

weather report

79°
 at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:47 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:57 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:46 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 80 degrees
- Humidity 62 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds northeast 10 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.26 inches and steady
- Record High 106° (1934)
- Record Low 47° (1964)

Last 24 Hours*

High 91°
 Low 63°
 Precipitation .17

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high near 90, low lower 60s, winds southeast 5-15 m.p.h. Wednesday: mostly sunny, high near 90, low mid 60s.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon and evening, high upper 80s. Friday: mostly clear, high lower 90s, low mid 60s. Saturday: mostly clear, high lower 90s, low mid 60s. Sunday: cloudy, high mid 90s. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$3.17 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.12
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Corn — \$2.20 bushel
 - New crop — \$2 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.86
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 10¢
 - Milo — \$1.84 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$5.17 bushel
 - Millet — \$4.50 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$8.45 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.38
 - NuSun — \$8.70 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 - Pinto beans — Withdrawn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



She's rockin' to the music

Rebecca Lockhart, 18 months danced to the singing of "Rocking Robin" performed by Cade Sheldon at the Family Appreciation BBQ Friday evening at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair. See photos on Page 12.



State cut hits road budget

Sherman County may have to choose between a 50 percent hike in property taxes for the road department or 50 more miles of minimum maintenance roads.

With the minor funds out of the way at their budget meeting Tuesday, the commissioners turned to Curt Way, public works manager, and the Road and Bridge Department.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said that because of the cuts made by the state last year and this year, there is a big shortfall in the road fund. To keep the budget at the same level as this year, he said, the property tax levy would have to raise by about 50 percent. The fund got 12 mills of property tax this year, but would have to go to 18 mills.

The commissioners began reviewing the budget line by line, but after an hour, they did not feel they had found enough in cuts.

Way said he was down one person in the department, but had put money in the budget to replace him next year. All three commissioners said Way should not expect to add anyone next year.

Way suggested one way to cut expenses would be to identify county roads that could be reduced to minimum maintenance. He said with the help of his road grader operators, they could probably identify 50 to 100 miles of county road that could be put on that list.

"These are roads that get used a few times a year," Way said.

"We need to look at the population density," Rasure said. "We are losing state money, and most of it is from road and bridge."

"We need to prioritize the roads. This would give us a game plan."

"The money isn't there for all these roads," Commissioner Chuck Thomas said. "If people want to pay more taxes, we can have them all like they are now."

"We are doing more roads with less people now," said Way.

The commissioners told Way to develop a list of roads for possible change to minimum maintenance, and to look at the other cuts they have suggested. Way is expected to bring his list back to the commission meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 19.

Cutting the position and reducing the asphalt budget would bring the fund to within \$5,000 of this year's budget, but Rasure advised to Way to work on his figures.

"We are not done," Rasure said.

Hang on for the ride



Brothers and sister (top) Sage Reed, 4 (front), Max Reed, 5 (center) and Brock Reed, 3, got ready to go for a ride around the midway in the Goodland Topside Lions train on the midway at the Northwest Kansas Free District Fair on Wednesday evening.

Montana Noffsinger, 2, (above right) enjoyed a ride on the Rotary Club-sponsored children's car ride. Caleb Rains, 4, (above left) tried his luck at the Sherman County Historical Society baseball throw booth. Photos by Shannon Davidson/The Goodland Star-News

City puts off sewer lagoon project for study

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland City Commission heard competing information Monday on the sewer lagoon project from two engineering firms, but decided to wait for more information before making a decision.

At the July 21 meeting, John Zupancic of Bene Terra engineering out of Pratt, told the commission his firm had completed a study and felt a reclaimed wastewater system would work best for the city. After being processed, water from the system would be used to irrigate crops.

The project would cost \$1,245,250 to build and \$519,500 for engineering, inspections and other costs, for a total \$1,765,750. Zupancic said the city would have to decide whether to lease farm land to use the water on or to buy the land and the center pivot equipment. If the city has to buy the land and equipment, it would add about \$740,000, bringing the total project cost to \$2,505,750.

