

weather report

71°

10:30 a.m.
Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 7:06 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:24 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:04 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 68 degrees
- Humidity 45 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds north at 10 mph
- Barometer 3.36 inches and steady

- Record High today 102° (1931)
- Record Low today 34° (1941)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 71°
- Low Wednesday 55°
- Precipitation trace
- This month .01
- Year to date 16.08
- Below Normal .09 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy with a high near 76, winds out of the north at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 49. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 77, winds out of the north at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 52.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny with a high near 81 and a low around 56. Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 85 and a low around 57. Tuesday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 78 and a low around 54.

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

local markets

10:30 a.m.

- Wheat — \$7.69 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$8.08
 - Corn — \$7.19 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$7.39
 - Milo — \$0.00 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$13.18 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$13.46
 - Millet — \$5 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$32.20 cwt.
 - Confection — no bid
 - Pinto beans — \$28
- (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



Cowgirls finish second

Cowgirl Katelyn Coon looked to see where her second shot on Hole 1 went Tuesday at Sugar Hills. The Cowgirls finished second. See photos, story on Page 12.

Go Cowboys, beat Tigers



The Goodland Cowboys burst through the special banner at Cowboy Stadium on Friday for the opening game against Hugoton the Cowboys on 40-22. Tonight at 6:30 p.m., the Cowboys play the Ulysses Tigers in Ulysses. Both teams won their opening games on Friday by large margins, and Cowboy Coach Kent Teeter knows the Tigers will be a tough team. Fans who are not able to travel to Ulysses can listen to the game with Brice Kesler doing the play-by-play on KKCI 102.5 FM with pre-game starting at 6 p.m.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

City OKs revised benefit policy

By Tom Betz

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City employees who have been working for the city for at least 10 years, and are nearing retirement age will have the possibility of having their health insurance paid for by the city for one year from their retirement date based on a revised policy the city commissioners approved on Tuesday.

City Manager Doug Gerber said after several discussions the commissioners had asked him to draft a revised policy for the health insurance benefit for city employees who have been working for at least 10 years.

He said he was not convinced he had covered everything the commissioners had wanted.

Among the changes the revised policy would make were to say the employee had to be in good standing when they left the city, and have obtained the necessary point for the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System.

That the benefit would be for the employee portion only and be for one year.

The policy says the policy would be "effective: (1) until the retired employee is sixty-five (65) years of age (2) until the employee is covered by Medicare, (3) until employee is employed by another business which provides an employer sponsored health care plan, (4) for one year, or whichever time period is shorter."

Gerber said the intention was to make it for a maximum of one year. He said the commissioners had talked about putting in a grace period, but he said he had not included that in the policy, but it could be added in the motion if the commissioners approved the language.

Commissioner Bill Finley said he would like to see a grandfather clause for those employees who are



Members of the city commission toured the city power plant on Tuesday as part of their meeting. Plant Superintendent Rod Blake (third from right) explained to the commissioners and city staff who took the tour what the potential cost is for the installation of the re-

quired catalytic converters on each diesel engine. Those in the tour included (left to right) Josh Dechant, Bill Finley, Michael Solomon, Karen Anderson, Doug Gerber, Chris Zimmerman, Blake, John Garcia and Annette Fairbanks.

thinking about retirement within the next year. He said he felt doing this would be meeting the employees halfway.

Commissioner Josh Dechant said he agreed and felt the new language would go into effect at the end of next year for those planning to retire under the existing plan.

Finley said that would be about 15 months, and Dechant said he was saying the current policy would be good for present employees until the end of December 2012. He said the new language would apply to all the city employees who do not qualify under the policy now.

"It makes it a clear and definite time," Dechant said.

"I don't want a run on retirement," Gerber said. "I think about a year and a half is a good time frame."

Mayor John Garcia said he had two concerns about the policy. He said he felt the one year language was going to prioritize over everything else. He suggested cleaning up the language to say it is for one year from the date of retirement.

He said his second concern was the part about the employee going to work for another company and the city paying for their health insurance for a year.

"I am not quite sure it is fair to our taxpayers," he said. "If Doug were to come to work for me, I don't offer insurance and the city would

still have to pay the insurance for a year."

Finley said he felt the person who did that should not be excluded from their health benefit.

"I only base my issue on the concern that the city was not longer in the financial condition to continue to face the burden of those costs," Garcia said.

Dechant said if you take the other requirements the employee would get insurance for one year. He said if the person came to work where he is they would be eligible for benefits.

"If they are eligible for benefits they will take them or the city will not have to pay," Finley said.

City Clerk Mary Volk said that if

would be true if the company where the former employee went to work has an employer sponsored health care plan.

Gerber said the language was to give the city some way out of the higher cost, and felt having taken the lump sum out and reduced it to the single employee rate we had reduced the city cost.

Finley said if an employee has hit the KAPERS they will be thinking about retiring, and he said they are most likely going to be hitting 62 or 65 years of age.

Gerber said there are several city employees who started working out

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Country Current
FREE concert
7:30 p.m. Saturday
at Max Jones Fieldhouse



U.S. Navy Country Current country and bluegrass group to perform here Saturday.

