

weather report

38° at noon



Today

Sunset, 5:46 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 6:06 a.m.

Sunset, 5:47 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil Temp. 34 degrees
- Humidity 70 percent
- Sky Partly sunny
- Winds SE 20
- Barometer 29.96 inches and falling
- Record High 83° (1989)
- Record Low -4° (1932)

Yesterday's Data

High 35°
Low 21°
Precipitation .24

Northwest Kansas

Tonight: Partly cloudy; low 25-30; winds S 10-20. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny; high 50-55; winds N 10-20.

Extended Forecast

Thursday through Saturday: Dry Thursday; high 40; low 20. Friday chance of rain or snow; high 40-45; low 20. Saturday chance of snow; high 30; low 20.

24-hour weather information is broadcast at 162.400 MHz.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.39 bu.
Posted county price — \$2.32
Loan deficiency payment — 13¢
Corn — \$1.80 bu.
Posted county price — \$1.80
Loan deficiency payment — 19¢
Milo — \$2.71 cwt.
Soybeans — \$3.99 bu.
Posted county price — \$3.97
Loan deficiency payment — 92¢
Millet — \$4.25 cwt.
Sunflowers
oil current — \$7.75 cwt.
loan deficiency payment — \$2.27
oil 1999 crop — \$8.50 cwt.
conf. current — \$18/\$11 cwt.
Pintos - \$13 (new crop)
Local markets courtesy of Mueller Grain, Sigo Sun and Collingwood Grain
Local bean market courtesy of Prairie Pea and Bean

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Dole urges end to Kosovo fight

DENVER — Former Sen. Bob Dole expressed frustration Monday at stalled efforts to secure a peace deal in Kosovo, and urged Albanian rebel commanders to sign the U.S.-backed agreement quickly or risk seeing a return to full-scale conflict.

Dole, the U.S. special emissary to the ethnic Albanians, said he spoke with a top Kosovo Liberation Army leader early Monday and was told the rebels are still on board.

“He assured again that they were going to sign the documents,” Dole said of his conversation with Jakup Krasniqui. “I said ‘sign it, sign it.’”

Dole and U.S. diplomats have heightened pressure on the ethnic Albanians to sign the Kosovo peace proposal, which negotiators hope will bring an end to a year of fighting with Serbs that has killed at least 2,000 people.

School board delays decision on colors, bids

Students ask to get away from Colby

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

Changing the Grant Junior High colors, new restrooms at the track and bleachers for the new gym were all decisions delayed at Monday’s Goodland School Board meeting.

The board also talked with Joyce Mitchell about her plans for an assisted-living center she would like to build on six acres owned by the school district southwest of the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Grant Junior High students Janae McKee and Malcolm White, both seventh graders, asked approval for a change from the current orange and black to gold and black to match the high school. McKee told the board the change is supported by a majority of students, and that it would be better to have the same colors as the high school.

White told the board they had gathered signatures from over half the students at the junior high, and had found very few who did not agree with changing the colors. He also mentioned that changing would distinguish them more from Colby teams, who’s colors also are orange and black.

Principal Jim Mull said the school wanted to get public opinion on the color change, but that the students felt “It was a no-brainer.”

Board member Mike Campbell questioned McKee and White about the change, asking if this would reduce the separate identity of the junior high. McKee said she did not know specifically about that, but that being the Mustangs rather than the Cowboys and Cowgirls did provide a separate identity.

“I cannot wait to approve this change,” said board member Ben Duell. “This is a change that should have been made 30 years ago!”

The vote on the color change was tabled until the next meeting Monday, March 22, however, and Board President Dick Short suggested the students continue gathering signatures and invited McKee and White to be present at the next meeting when the issue will be decided.

Building a combination restroom, concession stand and announcers booth at the district track facility was one of the items added to the agenda by Superintendent Marvin Selby. He told the board he had been trying for some time to get a contractor to give him plans, and that he had finally gotten two bids, from Stephens Constuction of Colby and Rhoads Construction of Goodland. Stephens bid was \$54,155 and Rhoads \$64,123.

Board member Gerald Franklin said he was in favor of the project, but felt the vote on the bids should be delayed until the next meeting to make sure everything is covered. Board member Ron Schilling agreed, and also said he was in favor of building the restrooms.

On the bleachers for the new gym at Max Jones Fieldhouse, Selby said the architect was reviewing the bids, and had not been able to confirm details of

one. This item will also be delayed until the next meeting.

The board did approve a payment to Rhoads Construction of \$144,359, for work completed on the Max Jones expansion.

Selby reported that while the snow had slowed down the project, the plumbers were working and the first load of cement block had been delivered. He told the board it would take 30 working days to get all the block work completed.

Following a break, Tom Harrison of Homeland Realty introduced Mitchell, who talked briefly with the board about her proposed assisted-living center project.

She told the board the laws were a bit different in Kansas than where she had centers in Colorado, but that she planned to build a 30-room facility if she can make a deal for the site.

“We are having to redesign it some,” she told the board. “It will have to be flat, and cannot be stacked, so it may be more circular with spokes. We build the centers to fit our residents rather than trying to impress their families. We take them for as long as possible, and have more of a family atmosphere.”

