

Goodland City Commissioners questioned about sewer rate formula

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on. Gerber said the city donates about \$30,000 each year.

The proposal included setting a limit on the amount of any donation. Several numbers were suggested including \$1,000 and \$2,000. Sanderson asked how many requests they get for more than \$1,000. Gerber said the city usually gives more than \$1,000 to Northwest Tech, the animal shelter and the Carnegie Arts Center, but most other organizations come in below that. The commission approved the agreement with the college in April to donation \$10,000. In the past it has been as much as \$20,000.

Garcia said he was worried they would be stifling the college with this donation limit. Fairbanks said she looks at the agreement with the college as separate from other donations, and suggested setting a \$2,000 limit.

"You would have to exempt some of these groups," Sanderson said, "and then you're back to not treating everyone the same."

Garcia suggested the policy be tabled. Fairbanks agreed, but said the commission should give city staff some guidelines. Gerbersaid from

what he was hearing, the commission wanted flexibility in the donation process, which suggested they keep it the same as what it is now. Fairbanks agreed, but said a formal application is still a good idea.

Finley suggested a two-tiered approach, setting criteria for donations under \$2,000 and different criteria for any requests over that, including an annual report on how the organization is using the money to benefit Goodland, such as the one the college presents to the commission each year.

Garcia asked Gerber to put together something like that and bring it back to the next meeting.

- Approved economic development incentives for Yost Farm Supply, who is building a new building along U.S. 24. Solomon said the new building will supplement Yost's existing facility on the north side of the highway, and the business may add two jobs.

The development incentive is a reimbursement of sixth months of utility fees once a new business or expanded business has been established for 12 months.

- Discussed residential zoning. Farris had asked for the discussion since he'd been ap-

proached by residents who wanted to put up garages on empty residential lots. Gerber said current city ordinances say they can't, since garages are classified as accessory buildings, they have to be accessory to another building if they are on a residential lot.

Farris said some of these lots have had houses recently demolished, or are lots where it really isn't feasible to build a house, and he would rather see a garage than see the lot stand empty. Gerber said the city even owns several of these lots.

Finley suggested the commission stick with the current ordinances, but look at what the possibilities are for each case.

- Heard a report from Gerber on the water line replacement that will happen at the same time that two Main Street blocks will be torn up for brick replacement. Gerber said they had negotiated the contract down to \$160,000, but some of the specifications have changed. The contractor will now be installing a six-inch water line on the west side of the street and a 10-inch line on the east side. The lines will be placed under sidewalk, and brick will be installed over them for easy access.

New board, director working to revitalize Goodland chamber

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would work about 10 hours a week as chamber director at no cost for 18 months, after which the chamber and city would agree on compensation.

Don McKenzie, a member of the reconstituted chamber board, requested the 18 month time frame because it finishes out this year and next year, by which time they will know if the new chamber is going to be successful or not. Solomon said he didn't feel it was wise to dedicate more than 10 hours a week, since his first commitment is as economic development director.

McKenzie said the chamber needs someone to be a sales-

person for commerce in the city and county, and said that it is one of the steps to getting a vibrant chamber back.

Commissioner Bill Finley told McKenzie that the commission had been talking about having someone come in to report on the chamber's progress every six months. McKenzie said he'd be willing to make a report more often than that. Commissioner Jennifer Sanderson said she'd like to see a monthly report.

The contract will officially begin on June 1.

Solomon said the new chamber is always looking for more members. Anyone interested can contact him at 890-3743.

Carnival bill passes, House rejects Senate's redistricting proposals

The carnival bill passed the House floor Friday and will pass final action Monday then will be sent to Governor Brownback for his signature.

Today the Legislature hit the 90 day mark for legislative session. In the upcoming week, the House and Senate must work diligently to wrap up the major issues discussed this legislative session. Redistricting, education funding, income tax, reform KPERs solutions and passing a budget with a healthy ending balance will all be on the table.

Redistricting

After waiting for the first four months of the session, this week the Senate finally passed a Senate district map. Ad Astra. This map will dissolve a Senate district in western Kansas and relocates it to Johnson County. This district is currently held by Senator Garrett Love from Montezuma.

