

weather  
report

83°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 6:17 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:53 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:16 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 66 degrees
- Humidity 24 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds south 8 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.97 inches and rising

- Record High 88° (1962)
- Record Low 25° (1958)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 83°  
Low 47°  
Precipitation none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: partly cloudy, high mid 80s, low mid 40s, winds south 15-20 m.p.h. Saturday: partly cloudy in the morning and then clearing, high mid 60s, low upper 30s, winds north 20-30 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: mostly sunny, high lower 70s, low lower 40s. Monday (Columbus Day): partly cloudy, high lower 70s, low upper 30s. Tuesday: partly cloudy, high mid 60s, low upper 30s. Wednesday: partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of scattered rain showers. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.96 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.97  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Corn — \$2.12 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.99  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Milo — \$1.80 bushel  
Soybeans — \$6.43 bushel  
Posted county price — \$6.12  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$10.20 cwt.  
NuSun — \$10.70 cwt.  
Confection — \$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Pinto beans — Withdrawn  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



Club donates  
stone, plaque

Arbutus Topliff stood next to the flagpole where the plaque and a stone are located in front of the agriculture building at the Sherman County fairgrounds. The Lincoln Larks Family and Community Education group placed the plaque. See story and photo on Page 3.

# Sewer rates to go up in March

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

It took about 40 minutes for the Goodland City Commission to approve a new sewer rate ordinance Monday on a 4-1 vote, and homeowners can expect the “average” bill to nearly double, from \$7.40 to more than \$12 per month, next spring.

The ordinance had been on the agenda at the previous commission meeting, but after about an hour of discussion, commissioners tabled it so they could gather more information.

The increase is needed just to keep the sewer system going, commissioners said, noting that it’s been 18 years since the city raised sewer rates. And it’s likely that rates will go up again once plans are firmed up to replace the old sewage treatment facility.

Mayor Rick Billinger said he voted against the ordinance because he felt it would have been better to know what the city is going to do about replacing the treatment plant.

“I know it has to be done,” Billinger said, “but I would rather not have to come back and raise the rates again once we have decided what the plans are.”

The City raised water rates in 1999 and electric rates were raised in 2002.

When Billinger announced the item on the agenda, there was dead silence in the room for about 90 seconds.

“Don’t everyone speak at once,” the mayor said.

There was a chuckle, and then silence lasting more than a minute before Commissioner Dean Blume spoke up.

“We need to have this in place,” Blume said, “and need to see if we can get some grants to help pay for the upgrade.”

“We are not eligible for grants without this ordinance,” said City Manager Ron Pickman. “To be eligible for grants or low-interest loans, we have to be able to demonstrate it is a self-sustaining utility.”

“This is the minimum that has to be done to be able to apply,” said Darin Neufeld of Evans, Bierly and Hutchison, the city’s engineering firm.

Pickman said this is the first step in the process, and that the ordinance is for the whole system as it exists now.

## Roof comes off



Two city workers remove debris from the roof of the old IGA building Monday afternoon. The building is being renovated for Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp., which is relocating from California to Goodland.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland

“We are running in the red, and have been using reserves for several years to keep the system operating,” Pickman said. “Right now, there is not enough of a reserve left to handle an emergency like replacing a lift station or replacing a section of

sewer line.”

“I see some reserve in this plan,” said Billinger, “but not enough here to do the project. This will raise it now and then we will have to come back later and do it again after deciding on the direction of the new

## Girl Scouts to build benches at water park

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Members of the Goodland Sunflower Girl Scout troop told the City Commission Monday that they are planning to raise money for seven benches at Steever Water Park to allow parents to watch without having to sit on the ground.

Scouts Eryn Topliff, Amanda Amthor, Jessica Swager, Adrienne West, Holly Kibel and Kylie Buller each spoke to the commission about the project and asked for the city to allow them to do the project.

The girls are working on a Silver Award, and troop leader Lori Amthor said that over the next two years they will be doing badge work as part of the project. They plan to install seven benches at an estimated cost of \$200 each.

She said the appearance at the commission meeting was part of their public relations badge work, and that while there were six girls at the meeting Halli Stone also is involved.

Dan Hayden was at the meeting representing the home-owned

carnival. He presented the city with a check for \$1,313 from this year’s receipts. He said the check was one quarter of the 6 percent fee that was part of the tax credit grant the carnival group received to buy land south of the fair grounds for a parking area and a ride storage building.

Hayden said each of the three entities involved in the grant writer program received a similar check and the grant writer received the fourth as agreed.

He said the carnival group has \$87,000 in state tax credits now available. He said people interested in the credits can call him at Bankwest or Cliff Leach at First National Bank.

Hayden said the group has until the end of next year to sell the state tax credits, and if they can get them sold this year, plans are to get the storage building built before the fair next year. He said the land has been paid for, and they have mowed it.

“We are hoping to work on the fences, and do a clean up of the land,” he said. “There are a lot of interesting things on the land.”

plant or lagoon system.”

