

weather report

89°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 8:13 p.m.
- Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:13 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 75 degrees
- Humidity 29 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds south 15 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.15 inches and steady
- Record High 100° (1953)
- Record Low 40° (1995)

Last 24 Hours*

High	91°
Low	62°
Precipitation	none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: partly sunny with 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high upper 80s, low lower 60s. Saturday: mostly sunny, high mid 80s, low lower 60s.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: mostly clear, high mid 90s. Monday: mostly clear, high near 100, low mid 60s. Tuesday: mostly clear, high mid 90s, low mid 60s. Wednesday: mostly clear, high mid 90s, low lower 60s.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.66 bushel
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 19¢
 - Corn — \$2.22 bushel
 - New Crop — \$1.99
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Milo — \$1.86 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$5.60 bushel
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Millet — \$4.50 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$9.15 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 59¢
 - NuSun — \$9.40 cwt.
 - Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt.
 - New crop — \$17/\$10 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — Withdrawn
- (Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Open house to be Sunday

Carpentry student Ian Kohart used a coping saw to make some fine cuts in molding he was installing in the house the technical college students have been finishing. They will hold an open house on Sunday. See story on Page 3.

City to hold line on property tax

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

After two nights of going over the budget department by department, the Goodland city commissioners reached a preliminary agreement to hold the line on property taxes and hope the economy improves next year.

The commissioners spent about four hours on Monday and another four and a half on Tuesday going through the city budget proposal for next year and hearing from each department head. Though things are tight, they did manage to squeeze out more money for street repairs and the library.

The last hour on Tuesday, the commissioners talked about whether to raise property taxes to overcome some an estimated \$164,000 in cuts from state revenue sharing.

"I feel the staff did a good job of cutting the fat out of the budget," Mayor Rick Billinger said. "I want to commend the staff for their efforts in keeping costs down."

"I am not in favor of raising taxes. I think with the economy the way it is, it is tough on the people. I would rather see us shift some money around to do the things we want done rather than raising taxes."

"We can't afford to do a lot at one time, but we can shift some money out of the airport and the grant match fund to put into street repair."

"How does that money get replaced?" Commissioner Dean Blume asked.

"We are down seven mills with the cuts from the state," City Manager Ron Pickman said. "We would need to have a raise of that size to keep the same level of revenue. We have been using up the city reserves over the past several years, and with the cuts from the state, we are losing ground rapidly."

"As a citizen, I hate to see taxes go up because I have to pay them, too. As the manager, I am concerned that we are not looking at the whole revenue picture. The property tax is only one-fourth of the total city revenue, and the state cuts are affecting the other portions of the revenue. Raising the property tax is the only means of covering the cuts in the other areas."

"We are forced to increase spending on things we cannot control, such as utility costs for natural gas and both the employee health insurance and the workers compensation policy. On those things we can, we have cut expenses, and that has meant cutting some programs."

"The only way to get the money back is to raise user fees or property taxes."

"I hate to raise taxes," Commissioner Dave Daniels said. "We already know we have to raise the sewer rates, and the electric costs are going up. I think it is going to get better, and I don't want to raise the property tax levy."

"What is the cut off point?" Commissioner Chuck Lutters asked. "We need to look at a raise of property tax of at least 1 mill."

Pickman said with keeping the property tax at the same level, the city is losing ground and not getting money back into the funds.

"We are not getting any money from the state," he said.

"We have talked about adding to things in the budget," Commissioner Blume said. "We need to raise the property tax to cover those."

Commissioner John Garcia said he looked at the budget as a businessman and looked at the bottom line.

"When I have more outflow than inflow, I have two choices. One is to

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Eight Goodland people arrested for burglaries

By Patty Decker

Colby Free Press

Eight Goodland people were arrested last weekend in connection with April burglaries at the Brewster and Golden Plains schools, and authorities are checking to see if the group has been involved in other break-ins in the region.

C.D. Hopper, investigator with the Thomas County sheriff's office, said those arrested were brothers Justin Lamb, 21, and Thomas Lamb, 19; Marshall Carson, 20; Lacy Potterf, 20; Polly Potterf, 43; Andrew Potterf, 21; Matthew Phillippi, 24; and Charlotte Morris, 19.

"Arrest warrants were issued over the weekend, following the combined investigative efforts of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the Thomas County Sheriff's office," Hopper said.

The sheriff's office started

looking into the burglaries after school officials notified reported the break-ins. In both cases, said Mike Baughn, Thomas County undersheriff, money was taken, and in Brewster, two guitars were stolen.

The first burglary was in Brewster, he said, sometime Saturday night or early Sunday morning on April 5 or 6. The Rexford incident happened late Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning on April 8 or 9.