Mitchell said she operates three centers in Colorado, the largest in Yuma with 25 rooms. She also has centers in Flagler and Kit Carson.

Mitchell said she is willing to pay an appraised price, and figures it will take about a year to build and open the facility once the land has been purchased. She said the contractor would be Superior Builders of Limon, Colo., who have built her other centers.

Superintendent Selby said the appraisals had been delayed, but they should be available by the next meeting he said.

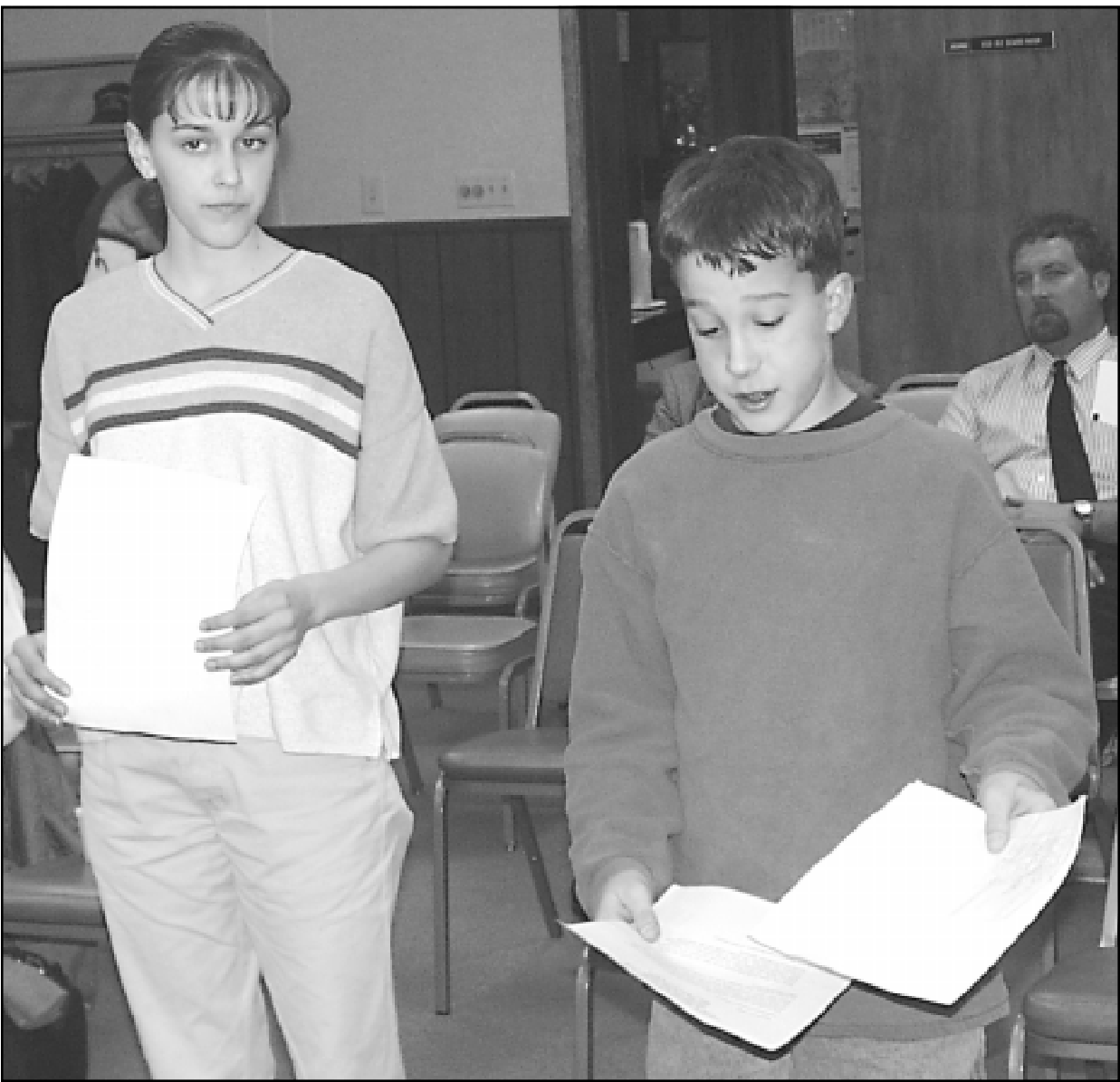
In other business, the board:

- Heard Selby report that enrollment was down by 15 from the opening of school last fall, and down six from last month. However, the principals reported that new students had enrolled in the past week.

- Heard a report on the School and Community Acting Together committee which is developing plans to begin a monthly Lifeskills effort in April. The group is working on having a word of the month which can be used to improve young people’s image and attitudes. The word for April will be Responsibility, and Integrity will be the word for May.
- Accepted the resignation of Lois Armstrong as a cook at the high school.
- Approved allowing the high school band and choral group to change their trip plans from attending a band festival in Chicago to one in Denver. Mike Quilling told the board this may be the last band trip he schedules because it is getting more difficult to raise the money, and students increasingly are not willing to participate in the effort.
- Selby reported the district is seeking a grant for an “after school” program as part of a partnership with Morland and Hoxie. The district could receive \$125,000 for the program, but Selby is not sure the money will appear.

