

weather report

47°
 noon
 Monday



Today

• Sunset, 7:04 p.m.

Sunday

• Sunrise, 6:24 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:04 p.m.

Middy Conditions

• Soil temperature 64 degrees

• Humidity 93 percent

• Sky cloudy

• Winds north 15 mph

• Barometer 30.29 inches

and rising

• Record High today 102° (1931)

• Record Low today 34° (1941)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 72°

Low Sunday 50°

Precipitation 0.58

This month 1.08

Year to date 14.25

Below normal 2.46 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high

near 73, winds out of the south

at 5 to 25 and a low around 54.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with

a 20 percent chance of rain after

noon, a high near 84, winds out

of the south at 15 to 20 and a low

around 54.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly with a 20

percent chance of rain, a high near

76 and a low around 51. Friday:

Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent

chance of rain, a high near 77 and

a low around 50.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$6.95 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.89

Corn — \$5.14 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.96

Milo — \$4.51 bushel

Soybeans — \$10.73 bushel

Posted county price — \$11.27

Millet — \$7 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$21.20 cwt.

Confection — \$30/\$20 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)

(Markets by Scouler Grain, Sun Opta,

Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean.

These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowboys lose opener

Goodland Cowboys quarterback Travis Angelos (11) looked to pass to a receiver in the second quarter of Friday's game against Oakley. Goodland lost 33-0. See story, photos on Page 10.

City reacts to higher electric bills

By Tom Betz

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City commissioners met in a special work session Monday morning looking to review the higher than expected utility bills that went in the mail last week, and find a way to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Mayor Rick Billinger, who has been calling for a review of the electrical operating cost adjustment, said he wanted to see the city review how the cost adjustment is figured, and explain to the citizens why this happened this month.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks agreed the city should have the man who helped with the rate review two years ago come back and see if an adjustment can be made to avoid such high spikes.

Rod Blake, power plant superintendent, said the spike in the cost adjustment came because the city received the highest power purchase bill from Sunflower he has ever seen, and the amount of sales to customers was way down to spread the cost against.

Billinger asked if the kilowatt sales were down.

Blake said the electric sales were down 1.4 million and that 1 million of that was in one month.

Billinger said that should drop the bill from Sunflower.

"Yes," Blake said, "but that won't show up on the bills until next month. We should not have anything like this again."

"I know what the cost is for the 4 megawatts of firm power we purchase. After the firm they

are just throwing darts at what they are doing at Sunflower. Every day I look at the market rate and I do not have a clue as to where Sunflower is getting the number from."

City Clerk Mary Volk said the city is having to pay the market price over the firm 4 megawatts.

The commissioners each had a copy of a letter from Iva Lee Stephens who was complaining about the utility bill.

"This was a huge ripoff," her letter said. "How do you expect most people to come up with this kind of money?"

"We very rarely use our air conditioner and when we do we set it at 80 degrees. Put this letter on the commissioner's desk."

Blake said there is a billing issue the city is trying to address that should help reduce

the difference between what the bill is from Sunflower and what is billed to the city customers.

"Right now there is a 10 day difference between when the meters are read and we get the bill from Sunflower," he said. "If that gap could be cut down to a couple of days we would have a better balance to bill against what has been sold."

Volk said the city has ordered a meter reading unit that will help reduce the gap, but it will be a few weeks before it is installed and in operation. She agreed with Blake that cutting that billing gap will make the operating cost adjustment a better process and should help flatten it out.

See BILLS, Page 8

Getting ready for Flatlander Festival

By Tom Betz

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Organizers for the Flatlander Fall Festival touched base with the city commission last Tuesday to be sure things are covered for the annual event to be held Sept. 26 to 28.

Brent Wood, Flatlander committee chairman, asked the city about getting Main and the side streets blocked off for the big show on Saturday, Sept. 27 and the car show on Sunday, Sept. 28.

He asked about using the banner poles in front of Central Elementary and getting the city bleachers for the talent and scruffy dog show on Saturday, and then getting them moved to Chambers Park for the musical entertainment on Sunday afternoon.

He said the plan is to have the Picnic in the Park from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday at Chambers Park.

Wood said the Flatlander committee has an application in for a beer garden to be held inside at 1006 1/2 Main Ave.

