

weather report

89°

at noon



Today

Sunset, 7:25 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 6:12 a.m.

Sunset, 7:24 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil Temperature 76 degrees
- Humidity 37 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds north 10 mph
- Barometer 29.94 inches and falling
- Record High 100° (1954)
- Record Low 40° (1964)

Last 24 Hours*

High	91°
Low	60°
Precipitation	trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, low 60, winds east 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 85-90, low 55-60, winds southeast 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: dry, high 85-90, low 55-60. Thursday: chance of thunderstorms, high 80-85, low 60-65. Friday: chance of thunderstorms, high mid 80s, low 55-60.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Gas rates to go up on Friday

Residents could pay \$4.61 more

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Rates for Peoples Natural Gas customers in Goodland will increase Friday by an average of 7.15 percent.

The Kansas Corporation Commission, which regulates utilities, approved new rates Wednesday which will affect the 93,000 customers of Peoples Natural Gas and Kansas Public Service, both an operating division of UtiliCorp United of Kansas City.

"This is the first time the rates have been set for all Kansas customers," said Roger Kort, spokesman for Peoples Natural Gas in Colorado Springs. "That means the customers in Lawrence, Dodge City, Garden City and Goodland will all pay the same rates under the new schedule, which goes into effect Friday.

"Part of the rate request is to pay for improvements in gas main lines, updating of equipment and creation of a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week customer service line. The new 24-hour service line can be reached by calling (800) 303-0752."

The rate schedule provides for an increase of 80 cents in the basic residential monthly charge, raising it to \$7 per month.

For commercial customers the base monthly charge increases by \$1 to \$11 per month.

Cost for the gas will increase for most residential customers by 38 cents per thousand cubic feet used.

The gas cost represents an increase of 8.4 percent or \$4.61 a month for an average bill.

For commercial customers, the gas cost will increase by 44 cents, which is 9.5 percent or \$10.23 a month to the average customer.

The total rate plan could raise UtiliCorp's revenues by \$4.8 million. The last rate increase for the firm was granted in November 1996. In October, UtiliCorp requested a \$6 million rate increase, but the commission cut the request by \$1.2 million.



Kirsten, 7, (right) and Eryn Topliff, 10, (left) sat with their sister Katlyn, 7, at the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event on Friday night. Katlyn, who lives in Goodland, survived leukemia and a bone marrow

transplant. They are the daughters of Randy and Jeannie, and Kirsten and Katlyn are twins. The 12-hour relay raised \$5,100 for cancer research. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Relay helps cancer victims, survivors

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Susan Johnson said her mother died of liver cancer in 1971. At 52, she feels lucky because she has lived six years longer than her mother and is in good health.

Jan Lohr said her mother had a hysterectomy and both breasts removed after doctors found cancer. They told her mother she was cured, Lohr said, but the cancer returned seven years later and killed her.

Laural Belshe said she had a melanoma removed from her arm and is now cancer-free.

The three women have a lot in common. Not only do they work at First National Bank in Goodland, but they have had or know someone who has had cancer.

That's why, they said, it was important for them to participate in the 12-hour Relay for Life on Friday night at the K-18 ball field in Goodland.

"Everybody has some connection

with cancer for sure," said Belshe, one of 10 on the bank's relay team who stayed up all night Friday to raise money for cancer research.

The American Cancer Society puts on the fund-raising event in different communities throughout the year, using local volunteers to find sponsors, raise money and spread the word. This weekend was the first time Goodland has hosted the relay.

Michelle Shoff, a Goodland woman who spent four months putting the event together here, said the 12-hour relay brought 75 walkers to the ball field Friday night and raised \$5,100 for cancer research.

She said volunteers recruited friends and family from across Kansas and Colorado, with people forming teams of 10 or more and spending 12 hours taking turns walking around a small track lined with white paper bags filled with sand and a burning candle.

People paid \$10 for each luminary, said Shoff, who works at Leroy's Au-

tomotive. She said each bag had a person's name written on it, and served as a memorial to someone who has died of cancer or a cancer survivor.

During a ceremony at 9 p.m. Friday night, volunteers lit the luminaries while people took a break from walking to sing songs and listen to a speaker who talked about a young man he knew who died of cancer.

The event, Shoff said, started at 7 p.m. on Friday night and ended at 7 a.m. the next morning. It opened with 28 cancer survivors from Goodland walking a lap around the make-shift track at the ball field.

"It was a lot of work," Shoff said about her job as coordinator, "and it was harder because it was the first year Goodland has done this."