If this map is approved the map



rick billinger

state rep.

would split Liberal in half along with Dodge City and the district would run from Liberal to Hays. The Ad Astra map was narrowly passed out of the Senate by a vote of 21 to 19. When this map came over to the House floor it was unacceptable to many of the western Kansas Legislators, including myself. The House quickly killed this map 43 to 72. As you recall this was the second time this session where one chamber has voted down the map of the other chamber. The Senate voted down the House map right before the annual spring break, the Senate began this unprecedented process.

Another key element in creating satisfactory district maps is the

population deviation. Going back to the one person, one vote philosophy, courts desire the population deviation to be as close to zero as possible when reviewing and approving maps. In the proposed Senate district map 34 of the 40 senate districts had a population deviation over 2.5 percent and 22 of those districts had population deviations over 4 percent.

The deviations in the Senate map are so drastic it would result in the 10 most populated districts representing an entire Senate district more than the 10 least populated districts. It is incredibly difficult, if not impossible, to achieve a zero percent deviation but it is possible to achieve a deviation near or below 2 percent.

This week, the House proposed three new maps: Cottonwood 2

(State House) and We the People 11 (State Senate) maps and a State Board of Education map:

- The Senate map was offered as an amendment during floor debate by Senator Steve Abrams.

- This map does not dissolve any Senate seats, dilute a majority minority district to draw out challengers.

- We the People 11 also cuts deviations almost in half compared to Ad Astra.

Senate KPERs Plan

This week the Senate finally started taking much needed steps to reforming the state's retirement system. Like the House plan, the Senate proposal creates a Tier 3 for new employees and puts them into a cash balance plan.

- The difference between the House and Senate bills are the guarantee rate for employees.

- The House rate is set at 5 percent and the Senate rate is set at 6 percent, making the cash balance plan more expensive than the House.

- The House plan also allows for employees to elect between a

Defined Contribution plan, 401K style, or a Cash Balance plan.

- In an outlook until 2060, the House plan will be a \$3 billion reduction to the overall cost where the Senate's plan will be an additional \$8 billion dollars in cost to the state

By the Senate taking the crucial steps of passing Senate Substitute for HB 2333, the two Chambers can now begin negotiations to finalize a plan that will reform KPERs.

No Taxpayer Dollars For Abortion (H Sub SB 313)

The No Taxpayer Funding of Abortion Act contained in H. Sub. SB 313 prevents state dollars from being expended for an abortion, prevents tax credits and exemptions for abortion related expenses, stops insurance rider coverage for abortions and prohibits the state health plan from including abortion coverage.

Creative Arts Industries Commissions (S. Sub. HB 2454)

During the 2011 session, much debate ensued regarding the future of the Kansas Arts Commission. As

a result, legislation was introduced to create the Creative Arts Industries Commission in the Kansas Department of Commerce and absolve the Kansas Arts Commission and the Kansas Film Commission. The Creative Arts Industries Commission would be official state program for the arts and tasked with promoting, supporting, coordinating, fostering, developing and measuring the outcomes of the arts in Kansas.

In addition, this legislation creates an individual income tax check-off on the state tax form for donations to the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission. Taxpayers have the option of adding a contribution on their individual income tax form beginning in 2013. All donations would be used solely for the purpose of funding efforts within the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission.

Thank you for the honor of representing the 121st District. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at (785) 899-4700 or email me at rick.billinger@house.ks.gov.

Season is unusually early and warm

By Kay Melia

kvmelia@yahoo.com

It's the time of the year that we gardeners are discussing how "unusual" the spring season has been so far. This year, the word "unusual" doesn't even begin to describe the unusualness of the weather. Even the word "ridiculous" falls short of expressing our true feelings about the earliness of the season and the fact that we seem to be two to three weeks ahead of what might be termed a "normal" type of season. Farmers in northwest and northern Kansas are talking about the possibility of cutting wheat by June 15 or earlier.

And so you again hear the words "global warming" and "climate change" being bandied about. Others remind us that is just another "cycle" in the history of weather occurrences and that this, too, shall pass.

