# Godland Star-News



**75**¢

Volume 71, Number 95



Today Sunset, 6:11 p.m. Tomorrow • Sunrise, 6:57 a.m.

- Sunset, 6:10 p.m.
- **Midday Conditions**
- Soil Temperature 53 degrees
- Humidity 33 percent Sky mostly sunny
- Winds north 18-26 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.94 inches and rising
- Record High 92° (1968) • Record Low 26° (1952)

#### Last 24 Hours\* 82° High Low 33° Precipitation none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: partly cloudy, high mid 60s, low mid 30s, winds west 10 m.p.h. Wednesday: partly cloudy, high upper 60s, low mid 30s, winds west 5-15 m.p.h. changing to the north 10-15 m.p.h. in the afternoon

### **Extended Forecast**

Thursday: partly cloudy, high mid 60s, lows around 40. Friday: partly cloudy, breezy, high upper 60s, low upper 30s. Saturday: partly cloudy, low upper 30s. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.



Wheat — \$3.07 bushel Posted county price — \$2.97 Loan deficiency pmt. - 0¢ Corn — \$2.07 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 — \$10.35 cwt NuSun — \$10.90 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 Pinto beans — Withdrawn (Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean.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.)



# contract

## Raises salary *\$1,200 a year* By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News A new two-year contract for City Manager Ron Pickman was approved by a 4-0 vote of the city commission Monday, along with a \$100a-month raise beginning in January, but only after seven closed-door sessions.

It took the commissioners seven closed-door session and nearly two hours to reach the agreement. City Commissioner Chuck Lutters left the meeting during the fourth closed session, so he was not present to vote on the contract.

We agree you are doing a great job," Mayor Rick Billinger told the manager after the fifth session. "We are going to offer you a two-year contract with a two-year renewable extension. We have all agreed on the details, but the compensation is the holdup." The commission went into their sixth session for five minutes, and

then asked Pickman to be part of an seventh closed session. After the seventh session, Billinger made a motion to approve the contract with a \$100-per-month raise beginning in January, a total of

\$72,723 annually. Commissioner John Garcia seconded the motion to approve the contract and it passed on a 4-0 vote. Lutters later said he felt the discussions were not moving along. He said he felt the basic decision to keep Pickman as city manager had been made in an earlier session, and did not see any reason to stay.

The commission went into the first closed session at 6:48 p.m. for 10 minutes. Lutters made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Dave Daniels. The second session was held for 15 minutes beginning at 7:04. Lutters made the motion and Daniels

**Twelve Pages** 

Goodland, Kansas 67735



# Twisted steel being removed

Two city workers (above) cut a heat-damaged l-beam in the roof of the old IGA building Friday morning so they could take it out. Work is progressing quickly to get the building ready for Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp., which is moving from California. With the roof off, damage to some of the support beams was visible. Some will be replaced and others reinforced, city officials said. The firm hopes to begin manufacturing operations next month. Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News



inside today More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News

## **Oktoberfest** in Kanorado

Bob Hellman, former band instructor, won in the walking entries at Kanorado's Oktoberfest for his portrayal of Uncle Sam. See photos, story on Page 3.

See CITY, Page 10

# **County considers remodeling options, price**

#### By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News The Sherman County commissioners agree that remodeling the county-owned Southwestern Bell building at Main and 10th would be a good thing for the city, but they have to decide how much can they spend and what needs to be done. Commissioner Kevin Rasure reported at the meeting Tuesday that he had walked through the building with several people and that the building is structurally sound.

He said it would be pretty pricey

to add an elevator, but that there is not in bad shape. room on the back side in the future.

The main thing is removing the asbestos, which is downstairs, he said. This can either be removed or encapsulated, but he has no estimate on cost. It was suggested that at the next meeting the commissioners look at the two proposals the county received earlier this year from companies to examine the asbestos problem

Rasure said the heating and air conditioning equipment needs to be replaced, but that the electrical was

One thing the building needs is to have the outside brick walls repaired, he said, and something needs to be done about the chimney.

