

**weather report**



**72°**  
noon

Thursday

**Today**

- Sunset, 6:48 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 6:33 a.m.
- Sunset, 6:46 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil temperature 61 degrees
- Humidity 45 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds south 17 mph
- Barometer 30.15 inches and steady
- Record High today 99° (1935)
- Record Low today 32° (1971)

**Last 24 Hours\***

- High Wednesday 83°
- Low Wednesday 48°
- Precipitation none
- This month 1.90
- Year to date 15.07
- Below normal 2.03 inches

**The Topside Forecast**

Today: Sunny with a high near 84, winds out of the south at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 51. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 85, winds out of south at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 54.

**Extended Forecast**

Sunday: Partly sunny with a high near 84 and a low around 55. Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 84 and a low around 55. Tuesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 80 and a low around 51. Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 76.

(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**

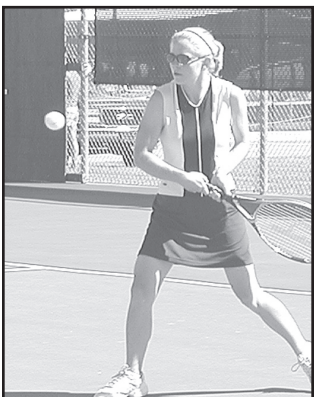


**Noon**

- Wheat — \$6.37 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$6.60
  - Corn — \$4.97 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$5.08
  - Milo — \$4.29 bushel
  - Soybeans — \$9.90 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$10.70
  - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
  - Sunflowers
  - Oil current crop — \$22 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



**Tennis duo wins silver**

Kaitlin Fugleberg volleyed in the Cowgirls home tennis tournament. She and her doubles partner Shonna Webster took home the silver medal. See story, photo on Page 12.

## City criticized for high light bills

By Tom Betz

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Two citizens criticized the city commissioners on Monday for the high utility bills they received this month, and the commissioners assured the citizens they have heard and are working to keep it from happening again.

Dana Wilfong said he was there to complain about the cost adjustment on the last city utility billing.

"It is putting a lot of impact on people who are on a fixed income," he said. "I am here to let you know there are people out there who are having to decide between eating and paying their bill as their income was not as high as the bill."

"The ball is in your park."

Mayor Rick Billinger said the

### Rate study to wait for new equipment

By Tom Betz

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Balancing out the electric cost adjustment is the goal for the city commission, but Monday they decided to wait until the new meter reading equipment is operational to see what effect that will have.

The city commissioners talked about doing a rate study about

the cost adjustment, but decided to delay that because City Clerk Mary Volk said the man who did the study estimated the cost would be about \$8,000.

"We only have two alternatives," Commissioner John Garcia said. "We can target the transfers or cut operational costs. We have to operate within the parameters,

and keep operational costs down. That is just the bottom line."

Mayor Rick Billinger said what has really changed is how the system works with the higher costs.

"The power plant has run for years and kept our costs low," he said. "We were able to buy power

See STUDY, Page 9

"I know the commission is extremely concerned about what is going on and doesn't want to create financial hardships," he said.

City Clerk Mary Volk said the low income assistance program is for people who make \$13,000 or less, and they can apply at the city office.

"I have the same issue as Dana," said Doug Jackson. "I am on a fixed income, and the cost of adjustment has taken a deep bite into my pocket."

"I am unhappy about the taxes. We have the highest taxes in the state and the highest electrical rate."

Jackson said he was unhappy that the city manager did not own a

See CITIZENS, Page 9

### City crew helps erect park fence

City employees from several departments worked together Wednesday to erect the chain link fence around the Goodland Skate Park located at Steever Park.

Helping included street department superintendent Phil Erickson and crew members Dan Knitig and Justin Lohr, Fire Chief Brian James, Building Inspector Steve Criswell, power plant employees Kendall Gittinger, Dale Fenner, Roy Wassemiller, and Bill Bowen.

The fence was a recommendation from the city insurance company to cover the skate park under the city liability policy. Kim Bohme, co-chair of the Shine On Sherman County Youth Committee said the fence could be paid for out of the money the kids have raised, but she asked the city to help put it up.

Erickson said his crew had to cut holes in the poured concrete slab for the fence posts because at the time the concrete slab was poured no one knew a fence would be required. He said the west side of the fence is being left open to allow a fork lift to bring in the skate park equipment.



