

weather report

88°

noon Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 7:45 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:40 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:46 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 61 degrees
- Humidity 17 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds north 17 - 24 mph
- Barometer 29.96 inches and rising
- Record High today 95° (1966)
- Record Low today 29° (1978)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 93°
Low Wednesday 51°
Precipitation trace
This month trace
Year to date 4.34

The Topside Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high around 87, low near 53, winds north northwest 6-8 changing to the south southeast 8-14 mph. Saturday: partly cloudy, high near 87, low around 53, winds north northwest 11-14 changing to the south.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy, high around 84, low around 51. Monday: partly cloudy, high near 82, low near 53.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

*Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.83 bushel
New Crop — \$3.79 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.78
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$3.00 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.95
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2.74 bushel
Soybeans — \$9.67 bushel
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$6.75 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$11.75 cwt.
NuSun — \$12 cwt.
Confection — \$16/\$9 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$15
(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



How to take a trip to Mars

Kristen Dutton, a seventh-grader at Grant Junior High, assisted Daniel Bate-man, of the Kansas Cos-mosphere and Space Cen-ter, in demonstrating how a space flight from Earth would travel to Mars. See story, photo on Page 3.



Kindergartner Luke Avila (left) jumped high as he jump roped across the stage Tuesday during the "I Can Do It" song as part of the "Our Day of Song" program. Kids acted like ducks (above) at the river during the song "Two Webbed Feet." Some of the kids bent down (below) while others sang the first letters in "ABC Rock," and then stood up while the others bent down as the next few letters were sung.

Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

Kindergartner's music 'day in song'

The four classes of the West El-ementary Kindergarten presented "Our day in Song" Tuesday at the high school auditorium to the cheers of more than 300 family and friends. The program directed by Linda

Lucas included students from both morning and afternoon classes taught by Pat Stint and Karen Stone.

Against a backdrop of a large yellow school bus, the program opened with "Ride the Bus (to school)" and "The Magic Words."

The introductions were done by Riley Wilson, Cienna Brannick, Austin Shelley and Kelbey Smith.

Songs of the day were: "Hurrah! Like it Here," "ABC Rock," "I Can Do It," "Apples and Bananas," "Up and Down (opposites)," "Listen to the Water," "Two Webbed Feet," "Stop-light" and "Ride the Bus (home)."

For the "I Can Do It" there were six kids who jump-roped across the stage. Grace Cole, Luke Avila, Dani Mangus, Brock Butts, Alyssa Wear and Draven Buchanan.

The program ended with a big finale "Each of us is a Flower."

Stint's students are (morning class) Koal Artzer, Alec Gonzales, Janelle Grammon, Hiram Hendrich, Andrew House, Taitem Jones, Kaitlyn Laue, Sebastian Linnell, Dani Mangus, Jovanna Nunez, Chandler Pettibone, Mary Schnable, Kelbey Smith, Ruby Smith, John Snyder and Saige Vandiver.

The afternoon class Luke Avila, Samuel Ayers, Cienna Brannick, Draven Buchanan, Marissa Bustillos, Brock Butts, Tristan Cooper, Arturo Estrada, Shelby Johnson,

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Citizen wants city to lower his water rate

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

A citizen came to the city commission meeting Monday to ask why he is being charged more for water delivered to his property on East Eighth — outside the city limits — than he is at his home on Washington.

Jim Petracich, 615 Washington, told the commissioners he was upset because the city had raised the monthly minimum on his property at 1207 1/2 E. Eighth at the beginning of the year from \$5.60 per month to \$8.40.

City Clerk Mary Volk said the change was made in December

when it was discovered the water was being delivered outside the city limits.

Petracich said the water meter was inside city limits, and he did not see why it mattered where the water was going to once it came through the meter.

Pickman said the city has the right under state law to charge a higher rate to deliver water to places outside the city limits.

"I have a letter from the attorney general that says this is not fair," Petracich said.

He did not show the letter to the commissioners or to Pickman, however.

The rate for delivering water outside the city is 50 percent higher than inside the city limits, Pickman said.

"This has been the policy of the city for many years," he added.

"We have to treat everyone the same," Commissioner Chuck Lutters said. "We charge the higher rate to anyone who lives outside the city and has city utilities."

It was suggested that if the property was not outside the city limits, the water rate would be the same as at Petracich's home.

"I feel this is unfair," Petracich said. "The meter is inside the city limits. What are you going to do about others who take water out of

the city, and I know a lot of people who take jugs of water out of the city every day."

Mayor Rick Billinger told Petracich this was not the same thing, and that the problem was the property where he was using the water was where the consumption was and that is why the rate was higher.

City Attorney Perry Warren said the water meter has to be inside the city limits because the city would not have the right to maintain anything outside the city limits.

"If I could get rid of all my property, I'd get out of Goodland," Petracich said.

He said he would not pay the higher rate for water, and that if the city cut his water off he would find a way to haul water to his property.

"As I said, I don't believe this is fair," Petracich said. "I think if you are going to do this, you should be stopping everyone who is taking water out of the city."

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked Petracich how much water he used at this property. Petracich said he has never gone over the minimum in the 13 years he has owned the property.

Pickman said Wednesday he

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County given suggestion about out-of-county purchases

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County commissioners heard about out-of-county purchases for the second meeting in a row Tuesday, and set up a meeting with department heads to discuss purchasing policy.

The issue came up after the commissioners agreed to renew a fire extinguisher contract with Dennis Bentzinger, and to move servicing the extinguishers up from July to May.

Bentzinger said it takes about three days to do all the county buildings and that the process may be stretched over a week or two depending on the schedule. He said the schedule was moved forward to May because in July building maintenance supervisor William McKnight is busy mowing and getting ready for the fair.

"I feel real good about how well the system is set up," Bentzinger said, "and good that McKnight has a few spares."

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked whether the barns at the fairgrounds have an adequate number of extinguishers.

Bentzinger said he would check. He said he has been doing the inspections for the same price for the past seven years. He suggested the county consider renewing the contract for five years and he would hold the same price. The contract is currently renewed every year.

The commissioners agreed to re-view the idea of a multi-year contract,

but did not make a decision on.

Following discussion of the extinguishers, Bentzinger had questions on county bidding policies.

"I need to get a chance to work," Bentzinger said. "It is tough when I don't get a chance to bid on purchase of fire equipment, and I see them being purchased from out of the area at a higher price."

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he was not aware that Bentzinger handled more than fire extinguishers.

"Everything fire related," Bentzinger said.

"I don't think the excuse 'I've always got them there' is valid," he said. "I want a chance at it. I want to wave a red flag, and I believe it is easy to fix. Don't pay it."

Bentzinger said he had bid on some fire equipment in December, and he later got a copy of the invoice paid by the county to another fire equipment firm that showed the

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