

weather report



86°

noon
Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 8:01 p.m.

Saturday

- Sunrise, 5:45 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:00 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil temperature 79 degrees
- Humidity 45 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds southeast 6 mph
- Barometer 30.05 inches and rising
- Record High today 104° (1947)
- Record Low today 48° (1971)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 97°
- Low Wednesday 66°
- Precipitation 0.50
- This month 2.89
- Year to date 12.36
- Below normal 1.09 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon, a high near 87, winds out of the southeast at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 64. Saturday: Mostly sunny, a high near 95, winds out of the south at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 67.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny and hot with a high near 98 and a low around 69. Monday: Mostly sunny and hot and breezy with a high near 99 and a low around 69. Tuesday: Partly sunny and hot with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

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

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$7.11 bushel
- Posted county price — \$7.16
- Corn — \$6.85 bushel
- Posted county price — \$7.10
- Milo — \$6.47 bushel
- Soybeans — \$12.70 bushel
- Posted county price — \$13.18
- Millet — \$5 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$31.70 cwt.
- Confection — no bid
- Pinto beans — \$28 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scouler 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



Car racers finish races

Modified racers in a rain delayed feature race get the green flag at the Sherman County Speedway on July 16. The next races will be the Bill Grey Memorial on Saturday, Aug. 20. See photo, results on Page 12.

City budget tight for next year

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

The public will be invited to comment on the city budget proposal at the hearing at 5 p.m. on Monday, and the commissioners are expected to approve the budget during the meeting.

The commissioners spent about three hours going over the budget details, and agreed to slice about \$28,000 off to keep the property tax levy as close to even as possible.

Based on a property tax formula residential taxes for someone with a \$50,000 appraised value house would go up 24 cents, \$75,000 appraised value house would go up 35 cents, and a \$100,000 home would see an increase of 47 cents. Last year the residential tax rates went down more than \$11.

Commercial property rates will see similar changes with \$50,000 appraised value business taxes going up by 51 cents, \$75,000 business would go up 77 cents, and a \$100,000 business would go up \$1.03 total. Last year the commercial property taxes dropped more than \$25.

The city commissioners have been working to lower the property tax levy over the past four years and have dropped it from a high in 2008 of 56.4 mills down to 49.7 mills for next year's budget.

City Clerk Mary Volk said the assessed valuation of the city dropped by \$21,594 dropping what a mill of property tax will raise by about \$26.

Each mill of property tax is estimated to raise \$25,296 next year, and the city budget anticipates property tax income of about \$1,257,523 on 49.713 mills.

The city property tax is split five ways with 24.9 going to general government (\$630,138), 10.3 for bond and interest (\$260,741), 5.4 for library (\$135,931), 9.3 for employee benefits for city employees (\$235,357) and .95 for library employee benefits (\$24,053).

City Manager Doug Gerber said looking at the city revenues the sales tax is trending upwards a bit. He said it has been fairly steady, but was up from where they estimated last year. The revised figures for this year show an increase of about \$40,000 in sales tax and the budget for next year is anticipating \$550,000. (The sales tax is the equivalent of 21.7 mills of property tax.)

Gerber said the motor vehicle tax revenue for the city has been trending down a bit, and said this is based on the property tax levy. He said the city is sort of punished for being fiscally conservative by lowering the property tax levy.

Part of what helps the general government

portion of the city is transfers from other departments such as sewer, water and electrical, which receive income from monthly user fees.

Gerber said to help balance the general revenues the transfer from the electrical department has been increased by about \$100,000 from \$450,000 to \$550,000. He said this is not really a good fix, but it was a way to balance the bottom line.

The sewer fund transfers about \$50,000 a year, and in recent years the water fund has not been able to make a transfer. Gerber said the water fund continues to struggle and he and Mary had taken the water franchise fee out, but put it back in at a lower rate. The budget for next year has a \$37,500 transfer from water.

"I consider those to be franchise fees," Gerber said, "but Mary (Volk) considers them transfers. If they were a private company they would be paying the city franchise fees, and that is how I look at it."

Speaking of franchise fees Gerber said those were trending down, and Volk said she expects that to continue especially for the telephone franchise as more people go to cell phones.

After the budget work session Gerber said the budget for each department includes

about a 3 percent raise for employees, but the raises are not automatic and are given on a performance basis.

General revenues for next year are estimated at \$2,336,249, an increase of \$138,343. With the beginning balance in January the total general government expenditures for this year are estimated to be \$2,799,103, leaving a balance of \$460,398 to start next year. The expenditures for general government for next year are estimated at \$2,776,648.