As a gardener, I will do my best to live with whatever Mother Nature provides. I was not one of those who saw this coming and proceeded to plant my tomatoes in early April. Those that did try to outguess normalcy are probably going to harvest some of those big red beauties about the 4th of July. A friend of mine fully expects to enjoy



kay melia

the gardener

a few ears of sweet corn in early July, and that just doesn't happen in extreme northwest Kansas. But it might this year.

I just keep plodding along, doing the things I usually do at this time of year, ever mindful of the fact that the average last frost date in my backyard is about May 6. I always place heavy emphasis on the word "average." Depending on the season, the temperature therefore could possibly drop below freezing. Ask a few farmers around the area if they remember May 26, 1992, when the temperature dropped to a record 25 degrees and devastated the wheat crop, not to mention the backyard gardens all over the High Plains. Talk about unusual. I am also reminded that the coldest temperature ever recorded in Goodland in the month of May was the morning of May 1, 1967, when the thermometer dropped to 21 degrees.

And hear this: On JUNE 2, 1951 Goodland recorded a 31 degree

reading, a record that still stands as the latest date of a freezing temperature in Sherman County.

In the 1970's, there were years when the folks were talking about "late seasons" and wondering if, indeed, the atmosphere was actually beginning to cool down, causing average last frost dates to be several days later than they are now.

My tomato plants will all be out by the end of the week. The cucumbers were planted on May 3, the same day as last year. I'll try to get the beans planted by next weekend. The cantaloupes should be in the ground by May 13. The early planted crops of peas, spinach, onions, radishes, lettuce and potatoes are all looking good, and we are enjoying fresh garden salads each day. Who could possibly have guessed that we could have been enjoying some of those things almost a month ago, based on the earliness of the season this year?

I'm happy with my garden so far. But it will be a little unnerving watching a few of my friends eating fresh tomatoes and sweet corn on the 4th of July!

public notice

RESOLUTION NO. 1363

A RESOLUTION FIXING A TIME AND PLACE AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF A HEARING BEFORE THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF GOODLAND, KANSAS, AT WHICH THE OWNER, HIS OR HER AGENT, LIENHOLDERS OF RECORD, OCCUPANTS AND OTHER PARTIES IN INTEREST OF STRUCTURES LOCATED WITHIN SAID CITY AND DESCRIBED HEREIN MAY APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE WHY SUCH STRUCTURE SHOULD NOT BE CONDEMNED AND ORDERED REPAIRED OR DEMOLISHED AS AN UNSAFE OR DANGEROUS STRUCTURE.

ment in writing that the structure, hereinafter described, is unsafe and dangerous.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF GOODLAND, KANSAS:

That a hearing will be held on the **18th day of June, 2012**, before the governing body of the city at **5:00 o'clock p.m. MST** at the City Commission Chambers, 204 W 11th, 2nd Floor; Goodland, Kansas, at which the owner, his or her agent, any lien holders of record, any occupant and any other parties in interest, as that term is defined by law, of the structure located at:

A tract of Land in the NW 1/2 of Section 29-8-39 f of Goodland, Kansas, according to the recorded plat thereof. Also known as 811 E Hwy 24

may appear and show cause why such structure should not be condemned as an unsafe or dangerous structure and ordered repaired or demolished.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk shall cause this resolution to be published two consecutive weeks in the official city paper and shall give notice of the aforesaid hearing in the manner provided by law.

Adopted this 7th day of May, 2012.

John Garcia,
Mayor
ATTEST:

Mary P. Volk,
City Clerk

Published in The Goodland Star-News, Friday, May 11 and 18, 2012.



Keep the fire of hope burning by purchasing a luminaria candle in memory of someone lost to cancer, in honor of someone still fighting, or in special recognition of someone who has beaten this dreaded disease.

RELAY FOR LIFE OF SHERMAN COUNTY

Friday & Saturday – July 13 & 14
7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

at the High School Track behind Vo-Tech

Complete this form and send it along with your donation to:
The Goodland Star-News, 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, KS 67735

Name: _____

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City: _____

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Please join us for the luminaria ceremony at 9 p.m.

\$10.00 per luminaria please!

In honor of In memory of

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Make checks payable to: The American Cancer Society