'This is something that is in need on many buildings, including our courthouse," Rasure said.

No matter what they plan to do at the Bell building, the commissioners agreed they have is to find a place to store all the records that are in the basement of the building now.

Someone suggested that a building could be built at the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said the long run, the offices of the Ecocounty could build a metal building nomic Development Council, the with some insulation and a minimum of lighting to handle storage.

Rasure said the money could come from the capital reserve fund, which has about \$175,000 in it. He asked the other two commissioners to think about a dollar amount they would spend on the Southwest Bell building as part of this project. Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked what the offices in the telephone building would be used for.

Rasure said he hoped that in the

Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce might be housed there, and the upstairs used as a community meeting room.

"There are a number of thing we could do," he said. "We could rent the spaces to other businesses or even consider selling the building in the future. It would be a great boost to Main to have the building occu

See COUNTY, Page 3

## New windows dress up Good Samaritan Center

#### By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-news Bay windows are being installed maritan Center, county commissioners learned Tuesday during their regular meeting.

Director Phil Samuelson told the commissioners the center is nearly full with 59 residents, there have not and they also are installing new been any major complaints and that the staff is happy.

"The families are mostly happy," Samuelson said, "and we feel that we are working to provide a better quality of life for our residents."

He said there will be a family meeting on Oct. 20 to discuss a therapy payment cap that the federal government has instituted. In the past, there has not been a cap on the amount of skilled therapy or physical therapy a resident could receive, but now there is a limit of \$1,590 for each.

amount will only last a few months," Samuelson said. "For those who at the Sherman County Good Sa- have a need for continued therapy, this could be very costly, or once the money runs out, they will not be able to maintain their level of activity."

He said the bay windows are being installed by Dependable Glass blinds.

The nursing station change is moving forward, and a new system of monitors will be installed by November, when the old nursing station will be removed. The nursing station will be moved into an office to get it out of direct view. Samuelson said this is being done because of the new federal privacy regulations, but it will make the center look less institutional and more homey.

"We are planning to have the resi-

the old nursing station will be removed," he said. "We are thinking about Main Street scenes to remind them of things they know to give them a lift and help with their memories of the good things they have known.

Financially, we are doing better. At least we are in the black. We were down in the summer because of the low census.

'Staff morale is good, and we have a good staff. A new Certified Nursing Assistant class is starting through Colby Community College, and we will have at least one attending from our staff."

Samuelson said a new nursing call system will cost \$25,000, but the old system is 25 years old. He anticipates replacing the existing van at an estimated cost of \$45,000, and replacing the lights in the rooms and bathrooms

"For many of our residents, this dents help decorate the area where at a cost of \$15,000. He said the new provements and will work with you lights will be less institutional and more like a home atmosphere.

> at, but it is not a high priority at this time. He said it is needed, especially at night.

They are looking at installing an air conditioner in the kitchen because it is connected to the dining room on the main system, and when the residents want the dining room warmer, it makes the kitchen that assistant from the new class, and we much hotter.

There are three members up for appointment on the advisory board, he said, and that at least two of them have reached the two-term limit. There are nine members, he said, and the Rev. Bud Chester is planning to retire again.

"It is good to see the census up," Commissioner Kevin Rasure said. "We have put money aside for imon these."

'We will show a small profit this A security system is being looked year," Samuelson said. "That is better than some centers that are in the red. Some are looking at downsizing and the cost of staff is a problem. We need another nurse or two to have a full staffing level, but the nursing assistant level is the best since I came this year.

"We hope to get a new nursing are paying the fees for a person in return for a one-year commitment to work for us. We are helping to educate a registered nurse at this time as well. Currently, the person is a licensed practical nurse. I have put \$10,000 in the budget next year for scholarships to help.'

The commissioners thanked Samuelson for his update, and said they have not heard any complaints.