

weather report

70°

noon

Thursday

Today

Sunset, 6:40 p.m.

Saturday

Sunrise, 6:38 a.m.

Sunset, 6:38 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 69 degrees

• Humidity 64 percent

• Sky partly sunny

• Winds northwest 17-32 mph

• Barometer 29.83 inches and rising

• Record High today 96° (1966)

• Record Low today 30° (2000)

Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday 93°

Low Wednesday 59°

Precipitation 1.50

This month 1.64

Year to date 18.91

Above Normal 1.66 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with the areas of fog before 9 a.m., a high near 82, winds out of the south at 5 to 30 mph and a low around 53.

Saturday: Sunny with a high near 76, winds out of the north at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 44.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny with a high near 77 and a low around 47.

Monday: Sunny with a high near 77 and a low around 47.

Tuesday: Sunny with a high near 76 and a 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 — \$6.02 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.17

Corn — \$4.36 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.51

Milo — \$4.21 bushel

Soybeans — \$9.73 bushel

Posted county price — \$9.85

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$17.75 cwt.

Confection — \$28/\$15 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$32 (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 and views from your Goodland Star-News



Winds cause problems

Cowgirl Cortney Cowan putts at Colby on Tuesday where the winds made golfing tough. The Cowgirls ran into wind both at Colby and Russell. See photo, story on Page 12.



# Vote questioned in complaint

**By Tom Betz**  
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A written complaint has been filed with the Sherman County Attorney Bonnie Selby claiming that Sherman County Commissioner Cynthia Strnad was not a valid commissioner when she made the motion to fire the two men from road and bridge on Monday, Sept. 13, and the commissioners were waiting on a meeting with attorneys from Topeka to determine the next step.

The commissioners met in regular session Monday morning and held a closed door session with Bud Cowan of KCAMP of Topeka, at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, and after the 20 minute session Commissioner Chuck Thomas said no action has been taken, but another meeting was expected to be held on Wednesday or Thursday once the course of action has been determined.

At issue is the motion Strnad made to terminate Curt Way and Steve Goodman as county employees with the result a 2-1 vote with Commissioner Max Linin

## Commissioners ratify, reaffirm firing

**By Tom Betz**  
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Action was taken Thursday morning by the Sherman County commissioners to ratify and reaffirm the actions taken since Dec. 1, and including the firing of two men from the road and bridge department.

The special meeting was called after the commissioners spent about 30 minutes in closed session on Tuesday morning with County Attorney Bonnie Selby and Bud Cowan an attorney for KCAMP from Topeka. At question was a complaint that Commissioner Cynthia Strnad was not living in her district, and was not a valid commissioner to make motions or vote.

No action was taken after the closed session on Tuesday, but an anticipated special meeting was scheduled for 8 a.m. on Thursday.

When the meeting opened at 8:05 a.m. on Thursday

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked for a closed door session with Commissioner Max Linin, Strnad, himself and Selby for 30 minutes for attorney client matters.

The closed session lasted about 20 minutes, and the meeting reopened at 8:23 a.m.

Thomas read a motion: "That the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Sherman hereby moves to ratify, adopt and affirm all actions and votes taken by the board from Dec. 1, to and through the date of this motion including, but not limited to, the decision by the board by a 2 to 1 vote to terminate Curt Way and Steven Goodman on Sept. 13."

As a second part of the action Linin made a motion to terminate Way and Goodman effective as of Sept. 13. The motion was seconded by Thomas and the vote was unanimous 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 a.m.

"I feel that District 2 is not getting the representation it deserves and she should have resigned after moving out of her district."

"Commissioner Strnad also spends little time in Sherman County to do (sic) to her employment in Denver, Colo."

After reading the complaint Strnad said she moved out of the district and changed her address after talking to the county attorney about her being able to continue to serve as a county commissioner.

"It was the feeling of the county attorney there was precedent from three previous commissioners who had lived outside their district," Strnad said, "and one who had moved to Thomas County."

"The county attorney said her feeling was there would be no issue."

"Second of all there has only been one vote that hasn't been unanimous since I moved and that was on providing Chris Zimmerman with an

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## Brick Top Cruisers, bike show headline Flatlanders



The 24th Annual Flatlanders Fall Festival kicks off tonight with early registration for the Brick Top Cruisers car show and the Flatlander Fall Classic car races at the Sherman County Speedway. Saturday Main Ave. will be closed from Eighth to 17th for the Flatlander events that include the 16th Annual Northwest Kansas Bike Show, lots of games, food and vendors. The 5K Flatlander

Run will be at the GAC at 6:30 a.m. The Frontier Ag Chili Cook-off will be at 11 a.m. at the same time as the Scruffy Dog contest to be followed by the Flatlander Talent Show. The day is full of events, and participants in the car show and bike show will parade on Main Ave. about 8 p.m.