It was even harder, she added, because plans kept changing. The relay was supposed to be held at Goodland High School's track, but was later moved to the ball field because the

school district is having the track re-paved.

Then, Shoff said, it started to rain around 9:30 p.m. on Friday night.

She said she didn't mind the rain much, but the thunder and lightning was scary.

Participants quickly packed up their tents and moved to the Kansas National Guard Armory building across town in the northeast part of Goodland. Shoff said the rain didn't dampen the event much.

"Everybody seemed to take it in stride," she said. "It was just lucky we had made arrangements to go to the armory ahead of time."

Even the older people who aren't used to staying up all night hung in there, Shoff said.

She said Mable Rice, 75, and Fern Hawks, 76, — two retirees from Goodland — stayed all night at the event.

"They deserve some recognition," she said.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.53 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.31
- Loan deficiency payment — 14¢
- Corn — \$1.59 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.42
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 57¢
- Milo — \$2.46 hundredweight
- Soybeans — \$3.98 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.01
- Loan deficiency payment — 89¢
- Millet — \$7.00 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$5.30 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.30
- Confection current — \$15/\$6 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Heat wave rolls over east

LAWRENCE — The heat hung over central and eastern Kansas and western Missouri in what is becoming one of the hottest summers on record.

Forecasters said Monday could turn into the hottest day of the summer — a day after the high reached 109 in Lawrence to make it the hottest spot in the country, 1 degree hotter than Death Valley, Calif.

The heat was blamed on a high-pressure system that settled in over the Great Plains about two months ago and has not budged.

No immediate relief was in sight. Seven people went to the hospital in Topeka with heat-related problems Sunday, and one was admitted.

Six people were treated for dehydration-related problems Sunday at Stormont-Vail Regional Health Center.

First day of school jitters...



Jennifer Hernandez stood by the hood of her mom's car as she prepared to join the parade of students walking into the first day of school. She was starting kindergarten today and looked a little frightened. School will be running on a heat schedule this week. All classes, including Headstart will start on time, but will end at 1 p.m. Sports and extracurricular activities will start at 4 p.m.

Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

Board to get enrollment report

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Marvin Selby says during the seven years he has been superintendent of the Goodland School District, enrollment has gone down a little each year. He's hoping the trend has changed, but said he didn't expect to know until 1 p.m. today.

After the first day of school today, Superintendent Selby said, he will give preliminary enrollment numbers at tonight's school board meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. at the administration building, 1312 Main St.

"We hope enrollment is not down," he said, "but we're anticipating a drop of about 25 students."

Last year, he said, the district counted 1,198 students. This year, he added, if student numbers follow the same rate

of decline as past years there will be about 1,160 students in school.

But, Selby said, he's crossing his fingers the Goodland District will be one of the few in Kansas that doesn't lose students.

He said principals have told him new students are entering school this year, and some who said they were going to leave have come back.

"I am cautiously optimistic," he said, adding that last year, of the 304 districts in Kansas, 200 reported declining enrollment.

Selby speculated this is because there are fewer farmers, and people are moving to the city for jobs.

He said declining enrollment hurts small schools because it means they get less money from the state.

Selby explained that the state pays so

much for each student, and as the number of students declines, so does the amount of money coming in.

He said it won't make much of a difference for the Goodland district this year because the state Legislature has allowed school districts to use enrollment numbers from two years ago, or an average of three years.

But, he said, the district could be in trouble next year.

He said the district is already preparing for the drop by reducing the number of teacher aides and not replacing two elementary school teachers who quit this year.

The board will also discuss projects, such as resurfacing the high school track and painting Cowboy stadium, and orally evaluate Superintendent Selby.

Hospital group to see new scanner

The highlight of Tuesday's hospital board meeting will be a tour of the new computerized tomography scanner room at the hospital.

The Goodland Regional Medical Center leased a spiral computerized tomography scanner and an ultrasound machine, which it received about the time of the last board meeting on Aug. 1.

The tour will give any board members who have not seen the new equipment a chance to do so.

Andy Laue, chief financial officer, will give the financial report for July. Administrator Jim Chaddic will give his monthly report and discuss recommendations from the strategic planning meeting.

The board is to look over the policy manuals for the dietary and diagnostic imaging departments.

They have allowed about 10 minutes for input from board members and 35

minute to discuss personnel matters in closed session.

The board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the medical center's board room.

City Commission calls meeting to talk about buying property

The Goodland City Commission has called a special meeting for 5 p.m. today for a closed session to discuss buying property.

Commission members will only

be discussing the purchase tonight, said City Manager Ron Pickman, with no decision expected. The closed session is the only thing on the agenda.