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Sewer rate hike goes into effect in March

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Sewer rates the Goodland City Commission approved in October don't become effective until March, but the city wants to be sure all residents and businesses are aware of the increase before then.

City Manager Ron Pickman asked the commissioners at the meeting Monday to approve a special notice about the new sewer rates that would be published and broadcast.

The full notice is on Page 6 of today's *Goodland Star-News*. The new rates begin in March, but the rates for residential customers

are to be based on the monthly water use during December, January and February.

Fees for each customer will be adjusted annually.

"Your monthly rate for the next year beginning March 1, 2004, will be based on the average water consumption for December, January and February," the city notice says. "If a customer has not established an average, the monthly charge will be the median charge of all other residential customers until an average can be established."

Pickman said the staff hopes commercial customers will review their systems before the new rates

go into effect, and decide if they need to split their water metering or install an in-line water meter to measure the water used for lawns or other uses which do not return to the sewer system.

Commercial sewer charges will be based on water used during each month.

If a business has a lawn sprinkler system on the same meter, they may want to consider a separate meter for the sprinklers to avoid paying sewer charges on that water.

The customer would have to pay the cost to separate the water.

Pickman said installation of a one-inch water meter will cost a

customer \$300, even though it costs the city \$500.

A two-inch water meter will cost \$750 to the customer and costs the city \$1,300.

"We want to give the business people an opportunity to make this change before the new rates become effective," Pickman said.

The new rates will be \$1.10 per 100 cubic feet of water used plus a minimum charge of \$4.43. All customers will see the rate change on the March utility bills.

In other business Monday, Pickman reported that the city has been put on notice by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment

that the nitrate level in city well No. 6 has exceeded the allowable level.

He said the state will be sending a notice to the city about the problem, and that the city will be required to send a notice out to all water customers. The allowable level is 10 parts per million and the well tested 11 ppm.

"We will have to test the well every quarter for the next year," Pickman said. "If the level stays above 10, it could be costly to the city. We will have to find a way to blend the water before it goes into the system or have a treatment system for that well."

"Of the other city wells in the test,

three dropped and three doubled in nitrate levels. We will buy a nitrate testing kit to keep an eye on the wells on a monthly basis."

Ed Wolak, public works director, said the nitrate testing kit will cost about \$200, but it will give them a better idea of what the wells are doing.

"The experts tell us the nitrate levels usually increase in the winter because the plants are not using it," Wolak said. "There is no way of telling where the nitrate is coming from. The well is located on 19th Street behind Miller Electronics."

Pastor retires for second time

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

Bud Chester will retire for the second time this month after 56 years as a preacher, the last 2 1/2 in Goodland.

Chester, pastor of the First Baptist Church, is retiring for the second time. He was a pastor in Leavenworth for 39 years and in Fairview for 10, then retired and became an interim pastor, serving churches who were between preachers.

He was asked to serve temporarily in Goodland, but the pulpit committee at the church liked him so much, they asked him to stay, and he's been here 2 1/2 years.

"For some reason," Chester said, "the pulpit committee liked what they saw and asked me to be permanent."



Bud Chester

and helped get the annual Sept. 11 memorial program off the ground.

And he was the catalyst behind another program for kids: He said he got Martha Bishop to start a Sunday kids sermon at the church.

Chester's work with children didn't begin here, however, he taught <what subject or grade?> school 39 years at Leavenworth.

"I taught to make a living," Chester said. "I preach because I love it."

But Chester doesn't see anything special about what he does.

"I don't do anything," he said. "I'm just a puppet in the crowd."

But he does see something special in his wife, Lois. He said she's a farm girl he met in college at Ottawa, and the couple will celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary Feb. 17.

Chester said he grew up in Pennsylvania and came all the way to Kansas to meet his wife. She's the best cook in the world, Chester added, patting his belly.

"I never put my wife down," he said. "I always brag about her."

And he has nothing but praise for Goodland. Chester said it's the friendliest city he's been in.

"I've enjoyed tremendously my 2 1/2 years," he said.

Goodland is friendly due to the merchants, he said, and the people who live here, and the ministerial alliance is great to work with.

"When you work with people like Kenny Corke, Howard Bishop, Richie Gordon and many others," Chester said, "you know you're in a special place."

"I like to tell people, young or old, they are special. They smile and forget all the heartaches they have."

"It makes people set aside their problems a few minutes each day."

Chester said writing his retirement letter was the hardest thing he has ever done, but he would like somehow to continue to preach Christ.

The minister said he has decided to retire because he isn't able to do all he feels he should. His last day will be Sunday, Nov. 16. After that, he and his wife Lois will return to Fairview, where they have a home. The church will have an interim pastor, though Chester said he doesn't know who it will be.

"I can no longer give 110 percent," Chester said. "My health is not as good. I have never believed in doing half a job."

Chester said he just can't go to meetings every night any more and is finding steps and hills more difficult than they used to be.

Giving 110 percent has included helping the helpless, but Chester said he has benefited from that, too.

"I try to have the goal of helping those who can't help themselves," he said.

Chester said he has worked with residents at the Good Samaritan Center and Wheat Ridge Acres and with children on projects.

"I go to the nursing home every Wednesday night to bless them," he said, "but I am the one who is blessed."

Chester said he works mostly with junior high and elementary age children at the church and works with students at the high school. He picks up 11 youngsters and drives them to Sunday school.

