

**weather  
report**

**93°**

**at noon**



**Today**

• Sunset, 7:52 p.m.

**Tomorrow**

• Sunrise, 5:54 a.m.  
• Sunset, 7:51 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

• Soil Temperature 76 degrees  
• Humidity 26 percent  
• Sky partly cloudy  
• Winds south 9 mph  
• Barometer 30.23 inches  
and falling  
• Record High 108° (1934)  
• Record Low 46° (1939)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High 98°  
Low 68°  
Precipitation 0.09 inch

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: Mostly clear, low 65-70,  
south wind 10-20 mph. Tomorrow:  
Mostly sunny, high 95-100, low 65-  
70, south wind 10-20 mph.

**Extended Forecast**

Thursday: chance of thunder-  
storms, high 85. Friday: chance of  
thunderstorms, high 80, low 55. Sat-  
urday: dry, high middle to upper 80s,  
low 55-60.

(National Weather Service)

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

**local  
markets**



**Noon**

Wheat — \$2.54 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.46  
Corn — \$2.01 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.85  
Loan deficiency payment — 14¢  
Milo — \$3.23 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.65 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.35  
Loan deficiency payment — 57¢  
Millet — \$4.50 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$8.40 cwt.  
Oil new crop — \$7.35 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.19  
Confection current — no bid  
Pinto beans — \$16 (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.**

**Researchers  
want cloning**

WASHINGTON — Amid  
growing controversy over the  
safety of human cloning, three re-  
searchers argued today for trying  
to make genetic duplicates of  
people by adapting the techniques  
used to create the sheep Dolly.

“Infertility is a disease,” and  
couples who suffer from it need  
help to have children, Panayiotis  
Zavos, who runs an infertility  
clinic in Lexington, Ky., told a  
cloning conference convened by  
the National Academy of Sci-  
ences.

Zavos and Dr. Severino Antinori  
of Rome said there are ways to  
screen out abnormal embryos cre-  
ated in the cloning process.

Alan Colman, research director  
of PPL Therapeutics in Scotland,  
told the panel that cloning in ani-  
mals is improving and he expects  
much greater efficiency as tech-  
niques get better.

# Taxes raised despite complaints

By Sharon Corcoran

*The Goodland Daily News*

News of a planned 7.8 percent hike  
in the city’s property tax levy brought  
39 citizens to the City Commission  
meeting Monday, and while only two  
spoke during the budget hearing, the  
crowd had plenty to say later.

Commissioners adopted the  
\$8,829,026 budget on a 3-2 vote, with  
Tom Rohr, Dean Blume and Curtis  
Hurd voting for. Rick Billinger and  
Chuck Lutters voted against.

Comments continued to come  
throughout the meeting.

One woman said young people do  
not respect their elders, a man asked  
why the people are not asked to vote on  
proposed projects and another accused  
the city manager of giving himself a  
huge raise.

Adopting next year’s budget  
prompted more comments from the  
audience, as the commissioners talked  
about why the increase in the property  
tax levy is needed.

“The money to make improvements  
has to come from somewhere,” Com-  
missioner Dean Blume said. “If you put  
things off, it’s going to bite you some-  
where down the line.”

Other cities are having to increase the  
property tax levy, Blume said, not just  
Goodland.

Terry Bahe said from the audience  
that Goodland needs to focus on bring-  
ing jobs into the community. That will  
bring money into the community rather  
than just raising taxes, he said.

Several people said the city could not  
afford Steever Water Park and ques-  
tioned why it was built and whether  
there really was a hole under the old  
pool.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the  
old pool used millions of gallons of  
water each summer while the pool at  
Steever Park has used 300,000 gallons.  
He said he is sure the old pool leaked.

One reason for the increased cost of  
operating the new water park, Pickman  
said, is the cost of insurance.

“An agent for the company that in-

sured the old pool assured me they  
would insure the new one,” Pickman  
said, “then after the pool was built, rep-  
resentatives of the company gave vari-  
ous excuses for not insuring the water  
park.

“We had to go to another company  
for insurance, and they are charging a  
lot more than we used to pay for insur-  
ance.”

Elmer Jacobs told the manager that  
he should not have relied on the agent’s  
word and wanted to know why the pub-  
lic was not asked to vote on the water  
park.

“Why don’t we get to vote on things  
anymore?” he asked. “I feel we are turn-  
ing into communists.”

Pickman noted that the city had  
planned and discussed the water park  
over a period of nearly two years.

“Where were you before we made  
these decisions?” he asked.

Several people then said the city  
commission meetings should be better  
publicized and suggested that they  
could be held later, as many people are  
still working at 5 p.m. when the meet-  
ings begin.

Alice Hoppe said she would have to  
represent the older people in town since  
no one else seemed to care. She said she  
delivers medications to older people,  
and often finds that the people she de-  
livers to have no lights because they  
cannot afford electricity.

People here have no sympathy for  
old people, she said, and the younger  
people have no respect and no manners.

Rather than raise the property taxes,  
Sheryl Linden said, the city should raise  
the sales tax to pay for repairs on the  
streets. Out-of-town people wear out  
the streets, too, she said.

People from other towns will not  
come here to shop if we raise the sales  
tax, Pickman replied.

