

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has proclaimed next week, May 10-18, as Kansas Tourism Week, recognizing tourism as a major industry that is vital to the state's economic development.

At the Goodland Travel Information Center on I-70 near Kanorado, the Northwest Kansas Travel Council will be serving popcorn to travelers. The council has given popcorn to tourists for more than five years.

Research from the Travel Industry Association of America shows that tourism has an annual economic impact to Kansas of \$3.7 billion, the state says. Nearly 57,000 jobs — with \$887.2 million in wages and salaries — are supported by domestic and international travel spending in the state.

Travel spending in Kansas also generates almost \$564 million in tax revenue for federal, state, and local governments.

Since his appointment as Kansas Travel and Tourism director three weeks ago, Scott Allegrucci has logged almost 2,000 miles visiting convention and visitors bureaus and talking with community leaders about the future of Kansas tourism.

"We're working with the travel industry and communities to develop a unified vision of Kansas," said Allegrucci. "The breadth and variety of our state is astonishing —

from the frontier, Civil War history, and aircraft and space exploration — to prairies and wetlands, working farms and ranches, and charismatic city centers.

"Separately, they are exciting and rewarding. Together, they offer an authentic American experience. There is increasing interest in that experience. We will continue to let the world know we have it, they are welcome here, and we will make their visit with us first-class."

Including the one here, Kansas has three state-operated Travel Information Centers providing visitors with current information about Kansas attractions, events, and services. New centers are located on the grounds of Kansas Speedway and near Belle Plaine, where the center is being rebuilt after being destroyed by fire last year. The new Belle Plaine facility is expected to open by late summer.

During Kansas Tourism Week,

visitors to the state's travel centers can register to win travel bags filled with Kansas gifts. The centers will be featuring communities and attractions from around Kansas during the week. Miss Kansas Jeanne Anne Schroeder will appear at each one.

For a complete listing of all Kansas Tourism Week activities, visit [www.travelks.com](http://www.travelks.com) and click on the Kansas Tourism Week Events link.

## City Roundup

At a meeting Monday, Goodland city commissioners:

- Had the mayor sign a proclamation for National Elks Youth Week, May 4-10. See ad on Page 9.
- Had the mayor sign a proclamation for National Hospital Week, May 11-17. Story on Page 3.
- Heard complaints from citizens about the high fuel adjustment charge on April electric bills. Story on Page 1
- Held a work session and a special session on Tuesday to address the fuel adjustment issue, pass an ordinance allowing citizens to spread out their fuel adjustment charge and

to remove late fees for the month of May. Story on Page 1.

- Approved an amended ordinance establishing emergency excess water rates and new rates for special security lighting. Story on Page 1.
- Approved a \$9,400 proposal from Bene Terra of Pratt for a feasibility study to use a lagoon and irrigation system to handle the city's wastewater. Story to come.
- Discussed the problem with the new lift for the Carnegie Art Center, and a request to purchase some of the old city street bricks. Story to come.

## Red Cross to hold blood drive Tuesday

The O-negative blood supply has reached dangerously low levels, and the O-positive supply is critical throughout the American Red Cross' Central Plains Blood Services Region, which serves Goodland Regional Medical Center.

April had steady blood donations, Red Cross officials say, but May has seen a sharp decline in as busy spring schedules take hold. About 500 pints of blood are needed each day in Kansas and northern Oklahoma, and the need for blood remains constant despite the season, said Pam Head, Central Plains Region Blood Services chief executive officer in Wichita.

The agency will hold a blood drive in Goodland from noon to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, 307 W. 13th St.

For information, call (800) 448-3543. Walk-in donors are welcome.

The Central Plains region serves Goodland and 100 other hospitals.

"There are only 34 O-negative pints of blood on our shelves out of a needed 100 pints," Head said. "A single trauma victim anywhere in the region could easily use this up."