Darin Neufeld of Evans, Bierly and Hutchinson engineering, with an office in Goodland, told the commissioners he had compared the Bene Terra proposal to the one for building sewer lagoons presented by his firm in March. The local firm

presented a replacement plan for the existing waste water treatment plant north of the city airport in January.

At the Dec. 16 meeting, John Roth of Evans-Bierly-Hutchinson said the current plant has no measuring capability, barely enough capacity for current needs, not enough sludge storage, is too close to the airport and needs a back-up power source.

Roth told the commissioners the plant's location isn't a problem for now, but because the open water in the lagoon and wetlands attracts birds, it shouldn't be so close to the airport.

Moving the plant would require pumping raw sewage two miles away, he said. The sewage would be in the pipe long enough, without oxygen, to go septic, Roth said, which could cause a stink at the new site.

The new treatment facility can be built next to the old one, he said, and the treated sewage could be pumped to a lagoon two miles away if necessary.

But, Roth said, this is not required for now.

"My recommendation is that this should be your ace in the hole," he said.

The new plant would cost about \$4 million, plus another \$600,000 for equipment to pump the treated

effluent, he said, and that is money the city doesn't need to spend right now. Basically, he said, it's not a serious enough issue right now to spend the money.

The commissioners asked a number of questions, then asked the firm to review the plan and provide a less expensive alternative.

In March, Neufeld presented with a proposal to build a 45.5-acre lagoon system at a cost of \$2,576,500.

It was after this presentation that Bene Terra offered to do a feasibility study on a reclaimed wastewater lagoon system. The city agreed to pay \$9,400 to have the study done.

Monday, Neufeld had an opportunity to talk to the commission about differences between his firm's lagoon proposal and the Bene Terra study.

He used the Bene Terra estimate of \$1,765,750 versus the \$2,576,500 of his plan.

The biggest differences, he said, was that the Evans, Bierly plan included \$472,500 to use bentonite to seal the ponds for leakage, and there was no provision for a liner in the Bene Terra plan because they felt the current soils could be compacted to keep seepage at the required level.

Neufeld noted that Bene Terra had proposed a smaller size for the la-

agoons and storage pond, with 25.4 surface acres. The difference in cost of the lagoons is about \$90,000, with Evans, Bierly estimating \$729,000 and Bene Terra \$631,250.

Fencing of the area would be cheaper under the Bene Terra plan, which says the fence would cost \$20,250 while it would be \$72,750 under the Evans, Bierly plan. Neufeld said the difference is because of the difference in the size of the lagoons and the area that would have to be fenced.

"I agree that the reuse of water is a good thing," Neufeld said. "It is not something our firm had looked at, but we need to look at this."

"I feel that a lot more needs to be

looked at for this system, and that it is not in the best interest of the city.

"We feel that there should be some treatment of the water, and that in the future, there will probably be a requirement for treatment. With either chlorine or infra red treatment, the water could be pumped to be used on the cemetery or city land near the airport."

Mayor Rick Billinger said that with the difference in size and the sealing of the lagoons, the two proposals appear to be nearly dead even in cost.

The commissioners agreed that more investigation needs to be done on the lagoon proposals and voted 4-0 to table the item.

Sunflower show Friday

Goodland, recognized as the Sunflower Capital of the High Plains, will be host to the Sunflower Celebration, a promotional and educational show Friday for sunflower growers at the 4-H building at the Sherman County Fairgrounds.

The day will begin with registration, coffee and rolls, and introductions. The first presentation will be about the NuSun Oil human study. At 8 a.m., the participants will be

taken to the High Plains Research and Technology Center at the Northern Sun/ADM sunflower oil processing facility about four miles west of Goodland to see the research plots of both dryland and irrigated sunflowers.

A lunch will be served at the 4-H building after the tour, and Adrian Polansky, Kansas Secretary of Agriculture, will speak. More on Pages 8 and 9.