“There is a lot of competition for this from the larger schools, and I will be surprised if we receive any funds,” he said.

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m. The next meeting will be 7 p.m., Monday, March 22, at North Elementary.



Grant Junior High students Janae McKee (left) and Malcolm White asked the Goodland School Board allow a change in the school colors Monday, saying that a majority of students had signed petitions supporting the color change.

Photo by Tom Betz / Goodland Daily News

Science Olympiad crew shows school board projects for state

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

Ten members of the Goodland High Science Olympiad team told the school board Monday about their plans for state competition Saturday, April 3, in Wichita.

The board approved financial support to the team, with an estimated cost of \$2,000 for the trip.

Coaches Dennis Friedrichs and Micah Carter talked to the board about the success the Goodland team had at the regional competition in Hays which qualified them for the state meet.

The students talked about the tests they took and brought three of the projects to show the board. One was a rocket made out of a two-liter pop bottle. Carter said the students made 10 rockets and one of those they launched at Hays went over the top of a building and disappeared. Unfortunately, because it disappeared it did not count in the competition.

Another of the projects is a car which carries an egg on the front and is required to stop when it gets close to a board. At Hays, the car hit the board, but the egg did not break.

The third project was a 400 mm tower which is designed to hold weight up to 55 pounds without breaking, and the winning team is the one which holds the most weight and is the lightest in construction. In Hays competition, the group used a five-sided tower, but the



Members of the Goodland High team headed for the state Science Olympiad in Wichita at the school board meeting Monday were (front row) Lindsay Custer, Carolyn Reitchek and Anna Hare, (back row), Carol Lillich, Julia Darnauer, Jace Chipperfield, Blake Winter, Garrett Cloyd, Dan Rasure and Brian Coon.

Photo by Tom Betz / Goodland Daily News

students said they have a newer design which is designed as a triangle and weighs half what the other did.

Students present at the board meeting were Carolyn Reitchek, Jace Chippenfield, Brian Coon, Anna Hare, Dan Rasure, Blake Winter, Garrett

Cloyd, Lindsay Custer, Julia Darnauer and Carol Lillich.

Members who were unable to attend, but who will be going to the state meet are Gareth Rohr, Darin Richardson, Adriel Alstrom, Kyla Ontiveroz and Scott Randolph.

Packers oppose Clark’s pricing bill

TOPEKA (AP) — It is unclear whether a bill requiring packers to post prices for cattle will come to a vote in the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Sen. Steve Morris, R-Hugoton, the committee chairman, said he originally agreed just to hold hearings on the measure, which supporters say can restore competition in cattle buying and bolster sagging prices.

However, Morris said after the com-

mittee heard opponents on Monday that he would assess the interest in advancing the bill.

Sen. Stan Clark, R-Oakley, who pressed for the hearings, said after listening to testimony from cattlemen, who are for it, and packers and feedlot operators, who oppose it, that legislators need more information.

He suggested it could be studied during the summer before the 2000 ses-

sion. Packers, feedlot operators and the state’s biggest farm organizations opposed the bill in the last of a series of hearings that started last week.

They said price posting is impractical, it would stymie efforts to improve the quality of Kansas beef, and it would leave Kansas a marketing island with buyers going to neighboring states to purchase cattle.

City Commission reviews rates, but sees no need for increases

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

The Goodland City Commission reviewed utility rates during a work session Monday evening, but the bottom line should please citizens: City Manager Ron Pickman said he would not recommend any increases.

“There will be no increases in fees anticipated in our municipal rates this year,” Pickman told the commission.

There will be some changes proposed for electrical hookups, however, aiming to give new residential and commercial customers a break but at the same time covering the city’s costs for equip-

ment. Currently, the city is charging for all material and labor, plus 10 percent on electrical hookups and upgrades of service.

The proposal, which will be discussed at Monday’s regular commission meeting, would allow residential customers a break by charging just half the cost. For new commercial taps, the city would pay the first \$1,500 of the cost, and the customer would pay anything over that.

Pickman said with the commercial customers, the city has to purchase expensive transformers, and the costs can run into the thousands of dollars depending on the needs for the transformer.

“We want to give the little guy a break, and still cover our costs,” he said.

Pickman also said the city is watching the Sewer and Solid Waste funds, which are running very tight. He said sewer rates will need to be changed in the future to pay for upgrading the system. He said the current rate is not based on usage, so a new rate structure will need to be developed.

He added that the solid waste fund is running very close to break even, and needs to be monitored closely in the next year.

In reviewing the electrical operations, it was noted that expenses had increased over the past

two years by more than \$1 million with replacement of Engine No. 5 and the building of the 16th Street power line.

Commissioner Jim Mull said such a large increase is something the city must watch.

Pickman said despite the increase in expenses, the utility fund has a reserve of over \$500,000, and is in sound shape.

Commissioners were also presented with project list which the city administration and department heads had produced. On the top of the street project list is rebuilding 17th Street from Main to Cherry, a heavily travelled route to downtown.