"We have not been in a situation this critical in a year. Schedules do get busier this time of year, but on behalf of area hospital patients, citizens are greatly needed to volunteer an hour to give blood. The actual blood donation only lasts seven minutes. Your single donation can help three hospital patients."

A single wreck or shooting victim

can use up to 50 pints of blood, she said. O-negative is commonly used during emergencies as it can be given to nearly any patient. All blood types are needed, but especially O-negative and O-positive.

"Only 5 percent of the population eligible to donate blood actually gives blood. We'd like to call upon the other 95 percent to help these regular blood donors," Head said. "We hope all eligible blood donors in the Goodland area will come to the Red Cross blood donor center to help area hospital patients."

She said the Red Cross hopes at least 110 Goodland-area citizens will come in to donate Tuesday. Everyone who comes in to donate will receive a free T-shirt.

"No one should go to the hospital or have a loved one in the hospital and have to worry about whether or not there is blood to help them," Head said. "We would love to see people commit to donating blood on a regular basis."

"Typically, if you wait until you or someone you know needs blood, it is too late to give. Because blood must be tested for safety and processed, there is about 48 hours between the time it is donated to when it can be transfused. It is the blood on the shelves today that saves lives."

Blood donors should be at least 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds and be in general good health. Drinking extra water before and after each donation is recommended. Most medications do not prevent blood donations.

## National Hospital Week planned for next week

Next week is National Hospital Week and the Goodland Regional Medical Center will be hosting several events in celebration said Brenda McCants, director of marketing and patient relations.

"Bringing the power of care to the community" is the American Hospital Association's theme for Hospital Week, May 11-17.

Some of the events at the hospital will be Sundae Monday, provided by the hospital auxiliary for staff and employees; Tee-Shirt Tuesday; popcorn and a movie on Wednesday; Root beer Thursday along with service awards; and pizza on Friday sponsored by the Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation.

"Health care has a personal and very powerful role in the lives of

every member of our community," Jay Jolly, hospital administrator said. "National Hospital Week gives us an opportunity to connect with people in a positive environment and celebrate the great things happening in health care today."

National Hospital Week was first celebrated in 1921, and has grown into the nation's largest health care event. Each hospital puts forth a very special effort to recognize those individuals that care for our community and their health care needs.

## Citizens protest fuel adjustment hike

**PROTEST, from Page 1**

the plant, a problem developed and the plant was shut down for an additional two weeks while repairs were made.

Wolak said the total added cost of the energy received from Sunflower for the month of April was \$127,747, and this is divided among all customers by the amount of power they used to spread the cost out as fairly as possible.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the city had tried to get bids for cheaper power during the maintenance period, but that there was no way to get the power transmitted through Sunflower's lines.

"Transmission is what kills us," Pickman said. "We only have one line."

Bruce Gleason, a member of the hospital ambulance staff, said he felt it would be a good idea for the city to consider allowing people to spread the fuel cost out over a period of months.

"We're getting nailed left and right," he said, "and I think we are getting less and less."

Wolak said he expects the fuel adjustment rate to go down next month, but said he cannot guaran-

tee that this won't happen again.

Even generating power at the city's plant is far more expensive this year. Billinger asked what it costs the city to generate the power and Wolak said it was \$11.40 per million cubic feet this year, compared to \$2.88 for the same gas last year.

"What can be done about the transmission?" someone asked.

Pickman said the city was working with the Kansas Municipal Electric Association and that they had gone to the Kansas Corporation Commission to try to get some help.

"We are trying to buy power every day," he said. "We don't like surprises."

Pickman said the city is working to try to get power from the Western Area Power Authority, but is waiting for government agencies to approve the request. He said this power would probably be cheaper. The question of getting it through the transmission lines is part of the holdup.

"We are at the mercy of Sunflower or our own generation," he said.

Billinger said the city has been trying to keep power costs as low as possible, and that they have been trying for several years to find alternatives.