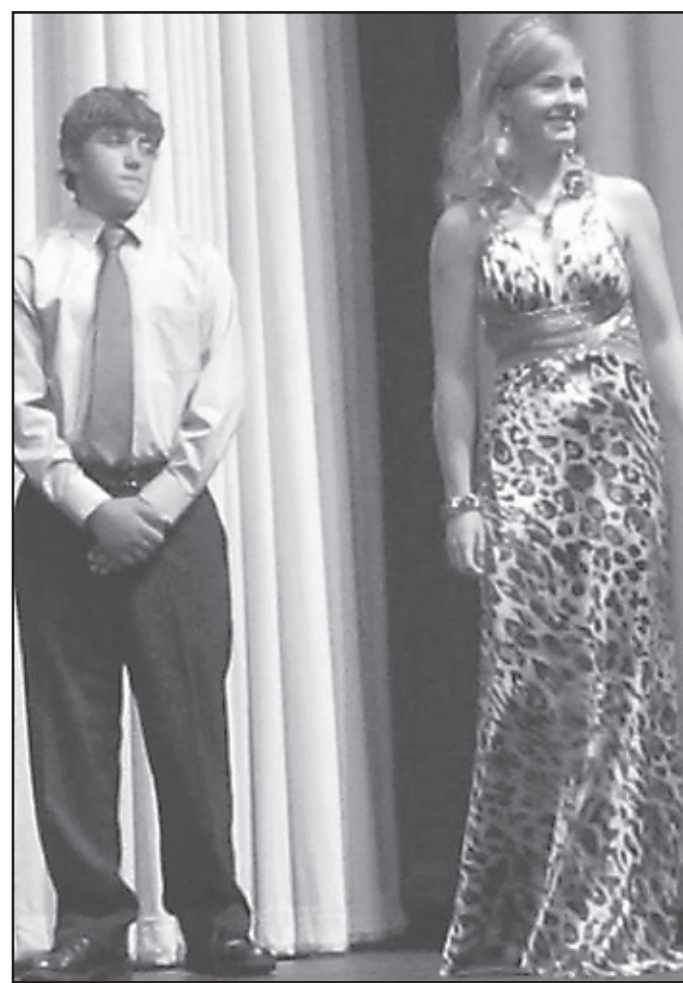
Included in general government are police department, fire department, building inspection, dog pound, streets and alleys, transportation van, municipal court, airport, parks, museum and cemetery.

Although the individual community programs were not separately listed in the budget, Gerber said the "other" budget lines for \$25,000 and \$15,000 could be used by the commission for these programs.

Included in the programs are the Invest in the Future scholarship program for Northwest Tech (\$20,000), the Carnegie Arts Center (\$2,500), Sherman County Historical Society (\$650 to help pay utilities on Ennis-Handy House), Freedom Fest Fireworks (\$500), VFW Christmas candy, Child Advocacy

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Style revue puts on great show



The Bushels, Bales and Tails style revue was Wednesday evening at the Sherman Theater, and the 4-Hers showed off their created and purchased outfits.

Jade Artzer (top photo) held her cousin Bre Holm in matching outfits and cousin Olivia Oller from Hutchison showed the reverse side of the dress and Ashton McClung (seated) was wearing the sun dress she made. Artzer won Junior Grand Champion for a polka dot top she constructed.

Champ King, (above left) showed off his Bronco pajama pants and pillowcase he made. King won Junior Reserve Champion.

In the Senior Boys Buymanship Cody Hooker (above with tie) was the Champion for his dress outfit, and he was Reserve Champion for a

casual outfit.

In the Senior Girls Buymanship Sydney Winston (above right) was Reserve Champion for the formal she wore. Winston recently was named Sheridan County Fair Queen.

In Junior Boys Buymanship Ethan Wolf was Grand Champion and Jonah McClung was Reserve Champion.

In Junior Girls Buymanship Dani Mangus was Grand Champion and Hannah Dechant was Reserve Champion.

Katelyn Coon was Grand Champion in Senior Girls Buymanship.

In Senior Constructed Kate-Lynn King was Grand Champion and Brooke Lockhart was Reserve Champion.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

2011 Northwest Kansas District Free Fair
Goodland, KS ~ Sherman Co. Fairgrounds
Bushels, Bales and Tails!

Friday
9 a.m. - Horse Show

Saturday
8 a.m. Fairgrounds Open for Set-up
4 p.m. Parade Line-up
5 p.m. NWKDFP Parade
7 p.m. Kiwanis Demolition Derby

Sunday
1 p.m. Fairgrounds Open for Set-up
5 p.m. Fairgrounds Closed

Monday
8 a.m. Judging 4-H Foods, Arts and Crafts, Clothing
4-H Foods Sale
4-H Life Skills Judging
9:30 a.m. Judging Exploring 4-H
2:30 p.m. Judging Rabbits and Poultry
5:30 p.m. Free Hotdog Feed
6:00 p.m. Howdy Rowdy Fun Night- Entries Open
6:30 p.m. Howdy Rowdy Fun Night

Tuesday
8:00 a.m. Check-in Entries 4-H & Open Class
Livestock Weigh-in
10:30 a.m. Livestock Weigh-in Closed
11:00 a.m. All Entries Closed
11:30 a.m. Judging 4-H & Open Class
1 p.m. Sheep Show
3 p.m. Goat Show
5:30 p.m. Kids Pedal Tractor Pull Registration
6 p.m. Kids Pedal Tractor Pull
7 p.m. Carnival Wristband Night

Wednesday
8 a.m. Swine Show
4:30 p.m. Admission Gates Open for PBR
6:30 p.m. Western Plains Chute-Out PBR

Thursday
9 a.m. Beef Show
12:30 p.m. Round Robin Showmanship
7:30 p.m. Texaco Country Showdown Talent Show

Friday
8:30 a.m. Livestock Judging Registration
9 a.m. Livestock Judging
4:30 p.m. 4-H Appreciation BBQ
5:30 p.m. 4-H Livestock Sale
7 p.m. Carnival Wristband Night
7:30 p.m. Modified Tractor Pull

Saturday
8 a.m. All Projects Released
Check-in Tri-State Royal of Champions
10:30 a.m. Release of Entries- Closed
1 p.m. Tri-State Royal of Champions
All Times Show are Mountain Time
Home-Owned Carnival Open on Midway
7 p.m. Saturday, and Monday through Friday,