“This ordinance was included in the sewer system study presented in January,” Neufeld said. “That money is for maintaining the whole system, and right now there is at least one lift station that needs to be upgraded, as it is getting overloaded. This is separate from the plant issue.”

Billinger asked when the new rates would become effective, and City Clerk Mary Volk said water use for the winter months of December, January and February would be averaged for the residential customers, who would see the new rates in March.

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked if the same average would apply to non-residential customers. Volk said they would be charged on

the gallons of water used each month.

“It is the same base rate of \$4.43 per month,” Volk said, “but the rest is calculated differently.”

Billinger asked what the average monthly water consumption is for residential and Volk said it was 600-800 hundred cubic feet. There is a charge of \$1.10 for every 100 cubic feet of water used on top of the base rate. This would mean the average monthly sewer charge for a residential will be \$7.70 plus the \$4.43 for a total of \$12.13. Currently residential customers pays \$7.40 per month.

For residences that use 300 or less cubic feet of water per month there will not be a raise.

Volk said the city has 2,428 cus-

See RATES, Page 3

# Painter’s technique used on Japanese kimonos

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

A Kansas painter has mastered a technique rare to the area, and some of her work is on display at the Carnegie Arts Center in Goodland until Friday, Oct. 31.

Diane Lawrence of Berryton, a town south of I-70 between Topeka and Lawrence, paints silk in the technique used for Japanese kimonos, a method not many in the United States have mastered and one that is difficult to teach.

Lawrence said she learned the style, roketsu-zome, from a woman from Japan who taught a week-long workshop in Albuquerque.

She said she has tried to teach the technique but found it tough to explain to people without a strong painting background and some experience as silk painters. Lawrence does, however, teach the traditional silk painting style at her home.

To explain the value of roketsu-zome, Lawrence said when her husband was in Japan, he called and asked if he could bring her a gift. She said she told him she wanted a kimono, and he called back and asked if she had any idea how much one would cost.

She said he told her some kimonos sell for \$20,000. Lawrence sells her paintings for much less than that, most listed between \$1,200 and \$2,000 on her web site.

With the time it takes to produce them, she acknowledged, the paintings actually could be worth far more. People should come and buy one now, she said, before they go up.

Besides, she said, some of the money would stay in Goodland, as the arts center will get a 30 percent commission on all the paintings sold there.



Diane Lawrence showed how she applied wax to the dye on one of her silk paintings done in roketsu-zome, a style used on Japanese kimonos. She employed the traditional technique on the lotus (below).

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Besides paintings in roketsu-zome, Lawrence has traditional silk paintings and watercolors on display.

For the paintings in the traditional style, Lawrence said, she uses a resist called gutta that acts as a wall to hold the dye in place. Gutta looks similar to fabric puff paint, she said, but it is different.

In the roketsu-zome paintings, she uses wax as a resist. It takes at least two months to paint in the Japanese style, she said, as compared to three weeks for a watercolor painting.

In both styles of silk painting, Lawrence said, fabric dye is applied with a brush on stretched, white silk, and many resists can be used to con-



trol the dye. The painter has to wait for the silk to dry before applying the wax, she said, which makes roketsu-zome time-consuming.

Two applications a day is good, she said. And after a silk painting is completed, she added, it is steamed to set the dye, then washed and ironed. Steaming is what makes it permanent, she said; some silk paintings have hung for thousands of years.

She said the process requires patience and planning. The painter can’t just wait for inspiration to strike and then throw some dye on the fabric.

“You have to start with a sketch,” Lawrence said. “You cannot make a mistake; you can’t get the dye out.”

The painter said she has ended up with mistakes in paintings before and had to find other uses for the silk.

“I had some that were disasters,” she said, “and made pillowcases out of some, and a friend made a quilt.”

The friend said she’d never do that again, Lawrence said, since silk is so hard to work with.

The Kansas artist said she has always known she wanted to be an artist, even in grade school. And she has always been an artist.

Lawrence graduated from the Kansas City Art Institute and has painted in oils and now does watercolors and silks. She also taught in the Independence, Mo., school district. Now she teaches art in her home and sells her own work. Sprint Corp. recently bought two pieces, she said, for the company’s permanent collection.

Lawrence, who has been painting silk for the last six years, said she took up the new style because she wanted a challenge.

“I was looking for a challenge,” she said. “I was bored with watercolor because it was too easy.”

Lawrence said she had read several books about silk painting and called the author of a book that she enjoyed. The author said she was teaching a workshop in New Mexico, Lawrence said; the cultural center in Albuquerque put on five-day workshops.

Lawrence learned the traditional method at that workshop and met silk painters who are part of a guild in New Mexico. They told her when the woman was coming from Japan to teach roketsu-zome.

Lawrence’s husband David is with the Kansas Air National Guard 190th Refueling Group. They have two sons, 25 and 24.