

weather
report

85°

noon
Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 7:35 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 6:06 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:33 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 75 degrees
- Humidity 40 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds southwest 15 mph
- Barometer 29.87 inches and steady

- Record High today 104° (1987)
- Record Low today 46° (2004)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 97°
- Low Wednesday 62°
- Precipitation none
- This month 2.58
- Year to date 17.19
- Above Normal 1.68 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near 90, winds out of the north at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 60. Saturday: Sunny with a high near 94, winds out of the south at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 63.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent of showers and thunderstorms after 3 p.m., a high near 96 and a low around 63. Monday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 94 and a low around 61.

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

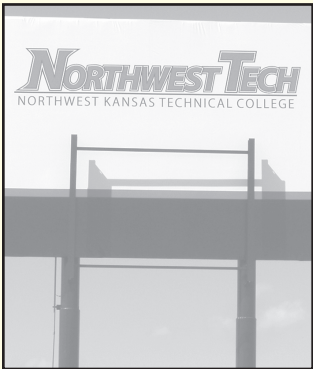
local
markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$5.58 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.72
- Corn — \$3.55 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.65
- Milo — \$3.26 bushel
- Soybeans — \$8.97 bushel
- Posted county price — \$9.91
- Millet — \$5 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$16.20 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 and views from your Goodland Star-News



College teams
open practice

People driving north on K-27 can see the new electronic billboard Northwest Tech has erected at the intersection to advertise the new athletic teams. See Photo, story, on Page 9a.



Kanorado seniors ask for money

By Tom Betz

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Three ladies from Kanorado asked the Sherman County commissioners to reconsider their cut of the senior center budget and to give them enough money to help with the utilities and the commissioners increased the amount to \$4,500 for next year.

Tammy Colby was the spokesperson for the Kanorado group and said they were at the meeting to ask for help with the utilities at the senior center.

She handed the commissioners a budget that showed the actual costs and said the one the commissioners had received with the letter earlier was an estimated budget.

“We use the center as a community center,” she said, “and serve the senior meals there and hold bingo on Thursdays. We hold a monthly dinner to help pay for the other bills and make

about \$250 a month from that.”

Earlier the county commissioners had thought to give the Kanorado Senior Center \$2,500 to help with the van the center has.

Colby said they would rather have the help on the utilities as the van is hardly used. She said the county has been giving about \$19,000 for the senior center.

She said the center makes about \$80 a week on bingo, and can use a percentage of that to help with the utility cost, but they would ask the county to help as well.

The estimated budget showed \$4,800 for gas, but Commissioner Chuck Thomas said the actual figure appeared to be about half that.

“It looks like with the budget you were asking for all of this and expected a 30 percent cut,” said Commissioner Cynthia Strnad.

“No,” Colby said. “We just want some help with the utilities.”

Commissioner Max Linin questioned the insurance cost for the building saying he thought it was high.

Colby said it is through Eklund Insurance.

She said the center pays two part time employees. She said one was on the Green Thumb program, but that ran out and she was hired to clean the building. She works four hours a day and Colby works four hours a day and each get minimum wage.

Strnad said the actual numbers looked better than the estimated budget.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said the estimated budget figures were way out of line.

Strnad asked Colby if the center has any carry over.

“We do have money in an account,” Colby said. “I think we have about \$10,000. We have our bingo fund, but cannot use that and think there is less than \$5,000 in that account.”

Strnad asked if some of the bingo money could be used to help pay utilities.

Colby said a percentage can.

“We make about \$80 a week as we have about 35 players,” she said. “We get some players from Goodland and some from Burlington. We get less players in the winter. We have not lost money on bingo, but we used to get more players.”

Colby said the Kanorado senior center would like to invite the commissioners to come out for one of the monthly suppers to meet the people. She said the next one would be a pancake supper from 5 to 8 p.m., on Saturday, Aug. 28. The one in September will be Mexican food on Saturday, Sept. 18.

After the ladies left the commissioners reviewed the numbers and agreed to give the Kanorado Senior Center \$4,500 to help with utilities.

Line flaw causes plant changes

By Tom Betz

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A design flaw at the water treatment plant caused some changes in the piping and city commissioners approved a change order on Monday to cover the cost.

