

weather report

40°

noon

Thursday

Today

Sunset, 4:55 p.m.

Saturday

Sunrise, 7:01 a.m.

Sunset, 4:56 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 31 degrees

• Humidity 82 percent

• Sky partly cloudy

• Winds southeast 8 mph

• Barometer 29.63 inches and falling

• Record High today 73° (1967)

• Record Low today -10° (1966)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 49°

Low Wednesday 21°

Precipitation 0.08

This month 0.11

Year to date 0.11

Below normal 0.2 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain after 11 a.m. and a 30 percent chance of rain and snow after 11 p.m., a high near 57, winds out of the south at 20-40 mph and a low around 30.

Saturday: Partly sunny, a high near 45, winds breezy from the north at 15 to 35 mph and a low around 21.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow, a high near 35 and a low around 18.

Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 41 and a low around 17.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.95 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.10

Corn — \$3.15 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.36

Milo — \$2.86 bushel

Soybeans — \$8.74 bushel

Posted county price — \$8.91

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$13.95 cwt.

Confection — \$28/\$15 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)

(Markets by Scoular 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

Teams play in Colby

Cowgirl senior Alexis Bateman tried to take a shot, but Rawlins County Lady Buffalo Hillary Chvatal blocked the shot. The Cowgirls won the game 54-34. Today the Goodland teams are in Colby. See photos, story on Page 12.



City fails to pass pound contract

By Tom Betz
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A motion to approve the animal pound contract failed for lack of a second on Monday, but the commissioners agreed to reconsider the contract with a revision at the first meeting in February.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks made the motion to approve the contract as presented, but Mayor Josh Dechant could not get any of the other commissioners to second and declared the motion dead.

The major sticking point for the other commissioners was a clause in the contract saying the city would furnish the utilities, which would be electricity.

Dechant said he knows Kathy Schermerhorn, who owns Paw Wash where the animal pound is located, would do a good job handling the animals.

“My question is what precedent do we set for funding a private business,” Dechant said.

“I have a question about the city providing the electricity.”

Commissioner Rick Billinger said he understood the point, but thought the city was doing the same thing at the cemetery.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said the cemetery is different because it is city property.

“I am against this because of how the city was brought into this after the building was built,” Daniels said. “One suggestion I heard was to put the dog pound at the armory.

“I have had three calls saying the people did not think this contract was a good answer.”

“I agree with Dave on two points,” Billinger said. “Paying the utilities I do not care for. I agree with him about giving any business utilities when we do not do that for everyone else. I understand the cost may be higher if we are not paying the utilities.”

Commissioner John Garcia said he remembered having John Topliff come to the commission and saying he could not stay in

business because of the utilities. He said that was because of the demand meter on Topliff’s small business.

Billinger said he felt it was a legitimate request. He said he does not like the utility part of the animal contract.

City Manager Doug Gerber said the contract would be higher about \$27,000 a year if the utilities were not included.

He said the county commissioners have not approved the contract, and it will be on their agenda for Friday, Jan. 29.

He said the county might help with the cost of an animal control officer. The county commissioners had previously agreed to pay 30 percent of the annual animal pound contract.

Billinger said it would make sense to have one person picking up animals around the city and county.

Fairbanks said she felt Schermerhorn would keep good records of where the

animals come from and when the contract is reviewed after a year it would give them more information.

Gerber said he felt the dog pound would give better care for the animals, and that the volunteers have been handling the care over the weekends.

Fairbanks said she could understand the question on the utilities because it is not something the city has done before.

She said city staff is working on an incentive plan to help businesses who are here and looking to expand or are looking to open a business.

“We need to do this,” she said, “and I feel we have lost some businesses because we have not had that. I am sure if we approve this we are going to have people come and ask why.

“I look at the animal pound differently. Yes, this is a private business. The animals are of

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Commission honors employee for work

By Tom Betz
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City commissioners thanked city employee Danny Krayca at Monday’s meeting for his work as he was named the employee of the quarter.

City Manager Doug Gerber said Krayca was nominated by a department supervisor who said she appreciated the work Krayca did when the city workers were redoing the front of the High Plains Museum.

Linda Holton, museum curator, said Krayca went above and beyond in helping get that done, and that he was able to find a leak in the roof that had been hard to find.

because you were in the best graduating class.”

In other business the commission approved:

- Setting a hearings date of March 1, for three homes that are in disrepair and should either be fixed or condemned and ordered demolished.

The three homes are located at 1607 Texas Ave., 1516 Grand Ave., and 314 W. 10th Street.

Gerber said the owners of record have been notified.

- Purchase of a police car from Dan Brenner Ford for \$21,425. The car will replace a 2005 Crown Victoria which has more than 120,000 miles, and Gerber said replacing the car was discussed during the budget sessions. Gerber said the bid includes the trade-in value for the old police car. The other two bids were from Burtis Motor of Garden City, \$23,245, and Colby Dodge Chrysler Jeep for \$23,785.

