

New pool might lose high board

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was their choice, but the committee would like to see how the present price system works and asked for a little bit of time.

After much discussion, the majority of the commissioners decided to keep the present prices in place for this season and then see if changes should be made for next year.

Later, Pickman said the city may need to raise electric rates or add an "adjustment charge" because of the increased cost of natural gas.

He said the city rates are based on a cost of 28 cents per kilowatt hour, and that's where the city breaks even. Now though it's costing the city over 32 cents to produce electricity. In April, the cost went to 46, because the city had to buy natural gas on the open market as Sunflower Electric, the city's electric supplier, was down.

Pickman said an adjustment charge when gas or wholesale prices are high wouldn't solve the problem, but would allow the commissioners to get the budget back on track.

"This all directly relates to the cost of natural gas," Pickman said.

"We're losing money and we need to do something about it," added Ed Wolak, public works director.

Pickman said the good thing about an energy cost adjustment charge is that the consumer wouldn't pay it if the

city's cost was under 28 cents.

The commissioners decided to have city staff prepare an ordinance which would initiate an electric energy cost adjustment on electric utility billing. At the next meeting, they will look at the ordinance.

An amendment in cemetery regulations regarding grave markers or monuments was approved by the commissioners. The change states that any new grave markers are to be set on a concrete foundation which is not less than 12 inches and not more than 16 inches greater than the length and width of the marker. Also, the foundation can't be less than 8 inches in depth and must be supported by footings consisting of at least two 6-inch post holes not less than 8 inches in depth. The idea, commissioners were told, is to make it easier to mow around the grave markers or monuments.

The commission issued a license to Becky Mitchek, co-owner of Cowboy Loop, for the sale of unopened cans or bottles of beer. The person's name that was on the license is no longer associated with the business, so a new license had to be acquired.

The commissioners listened to the second readings of two franchise agreements between the city and S&T Communications. One is for a telephone system and the other is for a cable television and Internet service system.

Lou Spinney was appointed by the commissioners to fill Rudy Gemmer's position on the Goodland Shade Tree Commission for a three-year term.

The commissioners reappointed Jack Sanderson to the Goodland Airport Board for another three-year term.

Pickman reminded the commissioners about a city policy workshop with them and city staff at 5 p.m. Monday. He also told them that the recycling workshop which they and the county commissioners were to attend would be at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the city commission meeting room.

A payment to Rhoads Construction for \$29,733 for work done on the water park was approved by the commissioners. Pickman said there was some caulking which would have to be replaced after the swim season was over and some other odds and ends need to be finished up. He said the retained fee of 10 percent should be more than enough to cover the work which needs to be redone or completed.

The commissioners met with Pickman in two 10-minute closed sessions to discuss buying some real estate. After they came out, Commissioner Chuck Lutters made a motion to allow Pickman to continue negotiations for buying the property and the motion passed.

The commission will meet again at 5 p.m. on Monday, June 18, on the second floor of the city building.

Getting ready for the big delivery



Newspaper carriers sat outside *The Goodland Daily News* Thursday afternoon before delivering papers. Quinten Ragels (left) read a newspaper, while he and his brother Jaron waited for their grandmother to pick them up.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Takeover may not be smooth transition

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans gaveled the Senate into session today on its final day under GOP control, amid signs the Democratic takeover of the chamber may not be completely smooth.

Sen. Michael Enzi, R-Wyo., in the chair as the day's session began, immediately recognized Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss. Lott laid out the day's plan for debating the education bill, and said with a smile that he hoped the bill could be finished this week, "no matter what the circumstances may be."

Lott's reference was to the circumstances that will exist beginning on Wednesday, when Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., will be the majority leader and will inherit that post's power to set the chamber's agenda.

Thanks to the decision by Sen. James Jeffords, R-Vt., to leave the GOP, today marked the end of the GOP's Sen-

ate reign, which began in 1995. The Democratic takeover will mark the first time in history the Senate has changed hands in a meaningful way in the midst of a session.

Jeffords received a standing ovation from Democratic senators as he joined them today for their weekly lunch, the first time he has done so. He made no comments to reporters.

Minutes earlier, Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., visited Jeffords in his office in a last-ditch attempt to persuade him not to vote with Democrats in reorganizing the Senate even though he was becoming an independent. Jeffords told reporters he spurned the request.

On the Senate floor, as if referring to the partisan differences that this week will underline, the Senate chaplain, Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie, used his opening prayer to discuss people with whom senators may disagree.

"Help us see them not as enemies, but as people who will help sharpen our edge," he said.

The looming Senate turnover prompted an immediate debate as Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., complained that majority Democrats have decided to put patients' rights legislation at the top of the chamber's agenda when the education bill is completed.

Lott had planned to make President Bush's energy package the Senate's next order of business. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., the No. 2 Democratic leader, said senators would debate an energy plan as soon as possible, though Democrats have said it will be one they have reworked.

Behind the scenes, though, things were simmering in a Senate that Democrats will control by 50-49 plus Jeffords, who will be an independent but will side with Democrats in reorganizing the chamber.

Woman arrested after high speed chase

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being arrested.

When the deputy told Horne he was, in fact, under arrest, the man took off and for the next three to four miles tried to elude capture, Jones said.

"In doing so," the sheriff said, "he tried to run Deputy Patton off the road twice by hitting the patrol car."

After the stolen vehicle hit the patrol car the second time, Jones said, Patton pulled his revolver and shot out the right front tire, causing the Buick to

stop near the Mingo interchange at mile marker 61.

"This time, the suspect did not resist arrest," Jones said, "and he's currently being held in jail on charges of eluding authorities, felony fleeing the scene, gas theft and charges in Idaho."

Reform party of Kansas plans state convention

TOPEKA (AP) — The Reform Party of Kansas plans to hold its annual state convention later this month with some leaders hoping to push its platform closer to the views of presidential candidate Pat Buchanan.

The convention is scheduled for 10 a.m. June 23 at the Holiday Inn Express

hotel in Topeka. Its leaders expect the main order of business to be choosing seven Kansas delegates to the national Reform Party convention.

That national convention is scheduled for July 26-29 in Nashville, Tenn., and Kansas party spokesman John Cooney said the gathering will be an

important one.

"It'll be a test to see if the party shifts to the right," said Cooney, a St. Marys resident and Buchanan supporter. "This year will be a critical year."

Buchanan ran as the Reform Party's presidential candidate last year in many states, including Kansas.

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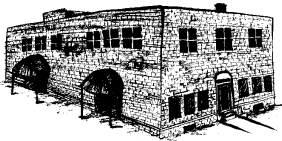
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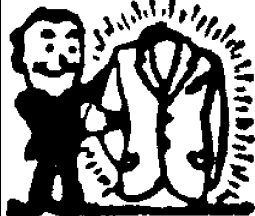
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