Mayor Rick Billinger said he had not problems with the requests and asked the other commissioners if they had any questions.

None of the other city commissioners had a question, but Rich Simon, public works director, said he might have a problem with getting enough help to move the bleachers.

Billinger asked if Charlie Bandel, electrical distribution superintendent, could have some men help if needed.

Wood asked about being able to use the electrical circuits on Main, and City Manager Wayne Hill said the city would put the electrical meters back up to power the circuits.

A change is being made this year Wood said with the Carnegie Arts Council working on a plan to have activities out in front of the arts center. He said he was told they were denied permission to use sidewalk chalk to make a mural out in the street on 12th Street.

City Clerk Mary Volk said when she was asked the arts council person said they wanted to use paint, and she said that would not be allowed.

Wood said he did not know why it was said that way because they are going to use sidewalk chalk to make a mosaic on the brick. He said the plan is to bring kids and people down to the arts center.

He said the arts center is planning to have horse carriage rides available on Saturday.

Bill Stoeck, Flatlander committee member, asked about being able to get tables as has been done in past.

See FESTIVAL, Page 8

Raising Old Glory



Cheerleader Courtney Sheldon helped hold a portion of a large American flag in front of the Cowboys stadium while members of the Goodland Veterans of Foreign Wars hoisted an American flag before the Cowboys game against Oakley on Friday. The Goodland marching band was in formation and played the national anthem to open the first home game of the season.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

8 Wonders of Sherman County web voting address clarified

Sherman County residents have been asked to help nominate the top 8 Wonders of the county, and voting online is an option, but there was an error in the address that has made getting to the site a problem for some people.

You can fill out the form printed in today's *The Goodland Star-News* and return it to the office at 1205 Main or vote online at 8won-

ders/hdnews.net/sherman/.

The original web address listed it with a "www." in front, but Mary Karst, advertising manager at *The Hays Daily News* said that should be dropped.

She said some votes are coming through to the correct address.

A corrected version of the 8 Wonders of Sherman County form is printed on Page 7 of today's edi-

tion of *The Star-News*.

Voting will continue through Monday, Sept. 15.

The Sherman County Economic Development Council, Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau and *The Goodland Star-News* in cooperation with *The Hays Daily News* are asking people to help name the 8 Wonders of Sherman County.

Donation paves way for better cancer care

By Sharon Corcoran

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A \$40,000 donation has paved the way for better long-distance consultations between doctors in Kansas City and patients in Goodland, and cancer care-givers want patients to know about the resources available to them.

The Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation board donated \$40,000 to the University of Kansas Endowment Association to allow the KU Center for Telemedicine and TeleHealth to implement high definition technology and Intelemage, a cutting-edge radiology telesystem.

Dr. Gary Doolittle gave a presentation at Goodland Regional Medical Center in August, said Tina Goodwin, director of marketing and volunteer services at the hospital. The Midwest Cancer Alliance is putting together a program to allow people from Sherman County and the surrounding area to know about the system.

The program, called "Celebrate Survivorship," began with the first of a three-part series on Labor Day. The second will be at 6 p.m. Monday in the large board room at the hospital, called "I Don't Want to Bother the Doctor, but..."

The third program will be at 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 29, on "Survivors: Looking Ahead." Janna Eisenbart, nurse practitioner and oncology nurse at the hospital, is presenting all three.

"It is my hope we can become the clearinghouse to take care of people's wants and needs regarding cancer care," Goodwin said. "We're putting together a resource library, and we're the first hospital putting something like this together."

New equipment will be installed at KU in Kansas City and at the Goodland hospital, she said, to upgrade the telemedicine services so they'll be in high definition and so doctors will be able to access radiology reports and talk to the patient at the same time, making telemedicine more like face-to-face consultations.

New equipment will solve many of the bandwidth issues with telemedicine, said Administrator Jay Jolly. Telemedicine is gaining acceptance, he said, and the hospital's oncology department continues to grow. They're finding it's pretty crowded.

The cancer alliance is working with the Masons to bring back the free cancer screenings at the Flatlander Fall Festival, Goodwin said. They are planned for 9 a.m. until noon Saturday, Sept. 27, at 1015 Main, the chiropractor's office that was Dr. Sid Unruh's but is now Dr. Patrick Gleason's. They could easily see 100 people, Goodwin said.

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