to the purchase of a four-wheel drive 2004 Chevy Trailblazer with 40,255 miles from Finley Motors for \$14,000 with a trade-in of \$3,600. The net cost was \$10,400.

Fire Chief Brian James was back for his fourth try to replace the 1997 red Blazer the city fire chiefs have been driving for more than five years.

Replacing the Blazer was in the fire department budget approved in July, but when James got ready to seek bids in January Mayor Rick Billinger and Commissioner John Garcia suggested that James get bids on used vehicles as well.

James came back with a bid list of four-wheel drive pickups both new and used at the Feb. 4 meeting, but again met opposition from the commissioners.

At that meeting Billinger asked James how many miles were on the Blazer.

James said it was about 88,000.

Billinger said he felt that was not too many miles, and that he felt the city needed to get more miles out of the vehicles.

He asked James why the Blazer could not be used.

James said it could, but that the Blazer had some problems such as the gas gauge and the air conditioning not working. He said the seats were not in good shape from cigarette burns and there was play in the steering.

"Do we not do any maintenance on vehicles?" Billinger asked City Manager Wayne Hill.

"We fix a lot of things," Hill said.

Billinger said he had stopped to look at the Blazer and started it up. He said it started good, but he did not take it for a drive.

"I don't think 88,000 miles is too much," Billinger said. "We put money away for new vehicles. We started a program to put money away to replace them, but the whole point is if we have the money we do not have to spend it."

Billinger said he thought the inside was filthy, and asked if any of the other commissioners had stopped and looked at that.

"I know you inherited it," Billinger said, "and it is in your budget to get a new one. It is your turn, but I don't think we need to buy new. I am glad you got the used figures. When I go looking for used I get one that is about 100,000 miles. I think you have mechanical issues you need to get fixed."

"I agree with the mayor. We put a lift in that shop and put in a mechanic,"