

weather report

84°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:15 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:15 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 64 degrees
- Humidity 14 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds west 15-25 mph
- Barometer 30.04 inches and falling
- Record High 107° (1952)
- Record Low 41° (1989)

Last 24 Hours*

High 76°
Low 46°
Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Clear, low 50-55, light wind. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high mid 80s, low upper 50s, northeast wind 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: chance of thunderstorms, high lower 90s. Monday: dry, high 90s, low 55-65. Tuesday: chance of thunderstorms, low 85-95, low 55-65.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.69 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.61
 - Corn — \$1.77 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.68
 - Loan deficiency payment — 31¢
 - Milo — \$2.83 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$4.09 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.11
 - Loan deficiency payment — 81¢
 - Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$7.40 cwt.
 - Oil new crop — \$6.20 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency prnt. — \$2.22
 - Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$14 (new crop)
- (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Kidnapper surrenders

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines — A senior Abu Sayyaf rebel who led a mass kidnapping from a Malaysian resort last year plans to surrender in exchange for "fair treatment," a government envoy said today.

The envoy said the surrender of Ghalib Andang — known as Commander Robot — and 17 of his "sub-commanders" could come in "one to two weeks." It was unclear what effect a surrender could have on the current hostage saga on Basilan island.

The envoy, reputed illegal gambling lord Luis Singson, said Andang told government negotiators he disagreed with colleagues who seized 20 hostages, including three Americans, from a beach resort May 27.

"Commander Robot wants to return to the folds of the law," Singson said.

City may see bigger utility bills

Electric rate jump due to gas prices

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland City Commission will discuss a proposed ordinance Monday night that would

increase every residents' electric bill, depending on the amount of electricity used and what it costs the city to produce or buy the utility.

City officials say the increase is necessary because high natural gas prices have bumped up electric prices — since natural gas is used to produce electricity — and the city doesn't have enough money budgeted to cover the increase.

The ordinance, on the agenda for the regular meeting, would put in place a fuel adjustment charge for electric utility billing for city residents.

The commissioners discussed the increase at the first meeting of the month, and asked city staff to put together an ordinance.

Ed Wolak, public works director, said the city set a \$28 cap on the costs to produce or purchase electricity, but high natural gas prices have driven this amount up. Lately, he said, the city's cost has continually gone above this cap, and the city has had to dig into reserves to cover extra costs.

"All we are trying to do is recoup that cost," Wolak said.

In the past, he said, the city didn't see large increases that stayed above the cap for a long period of time. And, he added, the rates had enough of a buffer that the city could absorb the extra expense. Now, he said, electric costs are typically above the cap, and there's no sign that they are going to decrease.

"We basically are trying to get that cost back and keep the system going and pay the bills," he

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College receives backing

Council approves accreditation

By Lester Bolen

The Goodland Daily News

Larry Keirns, the president of the Northwest Kansas Technical College, said the institution has achieved all of its goal this year, becoming a technical college, opening a student fitness center and receiving national accreditation.

The state granted college status in March, the fitness center opened in May and national accreditation as a technical college was approved by the Atlanta-based Council on Occupational Education last week.

Council representatives visited the college's campus in Goodland in April, and gave approval at a meeting held in Orlando, Fla. on June 7-9.

"I believe that the technical college is positioned to continue to increase in numbers of students and excellence in technical education," said Keirns, who plans to retire this month after being at the helm for almost 36 years.

"I expect that during this decade we will have a campus of over 1,000 students and add two to three new programs," he said. "The future for technical education is looking very positive because the work force today needs skilled, trained labor."

Keirns will be replaced by Kenneth Clouse, president of the Northeast Kansas Technical College in Atchison. Keirns said Clouse plans to move to Goodland next week and work with him for a couple of weeks.

The college received accreditation after an evaluation showed the institution met not only the council's standards, but the needs of students, the community and employers.

Keirns said the evaluation included a self-study by the technical college, which began in April 2000, and a review by a team of professional educators.

The fourteen-month study was co-chaired by Diane Williams, an office/computer technology instructor and Gary Barricklow, an instructor in the truck and tractor diesel mechanics department.

"Without the dedication and cooperation of the 60 employees," Barricklow said, "completion of the self-study wouldn't have been possible."

The Council on Occupational Education, a non-profit corporation, offers service to post secondary work force education providers across the nation. Membership into the council is voluntary, but can be achieved only by becoming accredited.