The commission voted to pass the  
budget, but that didn’t end the com-  
ments, as many people continued to  
complain among themselves as the

**See BUDGET, Page 3**



Mel Pfau spoke to the city commission Monday at the budget hearing, which was attended by 39 Goodland residents, with concerns about next year’s spending and taxes. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

## Complaints: pool, reserve

Of the 39 citizens who came to the  
Goodland City Commission meeting  
Monday, only two men spoke during  
the public hearing on the 2002 budget.

One man commented about the cost  
of Steever Water Park and the other  
wondered what happens to money the  
city has set aside in its reserves.

The first man to speak up was Mel  
Pfau, who noted that the city spent more  
than \$2 million on Steever Water Park  
and said that this was not something  
people in Goodland wanted. He said the  
pool should make money, not cost the  
taxpayers money.

“I think you’ve put a lot of money in  
a pool,” Pfau said, “that’s never going

to be paid back.”

He added that he thinks the city gov-  
ernment is out of hand.

Loren Bahe said he had seen it pub-  
lished that the city has over \$8 million  
on hand and wanted to know why the  
city would need to raise taxes.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the  
money on hand is in reserve funds and  
is earmarked for certain projects.  
(There was a total of \$5,275,596 in five  
reserve accounts at the end of July.)

It can’t be spent on anything else  
unless the projects are canceled, he  
said. The projects the money is saved  
for have only been delayed about a year,  
he added, and wouldn’t be canceled.

The city maintains a fairly stable  
property tax levy, Pickman said, by set-  
ting money aside a little at a time for  
large projects.

Otherwise, he said, the city would  
need to raise the levy by 18-20 mills  
every time a big project needs to be  
done. The budget was adopted on a 3-2  
vote, showing total proposed spending  
of \$8,829,026 and spending in the gen-  
eral fund, which covers most of city  
government other than utilities, at  
\$2,586,923.

The property tax levy was set at  
50.064 mills, up from 46.454 mills this  
year. That is an increase of about 7.8  
percent.

## Storm damages line, tower

Lightning struck a buried gas  
line in a field south of Goodland  
early Monday, setting off a fire that  
was contained after the line was  
shut down.

The storm Sunday night also has  
made it harder to get in touch with  
people in the area, as it damaged a  
cellular phone tower in Sherman  
County.

Dave Moody, director of cus-  
tomer operations for People’s  
Natural Gas, said that they are 99.9  
percent sure that the fire was  
caused by a bolt of lightning hit-  
ting the gas line, which was buried  
two to three feet below ground.

The impact of the strike split the  
pipe and ignited the gas about  
12:30 a.m. It burned a 10-to-15-  
foot radius in the field, two miles  
south and a mile east of town, but  
no crop damage was done.

Rural fire fighters and a control  
unit from the gas company re-  
sponded.

They shut off the regulator sta-  
tion, which serves as an emer-  
gency valve, to isolate the dam-  
aged section, and let the fire burn  
out. Moody said that took about 30  
to 45 minutes. He added that since  
the fire was contained, letting it  
burn out was much safer than try-  
ing to put it out. Repairs were made  
to the pipe Monday.

An agent at American Commu-  
nications in Goodland said light-  
ening hit an Alltel tower south of  
town late Sunday night.

People can now call cellular  
phone to cellular phone or cellular  
phone to land line, but a land line  
phone can’t reach a cellular phone  
and will only get a busy signal.

Alltel workers are fixing the  
tower, but didn’t know when it  
would be up and running again.



Pioneer Park has a fan in Daniel Phillips, 3, son of Carrie and Jerrod Phillips of Goodland. Over the past several weeks, he has taken all the coins he could get and filled one of the little piggy banks put out to raise money for Pioneer Park. Friday he pushed the last penny in that would fit, and with his Grandfather Dave Becker took the bank to City Manager Ron Pickman to be added to the park funds. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Daily News

## Group halfway to park

By Reagan Smith

*The Goodland Daily News*

Supporters have raised about half the  
money needed to finish Pioneer Park,  
which will be built west of the new  
Cherry Avenue entrance to Goodland.

The goal is to raise \$300,000 from the  
community to go with the \$300,000 the  
city and state put up to complete the  
project.

While progress is being made, said  
the Rev. Gene Tromble, chairman of the  
fund-raising effort, much more is  
needed.

So far, he said, they have raised half  
of the original \$300,000. In addition to  
money donations, many items for the  
park have also been contributed. The  
fencing is being funded by Goodland  
Crime Stoppers, the Kansas Depart-  
ment of Wildlife and Parks has given  
money for a pavilion, the Goodland  
Kiwanis Club has donated \$5,000 to the  
pavilion plus labor, and a lighted foun-  
tain and pedestrian bridge have been  
subscribed. Other service clubs are be-  
ing asked to help with labor to get the  
roof on the pavilion.

A “Pig Production Event” is being  
planned by Tromble and the youth com-  
mittee for Friday, Aug. 17, at Gulick  
Park to collect the piggy banks passed  
out to area children by the group’s  
youth committee. They will not know  
until that time how much has been  
raised by the pigs.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the  
park started because the city needed to  
do something with runoff water which  
would be created by the south extension  
of Cherry Avenue. They applied for a  
grant from the Kansas Department of  
Transportation to build a holding pond,  
and the idea of a park on city land west  
of the new street grew from there.

The state grant included a hike and

**See PARK, Page 3**