

weather report

89°

10:30 a.m.
Monday



Today

- Sunset, 8:18 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 5:22 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:18 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 89 degrees
- Humidity 30 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds northeast 12 mph
- Barometer 30.04 inches and falling
- Record High today 107° (1971)
- Record Low today 42° (1968)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Sunday 109°
- Low Sunday 72°
- Precipitation none
- This month 0.90
- Year to date 5.32
- Below normal 3.79 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny and hot with a high near 107, winds breezy out of the south at 10 to 30 mph and a low around 71. Wednesday: Sunny and hot with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, winds out of the southwest at 10 mph switching to the northeast and a low around 71.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny and hot with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 100 and a low around 70. Friday: Mostly sunny and hot with a 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms and a high near 98.

(National Weather Service)

local markets



10:30 a.m.

- Wheat — \$6.77 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.44
- Corn — \$6.31 bushel
- Posted county price — \$6.15
- Milo — \$5.96 bushel
- Soybeans — \$13.66 bushel
- Posted county price — \$13.80
- Millet — \$125 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$24.55 cwt.
- Confection — no bid
- Pinto beans — \$28

(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



City considers electric rate increase

By Kevin Bottrell

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The Goodland City Commission began what is likely to be a long and arduous process at their regular meeting June 18: raising the city's electric rates.

Nothing was voted on or decided at the June 18 meeting. Gerber said it was to be a preliminary discussion. The city is facing increased power costs from Sunflower Electric, who recently voted to raise rates by 6 percent. There are also increased costs associated with the city's new long-term contract with Sunflower. Gerber said he wanted the commission to consider whether it wanted to raise customer rates to compensate, and how to go about it.

Gerber asked the commissioners to consider portion of the consumer base should bear what part of the load.

Beth Looney from Sunflower Electric,

who was at the meeting, said typically the users who cause most of the cost should take on most of burden. Goodland is unusual, she said, because currently the residential rates are quite a bit lower than those for industrial and commercial. Residential users account for 78 percent of the customer base, but only contribute 30 percent of the revenue.

Looney said the commission could go for rate parity, making every user pay an equal rate, or they could focus on one type of user. She acknowledged that there are political repercussions for whatever decision the commission makes.

Looney also asked the commissioners to consider whether to do a rate increase in one large chunk, or in smaller increments over time.

City Clerk Mary Volk put together an estimated rate sheet with an increase. She estimated the city could raise about \$650,000

in revenue, which is close to what it will need. Her estimates put more of the load on residential users.

Gerber said the city could cut the electric funds yearly contribution to the city's general fund, which is about \$550,000, but the city would have to make up that money elsewhere. Looney said Goodland actually contributes quite a bit less out of its electric fund than many cities, who often use their electric funds to subsidize the rest of the city.

Commissioner Bill Finley said the commission has had many businesses come to it to object to their electric bills.

"It's not good to burden commercial so heavily," he said.

Garcia agreed, but said it might need to be a combination of things to get to where the city can cover the increase from Sunflower. Finley suggested Gerber and the city staff put together three proposals for rate increases or

other alternatives and bring them to the next commission meeting for discussion.

In other business, the commission:

- Held three public hearings on unfit structures at 302 W. 15th St., 229 E. 13th St. and 811 E. U.S. 24. No one came to speak on behalf of the properties.

Gerber said he had received a letter from the property owners of 302 W. 15th St. indicating they wish to sell the property. Gerber said this doesn't fit with the way the city handles unfit structures, which is to give 90 days to tear down or beautify the property, not sell it. Code Enforcement Officer Brian James said the building has been vacant since 2004 and the interior has been vandalized.

James said the owner of 229 E. 13th St. intends to tear down the home and would like to build a storage building, which would not

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State to begin road work at Edson, Brewster this week

Crews will be repaving the state highway spurs leading from Interstate 70 to Brewster and Edson sometime this week, probably starting on Wednesday.

Kristen Brands, spokesman for the Kansas Department of Transportation in Norton, said K-184 into Brewster and K-253 into Edson both will be milled to remove rough spots, then get an overlay of new asphalt. The stretch into Edson is less than a mile, while the spur to Brewster is about 1.5 miles.

Flaggers and a pilot car will guide one-lane traffic through both work zone projects during daylight hours, Brands said. Delays of up to 15 minutes can be expected.

Brands asked people to slow down, use caution, pay attention to the work-zone signs and watch out for workers. Weather permitting, the work should be done some time next week.

Contracts for both roads went to APAC Kansas Inc. of Hays, for \$88,189 on the Edson job and \$211,362 in Brewster. Dustrol of Towanda will do the milling on both.

The resurfacing project is part of T-Works, the transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature in May 2010, Brands said.

For questions, contact Area 2 engineer Eric Oelschlagel at (785) 626-325 or erico@ksdot.org in Atwood, or Brands, northwest Kansas public affairs manager at (785) 877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org in Norton.



Celebrities gather for benefit tourney

The annual Slice of Life golf tournament was held Friday and Saturday. There was a "Boots and Bling" party Friday night, which included a live auction and entertainment by the Jimmy Dee Band. There was also a silent auction that carried through to the tournament the next day. The tournament benefits the Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation, which supports Goodland Regional Medical Center. It often brings celebrities to town, which this year included Billy Thompson (above), a former player for the Denver Broncos. The tournament itself got started Saturday morning with a gathering of the teams at the Sugar Hills clubhouse (left) then a shotgun tee-off.

Photos by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News



Harvest going quickly



Grain trucks are a familiar site on the roads and lined up at the many Sherman County elevators this time of year. The wheat harvest is expected to be completed sometime this week or next.

Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Senate candidate focuses on rural revitalization

By Kevin Bottrell

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If decisions on the county level can be applied on the state level, then John Miller, candidate for the Kansas Senate, has plenty of experience.

Miller has been a Norton County commissioner for 16 years. He serves on the state Board of Emergency Medical Services and is vice president of the Kansas Association of Counties.

He faces incumbent Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer of Grinnell in the Republican Primary Election on Tuesday, Aug. 7. If he wins, he will face Democratic incumbent Sen. Allen Schmidt of Hays in the general election. The two incumbents were put in the same district in the redistricting decision earlier this month.

Miller said he had decided to run years ago, although now his district is a little different. The recent deci-

Election 2012

sion by the federal District Court subtracted six counties and added Hays and part of Phillips County.

"It changes the whole makeup of the district," he said.

Miller added that he is still looking for an exact legal definition of what parts of Phillips County were added. The redrawn Senate map shows part of Phillips County west of Phillipsburg attached to the 40th District, but it does not show an exact border.

Miller said the addition of Hays means that in addition to Northwest

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Tournament held here

The Goodland Outlaws American Legion baseball team won one of four games at the Levi Hayden Memorial Tournament last weekend

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