Don Hollar, engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, was at the meeting to explain the change and ask the commissioners to approve the payment of \$7,009 the change cost.

Hollar said Miller Construction is moving forward on the plant and was hoping to pour the floor this week and is putting up the steel.

He said he had talked to Sporer about starting on the lagoons, and was told they would be starting on those soon.

“We are having problems with your area being wet,” Hollar said. “It is sort of unusual, but I can’t be upset at the rain.”

Commissioner Rick Billinger asked if all the piping has been done on the water lines to bring it to the central location.

Hollar said most of it is done, but not the big line on 10th Street.

Billinger asked if the system could be hooked together and blend the water together now.

“I thought if we have all the water lines done we could put it together,” he said.

Hollar said he did not feel the city would find any advantage in that at this time. He said when they are a little further along he, Doug Gerber and Rich Simon will decide when that can be done.

Billinger said it had been the thought early that it would help to blend the water to keep the nitrates below the maximum level.

Hollar said the water lines are mostly done, but it would not be a good time to try to blend the water while the treatment plant is being built.

Hollar said he had a change order for

See WATER, Page 5



Firemen get live fire practice

The Goodland Volunteer Fire Department got to work on its fire fighting techniques on Tuesday evening when they practiced on a house being torn down by Northwest Tech at 13th and Broadway Ave. The previous owner had removed everything that needed to be. Firemen broke out the windows and a fire was set using old mattresses and wooden pallets in a back room. Firefighters got to practice putting the fire out from inside the house. Others took care of hosing down the outside. The Tech College is planning to build a duplex for the next building project.

Photos by Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News



City to waive fees for business, delays utility decision

By Tom Betz

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City commissioners Monday were in agreement to waive permit fees for Healthful Solutions, a new business opened on Business U.S. 24 by Paige Harper, but tabled the discussion of rebating monthly utilities.

City Manager Doug Gerber said the discussion about economic development incentives for Harper’s business was a continuation of the discussion at the previous city meeting.

He said comparing her business to the proposed grocery store the grocery will bring 20 full time and 8 part time employees.

Harper said she had herself full time and one part time person at this time.

Commissioner Rick Billinger said some of what the city is planning to do for the grocery is unique to that store including the easement for a drive up, signage, rebate for employees who move to town and working with the tech college on a training program.

“Waiving city permits we have to do that for everyone if we are going to do it,” he said. “That is in our policy.”

“I don’t have a problem waiving the fees,” said Commissioner John Garcia. “We have to be fair.”

Gerber said the city staff would not recommend waiving the utility connection deposit fees, because the business or homeowner gets those back under city policy after about 18 months to two years.

He said Harper was recommended to contact the county assessor about the Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

Harper said she had taken that suggestion and was all qualified for the county program.

Billinger asked if she had done any city permit fees yet.

She said she had not, but would be getting an electrical permit fee this week.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he was

fine with waiving the permit fees.

Billinger said he was not as clear about giving a credit for utilities in the first year.

Gerber said it appeared a high bill for the building where Harper’s business is has been \$70 and the low \$40. He said it averages \$50 so it would be about \$600 for a year.

“Can I ask you to clarify about what you are going to do for everyone,” said Mike Miller of Miller Construction. “Are you setting a precedent here?”

“We set up a policy to encourage new business,” Billinger said. “We started on it before the grocery store came up. Paige is the second application for these incentives. One or two jobs is going to be different than 20 jobs.”

“I have had some questions too,” Daniels said. “I was wondering if we had a way to set it up depending on the number of jobs being created.”

Gerber said it was set up to be reviewed by the commission on a case by case basis.

“We know that once we do this we will have people ask,” he said.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said the city will have to judge what the business is bringing to the community.

“Yes, we need to look at how much impact is there,” Daniels said.

Gerber said the commission might look at the utility like the grocery store and consider a rebate after a year a new employee has come to town.

Daniels said he agreed he would like to see the utility on the back side as a refund.

The commissioners agreed that sounded like a good idea.

“I think with one employee it is going to take a long time to get the money back,” Billinger said. “I think the easy part is the fees, but not sure when you get into the utilities.”

“On the other hand we want to help a small

See CITY, Page 5