

Commercial fees go down

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
The county takes over trash collection in Goodland on Tuesday, and at the same time new lower commercial rates will go into effect after a special meeting of the City Commission on Wednesday to approve the rates.

Chuck Redlin's company, In the Can, will take over the city trash collection, and he requested a change in the commercial and special pickup rates through the Sherman County Solid Waste Committee last week.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the Solid Waste committee forwarded the recommendation to the city for the commission's approval. The current commercial rate is \$12 for the first container and \$24 for each additional container. The city has been charging \$6 for extra pickups of each container, plus \$2.10 for each container for the tipping fee.

The new commercial rate will be \$12 for each container — no matter how many containers — and this will include one weekly pickup. There will be a \$2.10 tipping fee for each container. For additional pickups there will be a \$10 charge per site, plus the tipping fee.

Mayor Rick Billinger asked if this would be a decrease for most commercial customers. Pickman

said it appeared it would be at least a small decrease for most customers who have more than one dumpster and for those who need more than one pickup per week.

The residential rates will not change. The base amount is \$13.25 per month, which includes one collection a week and includes the tipping fee. Rural residents who have been getting city trash collection service will be charged \$15.25 per month, and this is the same as the city has been charging.

Yard waste containers will continue to be charged the same rates as in the past. Those with a 3-cubic yard dumpster will be \$12 per month. Those with a 90-gallon poly cart will be charged \$4 per month. The dumpsters and carts will be picked up on the same schedule as the city has been doing.

Residents will be able to call In the Can for special pickups of metal debris and heavy and bulky items. The cost of these pickups will depend on the amount and type of items to be picked up. The phone number is 890-8080.

Commissioner Chuck Lutters made the motion to approve the ordinance changing the trash rates. It was seconded by Commissioner Dean Blume. The vote was unanimous with Commissioners Dave Daniels, John Garcia and Mayor Billinger voting in favor.

Old is new again



Ryleigh Paxton, 5, was hanging her newly made tie-dye shirt in front of the Goodland Arts Center. Ryleigh is in a summer arts class program, and Wednesday's class was titled "That

70's Class." Each day, the students take part in various art projects. Photo by Shannon Davidson/The Goodland Star-News

Commissioners cut solid waste fees by 10 percent

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
Sherman County commissioners voted Tuesday to cut the county's solid waste fee, collected with property taxes, by 10 percent.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he felt the money coming into the solid waste fund from the existing fee was enough to cover the expenses of the county landfill and the transfer station.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede agreed, saying it appears there is enough to cover the expenses and to give them some flexibility to put money into a fund for digging the next cell at the landfill and possibly buying a bailer system.

The bailer system would compact the trash before it is hauled to the landfill, and allow the county to

extend the life of the landfill. Having the bailer will allow the county to collect and bail cardboard which will reduce the tons of trash being buried in the landfill. The cardboard can be recycled and sold to offset some of the costs.

Rasure said he felt the bailer was something that could be bought on a lease-purchase, and that the county could put \$100,000 into a fund for the new cell.

"The bailing system would be a benefit in the long term because it would be more efficient," said Commissioner Chuck Thomas.

"I believe we can handle both and be in good shape," Rasure said.

Things paid for out of the solid waste fees include handling the contamination at the old landfill north of town, the cost of the moni-

toring wells, landfill equipment, a building at the landfill, engineering costs for the landfill, the household hazardous waste program and replacing the walking floor trailers which are used to haul the trash from the transfer station to the landfill.

"This is one fund where we have some flexibility," Rasure said, "and believe we can reduce the solid waste fee by 10 percent."

Rasure said the fees from the county trash collection program that begins next week should be kept separate from the annual fee, and that what comes in from trash collection should be put back into improving the system.

Rasure made the motion to reduce the solid waste fee by 10 percent. This would mean the fee for a

home would drop from \$150 a year to \$135.

The fee rate has been set before July 1 each year, and the new rate will appear on tax bills sent out for payment in December.

Rasure said the county Solid Waste Committee was to meet Wednesday afternoon, and they were to draft a letter to be sent to all city residents about the transition to the new county trash collection service.

Tiede made the motion to approve the final collection contract with Chuck Redlin. Thomas seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Rasure said the county has received a letter from the Goodland Public Library requesting money for next year. The county gave the

library \$15,000 last year to allow all county residents to use the city-run library.

Nominations were discussed for the Goodland Regional Medical Center board. Rasure said Larry McCants and Doug Irvin were interested in being reappointed for another three-year term, but that Artie Showalter was not interested. Rasure said he would nominate Patty Eckhardt of the Department of Agriculture to fill the vacancy created by Showalter.