Gerber said Krayca does a lot of work behind the scenes with Tree City U.S.A., and his work helps keep the city in that program, which has been going for more than 30 years.

Krayca was presented with plaque and envelope by Mayor Josh Dechant who thanked Krayca for his good work.

Commissioner Daniels said he went to school with Krayca, and they graduated in the same class in 1976.

Krayca said he remembers being on the track team with Daniels and they were sitting in the bus waiting to be called to an event. He said someone called out two names and misspoke both. He said they did not think they were being called, but the coach came running up and said to get out there as it was the two of us the person had called for.

Commissioner John Garcia said he felt Krayca did good work for the city.

Commissioner Rick Billinger said he felt Krayca had the parks looking better than ever they have.

“Rich (Simon, public works manager) said to treat the parks like my own lawn,” Krayca said. “We are working to keep that up and our goal is to get sprinkler systems in all the parks. We try to stay on top of the care.

“I agree,” Daniels said, “and not

Chief Ray Smee said the only piece of gear to be purchased for this car is a new cage. He said all the lights and radios would be transferred from the old car.

- A bid from Bankwest of Kansas to handle the city checking account. Gerber said the city received a bid from Bankwest, but not from any of the other three banks in town.

Gerber said he did not believe it was a great bid as the city would receive interest at 1.5 percent less than the 90-day Treasury Bill. He said it is the best bid the city was going to get at this time. He said Bankwest has been generous with the city’s investment dollars in the recent past.

Daniels said he was surprised the other two banks were not interested, and asked how much money was in the main account.

City Clerk Mary Volk said it is about \$1 million, and the other banks had indicated they did not want to deal with the security requirements.

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Green house being electrified



Brian Chacon, electrical student from Northwest Tech worked on wiring the main breaker box at the college’s ‘green’ house project on Center Ave. In the front of the house Shawn Richardson another electrical student was working on the outlet boxes. Bryant Nemecheck, carpentry instructor said his crew is waiting for the electrical and plumbing to be done before they can move ahead with insulation and sheet rock on the walls. He said a lot of the electrical and plumbing has been done, but it takes time and that is part of the remodeling process to wait on other workers to finish.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Homecoming queen to head state program

By Tom (TD) Dreiling
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Goodland High School’s 1972 homecoming queen continues to climb the ladder in her chosen profession.

The latest promotion for Judy (Kear) Finnegan of St. Louis, Mo., came several months ago when she was appointed Director of the Office of Children’s Mental Health. That office falls under the umbrella of the Missouri Department of Mental Health, a department in which she has worked for nearly 20 years.

Finnegan said the Children’s Office provides leadership across the department in developing the *comprehensive children’s mental health system*, which was created by state statute several years ago.

She said this includes work not only in the Department of Mental

Health, but links with other public agencies in child welfare, juvenile justice and education.

The 1972 Goodland High School graduate began her career with the Department of Mental Health as the coordinator for a legislatively enacted children’s mental health pilot, which was the predecessor to the current comprehensive children’s mental health system.

Three years later, Finnegan was named the first Eastern Missouri Director for Children’s Mental Health, and later served as the interim Chief Operating Officer at Hawthorn Children’s Psychiatric Hospital.

The three years prior to her latest advancement, Finnegan was statewide coordinator for Children’s Mental Health Systems of Care. She worked on statewide children’s advocacy issues, children’s pro-



Finnegan



gram development, supervision and counseling.

Finnegan, M.S., L.P.C., graduated from Fort Hays State University in 1977 with a B.S. in Sociology and Education.

She earned a Master’s Degree in Counseling from the university at Hays. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor (L.P.C.) in the state of Missouri.

She started her career in Arizona, where she met her spouse, Frank Finnegan.

They later settled in his hometown of St. Louis. Their daughter Shawn graduated from Missouri

State University three years ago and is employed in the travel industry.

Husband Frank, she said, has been executive director of the St. Louis Area Food Bank for 20 years. The food bank provides food to 500 member agencies — such as local food pantries or soup kitchens — in 26 counties in eastern Missouri and western Illinois. It is an affiliate of the national “Feeding America” organization.

“He also served on the national board of ‘Feeding America’ and the national board of the Community Supplemental Food Program,” she said.

Additionally, he served in numerous local and regional leadership positions, including chairing the regional Federal Emergency Food Program, she said.

Finnegan attended Grant Grade School, Goodland Junior High and graduated from Goodland High school in 1972.

She worked several jobs in Goodland while growing up, including six summers with the Goodland School District’s migrant school.

In high school she was a member of Kayettes and Sals all four years. She was a member of Quill and Scroll and FTA her junior and senior years.

Other groups include: AFS, sophomore year; vocal, all four years; X-Pressos, senior year; school musical, sophomore, junior and senior years; cheerleader, all four years, head cheerleader, senior year; track, freshman and sophomore years; school paper, junior and senior years; prom server, sophomore year; and homecoming queen, senior year.

(Editor’s note: Any reader with a possible feature story idea in mind can contact TD at tad1@st-tel.net, or call (785) 899-2338 or (785) 890-2475.)