"We can look for a way to help those who cannot pay all this increase," he said.

"We have been trying to establish an even-pay plan," Pickman said, "but have been having trouble finding a software program that we can use."

Dr. Dan Golden of the Golden Chiropractic Clinic asked if the city had any surplus in the budget. Pickman said there was not much left with all the state cuts.

"I would recommend finding a way to use some of the money as a relief measure," Golden said. "We know what the problem is. We need to go after the answers. We need to prevent another big shock."

"I believe this is a one-time thing," said Commissioner Chuck Lutters. "Are we going to build a \$30 million line because of this one spike. I am sorry I can't snap my fingers and make it better."

There was a question about if the city had tried to look ahead so they would know this might happen.

"No, we were not prepared," Pickman said. "We did ask people about what the rates would do, and as late as December when the budget was set, the thinking was it was going to go down."

"When the Sunflower plant went

down, they suggested the price was going to be about \$40. Wolak went wild when he said the bill was \$65."

"I think the concerns of these citizens are valid," Commissioner John Garcia said. "It makes it difficult to absorb these spikes. We are in a Catch-22 situation. We paid more for the power, and now have to pay the bill by sending it down to the people."

Billinger suggested the city look at a payment plan to help people.

"I agree we need to work something out," said Commissioner Dave Daniels.

"I wish I had the answer," Lutters said.

"I would like to look at it, but I am worried about the accounting," said Commissioner Dean Blume.

"I can't pass this onto my customers," said John Schiefen owner of Wardrobe Cleaners. "I may be out of here in six months. I'm between a rock and a hard place."

"That's the bottom line," Gleason said. "I think you have to address this bill."

Billinger asked the other commissioners if they could meet in a work session and Lutters suggested they do that following the regular meeting.

## City agrees to allow spread payments on utility bills

**SPECIAL, from Page 1**

for those who contact the city office, for residential customers with a charge over \$20 or commercial customers with a charge over \$100.

This would only be available for this April billing, received on May 1, and due on May 15. The commissioners agreed that the penalty for

not paying by the 15th would not be imposed on any utility bill this month, but that those who do not contact the city about their fuel adjustment will have to have their bill paid by 10 a.m. on Monday, May 27, or face having their power shut off.

Because no formal decision can be made in a work session, the com-

missioners agreed to hold a special meeting at noon Tuesday to approve an ordinance spelling out their agreement.

At the special meeting, the commissioners reviewed the proposed ordinance to be sure it was what they had discussed Monday.

Commissioner Lutters moved to approve the ordinance and Com-

missioner Dean Blume seconded. It passed unanimously.

City Manager Ron Pickman said this would take care of the temporary situation, but that the commission needs to look for a permanent solution.

The ordinance provision is for the April utility bill only, and will expire at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 27.

## Students need 1,750 box tops to put principal on roof for night

North Elementary Principal Steve Raymer is getting close to spending a night on the school's roof, but the deadline for collecting General Mills boxtops is less than a week away.

Yvonne Koehler, North secretary, said the school has collected 3,250 General Mills Boxtops for Education so far, and the goal is 5,000.

She said the deadline for collecting the 5,000 boxtops is Thursday, and she has put out the word throughout the school district that they need help to reach the goal.

The program sponsored by General Mills provides 10 cents for each special boxtop the school collects, and the goal would provide \$500 for the school.

Raymer says he feels pretty safe, but he is convinced there is a secret stash of boxtops just waiting for the last moment to put him on the roof.

Koehler said she even received a letter with 12 boxtops from a former

student who had read about the effort.

"I and my two brothers went to school at Goodland many years ago, maybe 66 years," wrote Marilyn (Kellogg) Minkler of Gaylord. "My dad and mother lived

there two different times. He was on the Rock Island railroad. My sister cooked at Ray's Cafe, and her four kids went to school at Goodland 25 years ago.

"Good luck!"

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## Mothers Day

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