"Initially we thought the Brewster burglary was local," Baughn said at that time, "but after the Rexford incident, we were not sure since both crimes were similar in nature."

The deputies gave no details of the arrest or how the eight people were identified.

Hopper did say there may be connections to burglaries in other northwest Kansas counties.

Reach with every stroke



Goodland Swim Team coach Glenna Jarmin encouraged swimmers to remain focused and pay attention to their stroke during practice Tuesday morning in preparation for the upcoming Northwest Kansas League meet in Burlington. See photos on Page 10.

Photo by Shannon Davidson/The Goodland Star-News

Griego meets the Terminator

Goodland's Dr. Natalie Griego, who is serving in the U.S. Army in Baghdad, Iraq, got to meet and visit with actor Arnold Schwarzenegger last Friday during a visit to the troops.

The Terminator pumped up American soldiers celebrating Independence Day in Iraq in a badly needed distraction from attacks on U.S. servicemen as part of a special tour arranged by the U.S. Army.

Griego sent a copy of a photo with her and Schwarzenegger and other members of the Colorado National Guard medical unit by e-mail.

Griego, who was recently promoted to major, said she spent the whole morning with him as she was the doctor on duty that day.

"He is pretty amusing and I had an enjoyable time talking with him," she said. "I have a couple more photos, unfortunately my favorite one (me hugging him) is on film I haven't been able to develop."

The Goodland doctor was called to active duty in January, and has



Natalie Griego and Arnold Schwarzenegger

been in Iraq for over two months. Her husband Jeff Krall and son Reece, 2, stayed behind in Goodland.

Griego's husband said he has had some e-mail and phone contact with her in recent days, and hopes she will get to come back to the states soon.

She has been in the Colorado National Guard for 10 years, and was assigned to the Headquarters unit of the State Area Command at Buckley Air Base in Denver. That is a medical unit of which half of the 75 members are officers who do screenings and medical exams.

When she was called to active duty, she was assigned to the Montrose unit which is part of a battalion headquartered in Iowa and is an area support medical unit. It provides emergency treatment, sick call and ambulance evacuation for frontline troops.

Dr. Griego has been member of the Goodland medical staff since 1999.

Board elects Short president, Philbrick vice-president

By Shannon Davidson

The Goodland Star-News

Trucker Dick Short was reelected as president of the Goodland School Board on Monday, and veteran board member Jane Philbrick was named as the new board vice president.

The board reorganized at its first meeting of the 2003-04 school year. Superintendent Marvin Selby acting as chairman in take nominations for board president. Mr. Short, who has served 21 years on the board and nine consecutive years serving as president along with three years in the 1980's. Short, was elected on a unanimous ballot.

Short took the reigns of the meet-

ing enthusiastically, saying, "I truly appreciate this and look forward to working with this board."

Then the board needed to chose a vice president to take over for Kathy Russell, who was defeated in elections last spring. Jane Philbrick was named on another unanimous vote. Congratulations were given with smiles from all seven board members present.

The unanimous votes flowed through the entire meeting, with the board approving appointments to positions for the 2003-2004 school year. For the positions required by state law. Pat Juhl will continue to act as clerk of the board, Marcia Harkins as treasurer, Bonnie Smith

as deputy clerk, Deb Winter as deputy treasurer, and the principals of each building as truancy officers.

Ron Schilling will step down as representative to Northwest Kansas Technical College board, and the position will be filled by new member Fritz Doka with Marty Melia as alternate. The representative to Northwest Kansas Education Service Center will continue to be Mike Campbell and the alternate will be Philbrick.

Remaining as board representative to Kansas Association Public Employees Retirement System will be Smith with Juhl as assistant.

Representatives for food service and transportation programs will

continue to be Selby and Junior High Principal Jim Mull as an alternate.

Kansas Association School Board governmental relations network representatives will be Short and Schilling.

Bid committee appointments went to Danny Whalen and Melia with Philbrick as alternate. Schilling stepped down from the committee.

On of the Policy Review Committee will be Campbell and Philbrick with Short as alternate.

Appointed to the Board Insurance Committee were Whalen, Doka, Mull, Central Elementary Principal Sharon Gregory, High School Principal Harvey Swager, Harkins School district book keeper, Assis-

tant Principal and Activities Director Steve Raymer, Building and Grounds Superintendent Chuck Lutters, Selby and Juhl.

Professional Development Council board representatives will be Philbrick and Doka.

Board representatives to the negotiations team will be Philbrick and Whalen.

Superintendent Selby will be the authorized representative for federal programs and freedom of information officer.

Calendar Committee board representatives will be Melia and Schilling. Technology Committee representative will be Melia with Doka acting as alternate.