A flag is born



Steve Raymer and local Girl Scouts raised an American Flag during the Flag Day Celebration at Goodland's North Elementary School on Thursday. The flag was given to the school by the Goodland Elks Lodge

for the student's patriotism and was flown over the Capital Building in Topeka on April 18.

Photo by Lester Bolen/The Goodland Daily News

Board hires teacher, gives super a raise

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland School Board filled three open jobs on Wednesday, said good-bye to a teacher and a bus washer, gave the superintendent a raise and heard that the high school is looking for a counselor and biology teacher.

The board came out of a 25-minute closed session at the end of the special meeting to hire Lindsey Pifer as an eighth-grade English teacher; Jon McLean, who helps run the district's high school dropout recovery program, as G-Club sponsor; and Travis Palmgren, who works outside the district, as assistant high school wrestling coach.

Pifer and Palmgren will replace Troy Rall, an eighth grade English teacher who had been designated as the assistant wrestling coach. Members accepted a resignation from David Sprecker Jr., the bus cleaner/washer, whose last day will be on Friday, June 29.

After going behind closed doors for another 15 minutes, the board came out to approve a \$3,600 raise for Superintendent Marvin Selby, increasing his

Parents will see increase in student lunch prices

Parents of elementary and junior high students will pay 10 cents more for their children's lunches in the next school year, as the Goodland School Board decided Wednesday to increase meal prices for students and adults.

At the special meeting, the board approved a food service program agreement with the federal government, saying the district will provide nutritious meals and offer students from low-income families reduced-price or free meals.

The agreement includes the price of meals, which Superintendent Marvin Selby said have remained the same for over three years. The board agreed to a 10-cent increase for student lunches and a 25-cent increase for adult lunches.

Only elementary and junior high students will see the increase, as lunch prices will stay the same at the high school. Selby said breakfast prices won't change because the district wants to encourage students to

eat breakfast. The cost of reduced-price lunches will also stay the same.

Next year, student lunches at the elementary schools will cost \$1.35, \$1.45 at Grant Junior High and \$1.50 at Goodland High School. Adults will pay \$2.50 and reduced-price lunches will be 40 cents.

Elementary school students will pay 75 cents for breakfast and junior high and high school students 80 cents. Reduced-price breakfasts will cost 30 cents.

annual salary to \$95,000. The 3.4 percent increase is equal to what the board approved for other school administrators this year.

Selby said two people have applied for the high school counselor position, and one had set up an interview. Administrators plan to interview a woman who doesn't have a teaching certificate for the biology opening, he said, adding that the district could find a way to let her work while she's earning a cer-

tificate.

In other business, the board:

- Voted to let Kent Elliott, a senior at Goodland High School next year, graduate a semester early to attend Colby Community College. Selby said Harvey Swager, the high school principal, and the counselor agree with the decision.
- Approved paying \$142,185 in bills for the past month.
- Decided to pay \$250 for a Western

Plains Arts Association Membership.

• Heard member Gerald Franklin, the district representative on the Northwest Kansas Technical College board, say there will be a retirement party for college President Larry Keirns from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 30, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 824 Main Ave.

• Heard Selby report that the district's summer crew is making repairs in and around district buildings.

Nebraska company building 'affordable' apartments here

By Bill Wagoner

The Goodland Daily News

It looks as though Goodland will be getting a new apartment complex.

The nine-duplex West Side Apartments, with 18 living units, will be on Cattletrail between 12th and 15th streets. The general contractor is Gerald Paxton, owner of Paxton Building Service in Goodland. He said there will be four three-bedroom apartments and five two-bedroom apartments.

The apartments will be built to the Kansas Housing and Commerce standards, he said, and will be affordable housing.

That means a single person whose annual income is less than \$18,144 will be eligible to live in the apartments. For two people the annual income limit is \$20,736; three people, \$23,328; and four people \$25,920.

The apartments will be fully-equipped with refrigerators, stoves, dishwashers, washers, dryers and electric garage-door openers. Each unit will have its own garage, with Northwest Kansas Housing Inc. being responsible for snow and trash removal, as well as lawn maintenance, as manager.

The company hasn't set rent prices yet.

The developer is Mesner Development Group, Central City, Neb. Mesner Development has been building affordable housing for nine years. The first two projects were in Central City, and two others in St. Paul, Neb., and Larned. While the federal government gives the tax credits for the projects, the state will be overseeing the project.

The ground has already been broken, and Paxton said the completion date is some time in February.

Cliff Mesner said the complex will cost around \$1.5 million. The architect for the complex is Tim Schaller of Larned.



A picture of what the new West Side Apartments on Cattletrail will look like when finished.