"The church is built around the little kids," he said. "They are the church of today, not the church of tomorrow."

"They are eager to learn. Adults already know; you can't change their mind."

Chester has worked on several projects. He organized an Easter program with the children last year, worked with the kids on a float for the parade to kick off the Christmas shopping season Saturday, Nov. 15,



Northwest Kansas Technical College student senate members Justin Frodin (left) and Deanna Proehl loaded canned goods on the back of the truck making a delivery to the Genesis food bank.

The food was collected for admission to the senate's haunted house last week.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Tech students scare up food for Genesis

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News

The student senate at Northwest Kansas Technical College donated five boxes of canned and dry goods collected as admission for its Halloween haunted house to the Genesis food bank.

Genesis is a non-profit community organization that operates a food bank in the basement of the Goodland United Methodist Church, 12th and Sherman Avenue.

Pat Jordan, manager of the food bank, said Goodland has always supported Genesis.

"The community is good for Genesis and Genesis is good for the community," she said.

Besides operating a food bank, Genesis collects clothing and during the Christmas holidays passes out about 100 food baskets to Sherman County families, along with toys for children who otherwise might not get any.

This is the second year the student senate operated the haunted house for Genesis. The house, in the basement of the student union, was open last Tuesday to Thursday evenings.

About noon Friday, Clark Jordan of Genesis came by to collect the food. Helping load were

senators Allan Briney, Justin Frodin, Deanna Proehl and Crystal Murray, along with senate secretary Rhandi Moody and treasurer Robert Beal. Some of the members went to the food bank to help unload.

Lloyd Koel, a diesel technology instructor at the college, is a faculty advisor to the senate. He said the haunted house is part of a project the senate took up more than a decade ago to support Genesis.

Koel said the haunted house did well and probably will be set up again next Halloween.

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COMMERCIAL & PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

For Gurnie James (Ole Gurn's Boot & Saddle)

Date: Saturday, November 15, 2003 **Time:** 10:00 am CST (doors open at 8:00 a.m. day of sale)

Auction Location: Ole Gurn's Boot & Saddle Building, 145 W. 4th, Colby, Kan.

Preview sale items between 5-7 p.m. CST Friday, November 14, 2003

Commercial Property Auction

Ole Gurn's Boot and Saddle building. Seller: Gurnie James. Auction Location: 145 W. 4th St., Colby, Kan. Time: 10 a.m. CST, November 15, 2003. Legal: W25' of Lot 20 and W25' of S 17' of Lot 17, BLK 16, Colby Original. **Terms:** 10% down day of sale with balance upon approval of title, on or before December 15, 2003. Personal and corporate checks are acceptable for the down payment with the final payment to be in certified funds. Bidding is not contingent upon financing. Financing, if necessary, needs to be arranged and approved prior to the auction. Seller reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. Announcements made day of sale take precedence over printed material. **Acceptance of Bids:** Each successful bidder will be required to enter into a HomeLand Real Estate Contract to Buy and Sell Real Estate immediately following the auction. Copies of the contract will be available from the auctioneer prior to the sale. **Evidence of Title:** Seller shall provide title insurance to the Buyer in the amount of the purchase price, with the premium to be paid one-half by the Seller and one-half by the Buyer. Title evidence shall be provided on sale day. Buyer may close as soon as closing document are prepared - no later than December 15, 2003. **Inspections:** Each potential bidder is responsible for conducting their own independent inspections and due diligence concerning pertinent facts about the property. Neither seller, Auctioneer, nor HomeLand Real Estate, it's agents and representatives, are making any warranties about the property, either expressed or implied. **Possession:** Possession shall be day of closing. **Real Estate Taxes:** Seller shall pay taxes for all of 2003 and prior years. 2002 Taxes \$730.89. **Agency:** HomeLand Real Estate, it's agents and representatives, are the Exclusive Agents of the Seller. **Escrow:** Northwest Title of Colby, Kan., will serve as escrow agent and closing agent for this transaction. The closing fee payable to Northwest Title shall be paid one-half by the Seller and one-half by the Buyer.

T-N-T and Jones Auction will sell all equipment and supplies from the business first the HomeLand Real Estate will sell the building. After sale of the building, we will move the auction to the T-N-T and Jones Auction Facility at 200 N. Franklin to sell the rest of Gurnie's personal property and his coin collection.

•Coins and stamps - Lincoln Jubilee 1900's, The Awakenings 1910's, The Roaring 1920's, The Rebuilding 1930's, The Triumphant 1940's, The prosperous 1950's, The Adventurous 1960's, The Searching 1970's, Innovatives 1980's •Coins - Silver dollars, UNC Silver Eagles, Mint sets (1960-1993), Federal Reserve Notes (1950-1988) some uncirculated, Silver certificates (some with red seal) •1 envelope w/50 consecutive dollar bills •Envelope w/101 Barr bills (\$1 bills) •Several assorted belt buckles •Statue of Liberty Gold Pocket Watch •Truck pocket watch •Grandpa Wright pocket watch •Marlboro Cigarette Lighter Box •1984 Buick Electra •1 Peterbilt Tractor by Franklin Mint Die Cast •1 Mack Tractor by Franklin Mint Die Cast •Jim Beam Bottles •2 old time coal oil lamp & Shade

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From Greg
and Dawn



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