

# City to fine water wasters

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"In June, we used 91 million. With the warning, instead of going down, it went up," Pickman said.

"Fortunately, we did have some voluntary compliance. Otherwise we probably would have been at over 100 million in July."

Pickman said Goodland was one of the few cities in the area which hadn't restricted water use yet.

"The state has said it would be a good idea if we would do something," he said.

August has always been a high month for water usage, Pickman said, and if it isn't cut this month, the city could be in danger of passing its limit of 700 million gallons for the year.

At the end of July, the city used almost 367 million gallons for the year. If another 90 million is used this month, the city can only pump an av-

erage of 60 million during the last four months of the year, or face fines by the state.

The city is allowed up to 700 million gallons a year, Pickman said, but the state recommends each person only use about 250 gallons a day, which comes to about 575 million gallons for the city in a year.

Aside from the total usage, each well can only pump so many gallons, Pickman said, and No. 11 is close to its limit. If it has to be shut down, it will place a burden on the other wells, he said.

The city has been pumping all its wells almost continuously, Pickman said, including the one by the old landfill which the city had been trying not to use for fear of spreading groundwater contamination.

All the commissioners agreed something needed to be done to conserve water, but Commissioner Chuck

Lutters said he thought the plan was too restrictive for the schools. Lutters is the school district's maintenance supervisor.

"There is no way we can water the grass at the schools for three hours two days a week and keep them going," Lutters said. "They'll die."

Lutters said that if the grass dies on the Goodland High School football field and on playgrounds, kids could get hurt when they play on them. He voted against the plan.

Commissioner Dean Blume said he thought the plan was reasonable.

"I see nothing in there which will hinder keeping a lawn alive most of the summer," he said.

Pickman said the plan should only be in place for about a month.

"It won't last forever," he said. "After August, it cools down and we won't have as many of these problems. After a month, we hope to get rid of it."

## Higher water rates rejected by city

The Goodland City Commission talked about it, but they decided not to charge higher rates to people who use the most water.

When the commission declared a water emergency at its meeting Monday and gave the staff the power to enforce conservation, they were given the option of setting a temporary "tiered" rate.

City Manager Ron Pickman gave the commissioners a proposed ordinance which would have charged accounts that in a month used between 1,600 and 3,350 cubic feet, about 12,000 and 25,000 gallons, \$1.50 per 100 cubic feet.

People who used more than 3,350 would have been charged \$2. The regular rate is \$.95 per 100 cubic feet.

A family of four using 250 gallons

per person per day, what Pickman says the state would like to see, would use 4,011 cubic feet over a month, which would put them in the highest bracket.

If the family could cut their usage to 200 gallons per day, it would come in at 3,209 cubic feet, in the middle rate.

The proposed fees were based on Colby's, Pickman said.

Colby started conserving water last month, and with their restrictions and new rates they have cut usage about a million gallons per day, he said.

"Sometimes, something like this is the only way to get people's attention," Pickman said.

Commissioner Curtis Hurd said he thought new rates would be unfair, and that the city should concentrate on enforcing the other conservation measures.

"Let's take this one step at a time," he said.

Commissioner Rick Billinger said apartments, hospitals and other places where more than one person is on the same meter would be hurt by the ordinance.

"I think the little people would be hurt more by this than some of the better-off people, who might be the ones wasting water in the first place," Billinger said.

Pickman said the city would check its meters on Monday, Aug. 19, the day of the next commission meeting, and the commissioners could review the ordinance again then.

"By then we'll know where we stand," Hurd said.

"If we have to, we can decide whether to do this then."

## State revenues off by \$50 million in July

By John Milburn

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA— State revenue collections for the first full month of fiscal year 2003 have been tallied, and the results are not what officials were hoping.

According to a report Monday from the Kansas Legislative Research Department report, revenues fell nearly \$50 million short of expectations in July.

The state finished its 2002 fiscal year

on June 30 with about \$212 million less than forecast.

In July, tax collections were off by \$18 million, with retail sales, use and individual income taxes falling below estimates.

However, officials noted that the overall numbers were somewhat misleading because of the early transfer of \$19 million from the state general fund for school district aid and a delay in a payment from Kansas' portion of a national settlement of litigation by

states against large tobacco companies.

Revenue estimates were revised in June to reflect increases in the state sales, motor fuels and cigarette taxes that took effect July 1. Legislators approved \$252 million in new taxes to close a gap in the state budget.

That package raised the sales tax to 5.3 percent from 4.9 percent, motor fuels taxes by 2 cents per gallon; and the cigarette tax by 46 cents per pack. The cigarette tax is set to increase.

## Head that way



Cpl. Dave Becker, a Goodland police officer, directed traffic Monday afternoon at the intersection of 12th Street and Main. The traffic light stopped working from about 1:30 to 2 p.m.

Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

## Rumsfeld pushing for better info

WASHINGTON (AP)— U.S. military intelligence has not been able to improve its information gathering, despite efforts beginning before the September terrorist attacks, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said today.

"We have not made many strides since I've been here in improving the intelligence take," Rumsfeld said during a "Town Hall" meeting with military and civilian workers at the Pentagon.

Rumsfeld said he and other Pentagon officials are considering "having a somewhat more senior person overseeing the intelligence" to make sure "the focus is more laser-like" on getting better information for fighting the war on terrorism.

The Pentagon also is looking at ways to help military intelligence agencies work more closely with civilian agencies such as the Central Intelligence Agency and the FBI.

Rumsfeld reportedly is considering

creating a civilian post, undersecretary of defense for intelligence, which would have to be approved by Congress. Democrat Bob Graham, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, has said that any decision on the new position should await hearings on how best to reorganize the entire intelligence community.

In an interview Monday, Rumsfeld made the case for more aggressive U.S. pursuit of terrorists outside of Afghanistan. He said Taliban and al-Qaida fighters are lingering in nearby countries, hoping for a chance to sneak back in and seize power.

"They can come right back in the minute you turn your head, so you have to be aggressive in seeing that they don't feel there's an opportunity for them to re-establish themselves," Rumsfeld said.

"Then you say well, what more aggressive can you do? In Afghanistan, the answer is not much," Rumsfeld said. "We can probably try to find bet-

ter ways of finding the al-Qaida who have left Afghanistan."

Pakistan and Yemen have been very cooperative with U.S. efforts to hunt al-Qaida down, Rumsfeld said, but Iran and Iraq have not. And he expressed fears that al-Qaida will turn up in Indonesia, "which is a worrisome place."

Rumsfeld spoke Monday to reporters taking part in the National Journalists Roundtable, a forum that promotes increased access between top U.S. officials and black reporters.

Last month, Rumsfeld ordered Air Force Gen. Charles Holland, head of the Special Operations Command, to develop a more aggressive plan to apprehend or kill al-Qaida terrorists. Holland briefed Rumsfeld about the evolving plan last week.

On Monday, Gen. Tommy Franks, head of U.S. Central Command, presented the latest Pentagon scenario for invading Iraq to President Bush and his foreign advisers.

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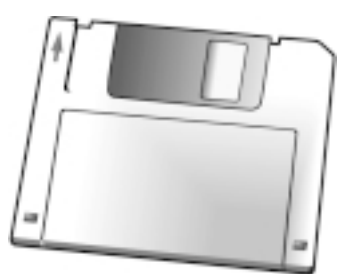
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