Photo By Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

# Monthly water bills to raise in November

**By Tom Betz**  
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Monthly water rates in Goodland will increase by \$8 a month from \$7.60 a month to \$15.60 a month in November with approval of an ordinance by the city commission on Monday.

City Manager Doug Gerber said the ordinance is an increase in the base monthly water rate, but there is no increase in the usage rate of \$1.07 per 100 cubic feet after the first 300 each month.

Gerber said the water rates will begin in November and will appear on the bill customers receive at the end of November.

The increase should bring in about \$213,700 each year to pay the city back for the \$4 million wa-

ter improvement project currently under construction.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he would make the motion to approve the ordinance believing it is a good plan. Commissioner Annette Fairbanks seconded the motion.

"I would like to say the commissioners feel this is a reasonable rate increase," said Commissioner John Garcia, "given the quality of water the citizens are going to be getting. This is a low water rate compared to the rest of the state, and something we ought to be proud of."

"I never enjoy this part of the business when we raise things," said Vice-Mayor Rick Billinger, "but I feel this is good for the water and will handle the \$4 million. I think we worked hard to keep the increase

to a minimum."

The city commission worked on the rate with a plan to use existing city reserves to pay off the \$4 million loan from the state, and thus save nearly \$2 million in interest payments over the 20 years the loan would cover.

The \$8 a month will repay the city reserves to have the money available for future projects such as this one.

The city is paying off a water loan for work done that included the water tower on the southwest part of town.

Billinger had suggested paying that loan off as well as it costs the city about \$184,000 a year.

Gerber said on Monday he has looked at the existing loan, and it

may be something to look at in the future once the water project has been completed and paid off.

"I think it is something to look at," Billinger said, "since we are only getting about 1 percent on our money."

Daniels said with the city getting a low interest he feels this is a good plan, and will be glad not to get the letters about the nitrates.

The vote on raising the water rates was 4-0 with Mayor Josh Dechant absent.

## Flatlanders Schedule of Events

**Tonight:**  
5:30 p.m.-Stock Car Races (Sherman County Speedway)

**Saturday: (Main Street, Goodland)**  
6:30 a.m.-GAC Flatlander 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run Registration (At GAC)  
8 a.m.-11:30 a.m.-Brick Top Cruisers Car Club Show Registration. (Central Elementary)  
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.-NWK Bike Show (At VFW)  
10 a.m.-Chili Cook Off (in High Plains Heating 11th and Main)  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.-Street Festival (Vendors, Food, and Games on Main from 12th to 10th)  
11 a.m.-12 p.m.-Scruffy Dog Contest (On the Grandstand)

12 p.m.-4 p.m.-Talent Contest / Live Music on the Grand Stand  
2 p.m.-Skateboard Competition at Steever Park  
3 p.m.-6 p.m.-Colorado Tractor Pullers Association Benefit Pull (Behind Wendy's on K-27)  
4:30 p.m.-Stock Car Races (Sherman County Speedway)  
8 p.m.-Motorcycle and Car Parade on Main Ave.

**Sunday:**  
8-11 a.m.-Car Show and Bike show Continue with fun and awards.  
11 a.m.-4 p.m.-Picnic in the Park (Chambers Park)—Live Music, Free Food, Games and Vendors  
12 p.m.-Drawing for Harley Davidson Motorcycle

# Goodland School Board member killed in accident on county road

Goodland School Board member and longtime Sherman County farmer Andrew House, 44, was killed in an apparent head-on accident late Tuesday night on Country Road 65 west of County Road 14 about five and one-half miles west of town.

The driver of the other vehicle, Anthony Urban, 18, a Northwest Tech student from Elizabeth, Colo., was flown to a Denver hospital. Bill Finley, Northwest Tech vice president for student affairs, said Thursday morning he had spoken to the mother who said the young

man was in stable condition and improving.

Sheriff Butts said his deputies were called at 12:24 a.m. on Wednesday. House was driving east in a 2004 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup, Butts said, and Urban was driving west in a 1999 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup.

He said it appears both drivers were trapped in the vehicles at the time the deputies arrived. House was pronounced dead at the scene. Urban was transported to Goodland Regional Medical Center and then flown to a Denver hospital.

The accident remains under investigation, said Sheriff's Butts. He said the scene has been photographed and the sheriff is asking for assistance from a Kansas Highway Patrol accident scene team to help with the investigation.

The funeral for House will be 10:30 a.m. on Saturday at the First United Methodist Church with burial to follow at the Goodland Cemetery.

A full obituary for House is on Page 2 of today's *Goodland Star-News*.