Rasure said that left a vacancy created by the resignation of Steve Evert, and he thought he had a name of a person he would nominate at the next meeting.

The next commission meeting will be 8 a.m. on Monday in the commission room on the main floor

of the Sherman County courthouse, 813 Broadway.

On the agenda for Monday's meeting the commission will:

- Discuss with Sheriff Doug Whitson the payment of cell phone costs for his deputies.
- Consider the approval of the second year of the grant writer program, and hear an update from Penny Nemecheck.
- Hear a request from the County Extension board for money for the next year.
- Talk to Sara Hill about holding barrel racing at the fairgrounds.
- Nominate a person for the Goodland Regional Medical Center board to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Steve Evert.
- Discuss bids on the repair of the county shop roof.

Hospital has two choices for support, Hays and St. Anthony's Denver

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News
Goodland Regional Medical Center, which will soon apply for critical access status, has two choices for support hospitals.

The new classification should allow the hospital to bring in more

money from federal insurance programs such as Medicare. As a critical access rural hospital, the center is required to have an agreement with a larger hospital to accept transfers.

Administrator Jay Jolly told the hospital board at its meeting Mon-

day that two hospitals are interested in being the support hospital. Both St. Anthony's Central Denver and Hays Medical Center have accepted transfers in the past, he said, and are interested in being considered for the support agreement.

The Goodland hospital has a

strong referral relationship with the Denver hospital, he said, and St. Anthony's has supported the Slice of Life fund-raiser. If an agreement is reached, Jolly said, the support hospital is supposed to take any transfer Goodland wants to send. The Denver hospital is large enough

it's unlikely it wouldn't have all the needed services, he said.

But the agreement won't obligate Goodland to send all transfers to one hospital, he added. Jolly said he hadn't talked to Hays about the specifics of an agreement but is willing to be the support hospital also.

The hospital's financial reports for May show an \$63,000 net loss for the month. Even if you take out depreciation charges of \$55,426, that means a cash loss of \$7,574 for the month. For the year so far, though, the hospital is doing a little better. The net loss for the first five months is \$305,185. Depreciation was \$352,097, leaving an operating profit of \$46,912 for the year.

The budget also includes ample amounts of money reserved for contractual allowance and bad debt.

The figures include more than \$180,000 in payments from the spe-

cial county tax.

In other business:

- Jolly said the hospital will be applying for a \$9,000 grant for small hospital improvements.
- Director of Patient Care Debbie Hickman gave the board an idea of what nurses go through in a day. Story to come.
- Jolly said the central registration project is continuing and that the gift shop is being moved.
- The administrator said the information system conversion was finished the last weekend of May and that an employee appreciation barbecue was held June 11 to thank those who helped with the change.
- The board approved a contract with a firm for recruiting a surgeon. Jolly said the hospital would like to bring in another surgeon since the northwest Kansas area is short on surgeons.

Calendar adopted; first day of school Aug. 25

By Shannon Davidson
The Goodland Star-News
Students will begin classes on Monday, Aug. 25, under the calendar adopted Monday by the Goodland School Board.

While students enjoy their last

week of summer vacation, new teachers will begin in-service training Aug. 18 and all teachers will be in seminars Aug. 19-21. Friday, Aug. 22, will be a work day and open house at the schools.

Starting school Aug. 25 gives the students a week to get back into the swing of things, but they can look forward to no school on Sept. 1 due to Labor Day.

Then students won't have an-

other day off until Monday, Oct. 6, for a teacher training day. Oct. 24 marks the end of the first nine weeks. There is another no-school day on Oct. 27 due to a half-day seminar and workday for teachers.

This gives the staff plenty of time to prepare for the Parent-Teacher conferences on Friday, Oct. 31. Test assessment day will be on Monday, Nov. 17. Then students can look forward to another teacher in-ser-

vice training day and no school for students on Nov. 26, leading into the Thanksgiving break Nov. 27 and 28.

After that is a long December until the joy of the holiday season gives way to winter break Dec. 22-31.

Starting off the New Year, there

See CALENDAR, Page 11




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- Access Level 1 - July 23
- Intro to Computers - July 30



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An article in the Tuesday, June 24, edition of *The Goodland Star-News* incorrectly stated that Brian Bauman received a \$3,650 scholarship from Edelbrock Corp. He received \$4,600. This error was due to incorrect information given to the paper.

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The score for a boys minor game for June 3 was reported incorrectly on Page 10 of the June 6 *Star-News*. The correct score was Applebee's Golf Cart over First National Bank, 22-1. This was the result of incorrect information from the City/County Recreation Department.

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The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.