City employees helped erect the chain link fence around the Skate Park on Wednesday afternoon. Helping were (l to r) power plant employees Bill Bowen, Kendall Gittinger, Roy Wassemiller, Fire Chief Brian James, Building Inspector Steve Criswell,

power plant employee Dale Fenner and street crew members Dan Knitig and Justin Lohr. Phil Erickson, street superintendent was operating the small loader to pull the fence tight.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

## Four projects picked to spend bond money

By Tom Betz

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Four street projects totaling about \$333,237 were chosen on Monday to spend most of the city's portion of the remaining money from the city, county joint road program that was started two years ago.

The city projects will be added together with the county projects on Friday afternoon with the total bringing the balance of the money left in the special project fund down to about \$200,000 said Darin Neufeld, engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates.

Neufeld went through a list of possible city projects by phone and using a remote computer on Monday giving the commissioners several options on each project.

He said there were four bidders on the projects, but when they were first presented he only listed them as A, B, C and D. He said he wanted the city to choose the projects by area, and not by contractor. Once the projects were selected he revealed the names of the bidders.

Seven different projects were listed with options for some of those to allow the commissioners to decide the extent of each project.

The projects included replacing the pavement on Armory Road from Caldwell to the Goodland Cemetery entrance on Main with concrete. That project would have cost about \$270,000, and none of the commissioners felt it was their top priority.

The top project on the list was a combination of asphalt edge patching and curb and gutter work on Broadway, Clark and Caldwell from 17th north. He said the projects could go

### City manager resigns at meeting

By Tom Betz

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City commissioners met with City Manager Wayne Hill behind closed doors on Monday, and when the meeting reopened Mayor Rick Billinger announced that Hill had resigned and will be leaving in 90 days.

After the resignation was accepted and the meeting adjourned Billinger said the resignation was not anything that Hill had done, or that the commissioners had asked for.

"He told us he had his reasons," Billinger said, "and that he wanted to get a few projects completed before he left."

Hill said he did not resign because of any problem with the commissioners, and that he felt he had a good relationship with all of the commissioners and the city staff.

"I have enjoyed working in Goodland," he said. "Over the past three years I have worked to help the city improve, and I think we have done quite a bit.

as far as 16th Street. He said the total project would be about \$40,000.

The commissioners agreed it was a good project and Neufeld revealed that APAC of Hays would do the curb and gutter work while Grasser Construction of Stratton, Colo. would do the asphalt edge patching.

The next project the commissioners agreed

"I want to get the sewer system in shape, and try to have more answers on the nitrate problem in the water before I leave."

Billinger asked for a 10 minute closed door session near the end of the meeting on Monday with the commissioners and Hill.

When the commissioners came back Billinger asked for a 5 minute closed session with the five commissioners.

He announced the resignation, and Commissioner John Garcia made the motion to accept with a second by Commissioner Dave Daniels.

None of the commissioners had any comments about the resignation at that time.

"He has done a good job the last three years," Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said on Wednesday. "I think it was for health and personal reasons and we have to accept that and go on. I hate to see him leave as I said I think he has done a good job."

on was a 2-inch mill and overlay on Caldwell from Eighth Street south to 10th. That project would cost about \$81,622, and when accepted Neufeld revealed the contractor would be Grasser.

On the same line Neufeld said a part of doing the Caldwell project would include some spot curb and gutter as well as replacing valley

gutters at the intersections at Ninth and 10th. That project would cost about \$88,000, and when the commissioners agreed to put it on the list Neufeld revealed that APAC would do the curb and gutter work and the valley gutters and Grasser would do the asphalt work.

The commissioners agreed that the replacement of sections of concrete on 17th Street from Main west to Center was a good project, and accepted the option to do a partial replacement of bad concrete slabs at an estimated cost of \$64,570. Neufeld said this project would be handled by APAC, and could include some curb and gutter replacement.

Neufeld said all the contractors had been told about the grain truck traffic and that they could not have the street torn up during fall or spring harvest.

Neufeld said the edge patching and curb and gutter would be added as additional work to the current contracts for APAC and Grasser who are doing similar work under a separate list of projects for the city.

"That highlights all the projects I want to do," Mayor Rick Billinger said.

The other commissioners agreed. When the bidders were revealed and totaled APAC won pieces of three projects totaling \$144,570, and Grasser had pieces of three projects totaling \$138,667.

Neufeld said the county commissioners will meet at 1 p.m. on Friday to see how the bid came out on the one-mile stretch of County Road 14 that runs past the sunflower plant and the energy center. He said with that information and the city projects the county would be looking at options to get the balance down to the \$200,000 level by Monday, Sept. 22.

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