

weather report

71°

10:30 a.m.
Monday



Today

- Sunset, 7:43 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 6:00 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:42 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 71 degrees
- Humidity 43 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds southeast 9 mph
- Barometer 30.25 inches and steady
- Record High today 104° (1937)
- Record Low today 47° (1920)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Sunday 89°
- Low Sunday 52°
- Precipitation none
- This month 0.62
- Year to date 7.88
- Below normal 6.57 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 93, winds breezy out of the south at 15 to 20 mph and a low around 62. Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 3 p.m., a high near 96, winds out of the southwest at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 60.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly sunny with a high near 76 and a low around 57. Friday: Partly sunny with a high near 78 and a low around 59. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 86 and a low around 62. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local markets

10:30 a.m.

- Wheat — \$8.10 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$8.34
 - Corn — \$7.92 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$7.90
 - Milo — \$7.43 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$15.60 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$16.21
 - Millet — \$14 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$26.40 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



Athletes go to olympics

Four Goodland athletes placed in track and field events at the American Athletic Union Junior Olympic Games on July 28 in Houston.

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Goodland city budget approved

By Kevin Bottrell

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The Goodland City Commission approved the \$14 million city budget at their meeting Aug. 6.

Mayor John Garcia opened a public hearing at the beginning of the meeting to allow public comment on the budget, but no one came to comment. Notice of the hearing had been published in the *Goodland Star-News*.

During the budgeting process, the city commissioners made several changes to the budget the staff had prepared. The commission took out funding for sidewalk incentives and tree removal incentives — about \$10,000 each — and took out other line items amount-

ing to \$53,000. The commission also set aside \$10,000 in discretionary funds, which can be given in donations to various organizations.

City Manager Doug Gerber said it was the intent to keep taxes close to the same number of mills as last year. The budget will levy about 51.2 mills in taxes. Last year the city levied 49.2 mills. One mill is worth about \$25,870. There will be some variation when the official valuation numbers come out, Gerber said, as the city is currently working with estimates.

“You worked hard to trim it down some, we worked hard to trim it down some, and I think we have a good budget,” Gerber told the commission Monday.

The tax levy will bring in about \$1.326 million, \$68,580 more than last year. This will include \$646,200 for the General Fund, \$265,400 for bond and interest, \$134,500 for the library, \$240,700 for employee benefits, \$28,100 for library employee benefits and \$11,100 for the airport fund.

The city projects other general fund revenues of about \$1.9 million, including a transfer of \$600,000 from the electric utility fund, which the city does regularly in order to save for unexpected maintenance or capital upgrades. The electric fund revenue is expected to bring in about \$6.9 million and have a carryover of \$1.6 million from last year, which will cover the \$8.5 million in

expected expenses.

In other business, the commission:

- Heard from City Clerk Mary Volk, who said there have been many complaints over high utility bills. She said the high bills people are seeing now are because of the heat, when most people have been running air conditioners non-stop. The rate increases the commission approved at the last meeting have not taken affect yet, but will on the next billing cycle. Volk said the staff has been very good about informing people of the issue.
- Approved a resolution granting 90 days to the owners of 504 E. Seventh St. to tear

See BUDGET, Page 5

No major injuries in I-70 truck crash

The overturned semi-trailer rig that was blocking traffic on I-70 early Thursday morning was hauling merchandise for Home Depot when it hit a lip in the road and crashed.

Traffic was rerouted to Old U.S. 24 between the Brewster and Edson exits between about 6:30 and 10:30 a.m. (Central Time).

Brian James, Sherman County fire chief, said the truck, hauling inventory items for Home Depot, caught a lip on the side of the road with the trailer tires. The driver overcorrected and the truck rolled onto its side and slid about 30 feet, knocking over the mile post 30 sign.

James said a passenger sleeping in the cab was awakened by the crash. The passenger was uninjured, but the driver was complaining of pain in his left ribs. James said the driver was already out of the cab when he arrived.

The truck was leaking some oil, James said, and the rural fire department out of Goodland covered the spill. The Brewster Fire Department helped divert westbound traffic onto Old U.S. 24 at the Brewster Exit.

The westbound lanes on I-70 were reopened at 10:30 a.m. after a tow truck removed the battered Schnieder National rig.

Bringing down the house



This small house on Caldwell Avenue was demolished over several days last week. Heavy machinery was used to tear down the roof and walls. The Goodland Police Department provided traffic control Saturday as the debris was hauled away. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Man leads troopers on chase around northwest Kansas

By Steve Haynes

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A man wearing military fatigues led Kansas Highway Patrol troopers on a wild chase around Thomas and Logan counties Thursday morning, dodging traffic road spikes as he scribed a large square between Colby and Oakley, then ending near the railroad tracks west of Range Avenue.

Logan County Attorney Margaret Mahoney said the man, Curtis Christopher Mack, 41, Kansas City, Kan., was being charged in the chase. In Thomas County, County Attorney Kevin Berens said Friday he was reviewing the file and considering filing several felony charges related to the car chase. He said he expected to make a decision that afternoon.

Trooper Tod Hileman, spokesman for

Troop D of the Highway Patrol, said the chase began on Interstate 70 when a trooper tried to stop the car — a 2007 or newer white Nissan Altima — near mile marker 43, about 10 miles west of Colby and two west of the Levant exit. During the stop, the driver took off, racing east on the freeway with the trooper in pursuit.

Colby police officers tried to block both exits from the Interstate to keep the chase out of town, said Ron Alexander, interim police chief, but the man went around a car at the west exit and sped south on K-25.

The chase went south to U.S. 40 in Logan County, winding through two sets of curves near the county line. A Logan County officer set up spikes at the county line, just north of the U.S. 40 junction, but the man, driving a white Nissan Altima with Minnesota plates,

managed to avoid them.

Other deputies rushed to set up spike strips west of Oakley as the chase proceeded east at speeds reported at 120 mph. A trooper reported the car moving at 115 through the small town of Monument.

Approaching the intersection west of Oakley, officers reported eastbound and westbound traffic on U.S. 40.

“It’s going to be tight,” an officer said. Near Oakley, the driver got around the spikes, though they did flatten the tires on at least one Highway Patrol car. One patrol cruiser went into the ditch there.

David See, Logan County undersheriff, said a Gove County deputy was trying to place spikes west of Oakley when the man drove right at him. The deputy fired at the

man, apparently missing, near the U.S. 83-U.S. 40 junction.

The man drove north on U.S. 83 with at least four troopers close behind. Speeds ranged from 100 to 130 mph, slowing as the driver avoided traffic. Officers reported that the man appeared to be reaching under the seat or in the back seat, like he was trying to find a weapon.

Troopers tried to get to the Nine Mile junction of U.S. 83 and U.S. 24, but couldn’t make it ahead of the fleeing suspect. The man turned west, driving toward Colby. Officers set up road spikes near County Road 22, the landfill road, and near the Pestinger beer warehouse east of town. The man avoided one set, but

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Church celebrates 125th Anniversary



Pleasant Home Church, nine miles north of Edson, celebrated its 125th Anniversary Sunday with a celebration and special service with guest speakers, music and a reception. The original 1887 Pleasant Home Church and School District sod building (above) is a far cry from today’s church (left).

Pool plans pooch plunge for Aug. 19

Goodland dogs are invited to come have a swim at the third annual Pooch Plunge, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19, at Steever Water Park.

Cost is \$1 per dog and \$1 per person with proceeds going to the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter. Dogs must have current 2012 city tags and current rabies certificates. Leash laws still apply. The event is sponsored by the City of Goodland.

