

weather report

94°

noon Monday



Today

• Sunset, 8:14 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 5:32 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:14 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 80 degrees
• Humidity 28 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds south 8 mph
• Barometer 30.04 inches
and steady

• Record High today 108° (1934)

• Record Low today 43° (1990)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 97°

Low Sunday 61°

Precipitation none

This month 1.23

Year to date 10.48

The Topside Forecast

Today: mostly sunny and hot, high near 101, low near 54, winds southeast 11-14 mph. Wednesday: mostly sunny, high around 94, low around 61, winds south 7-11 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening, high near 88, low around 60. Friday - Saturday: partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, high near 88. (National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.25 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.26

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.43 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.28

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$2.02 bushel

Soybeans — \$8.27 bushel

Posted county price — \$8.95

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$10.50 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

NuSun — \$10.70 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



K-18 loses two to Colby

A member of Goodland's K-18 baseball team took a swing during the second game against Colby Thursday night. Goodland lost the second game 15-4 after losing the first 16-1. Story and photo on Page 10.

Budget would hike property tax

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The city's property tax levy will jump by about 3.87 mills next year, based on decisions commissioners made in seven hours of budget workshops last week.

A public hearing on the budget will be part of the Monday, Aug. 2, City Commission meeting, but a proposed budget must be published by July 20.

Tuesday after the regular commission meeting, the members began the first of two nights of workshops to review staff's recommendations and make adjustments where possible.

City utility funds for electric, water and sewer took up most of the time on Tuesday. Wednesday, the commission reviewed the general fund and the total picture of income and spending.

To balance the general fund, the commissioners agreed the property tax levy will have to go up by 3.87 mills, from 50.0585 mills to 53.9267 mills. After the hours of discussion, this was a slight drop from a 4 mill increase in the original budget request.

Without the increase City Manager Ron Pickman said the general fund would be in the red. The general fund is suffering because the

reserves in the utility funds have dropped too low to be able to make transfers to the general fund. That, coupled with the loss of demand transfers from the state, has cut about \$205,000 out of the revenues.

The water fund was transferring \$55,000, the sewer fund was transferring \$50,000 and the electric fund is transferring \$450,000. The state demand transfers were for local ad valorem tax reduction (\$40,000 a year) and the city-county revenue sharing (\$25,000 a year).

The property tax raise will mean the bill on a \$50,000 home will go up by about \$22.24 per year.

Pickman opened the work session

Tuesday with a summary of the budget and covered most of the issues the commissioners would have to make decisions on.

He said the budget includes money for a 75-cents-an-hour across-the-board raise for city employees.

"This increase will apply only to those employees who receive a satisfactory rating or higher on their performance evaluation," Pickman said. "This will increase the starting level of pay for all pay grades and the maximum level of all pay grades."

"The employees have done an ex-

See BUDGET, Page 6

City roundup

In budget workshops last week, city commissioners:

- Decided to raise water rates by \$2 a month to balance the fund. Story on Page 6.

- Will increase the sewer rate by 13 cents a month. Story on Page 7.

- Heard that the city faces shortfalls that require utility rate and property tax increases. Story to the left.

Kids find fun in 'Finding Nemo'



Sara Schoenthaler (above) painted a fish made of salt dough in "Finding Nemo II," part of the Carnegie Arts Center's Summer Art Institute, on Friday. Kristina Stasser (top right) painted a paper maché sting ray, Savannah Bassett (below) picked a place for her fish in one of the "aquariums," and Raquel Tomsic (bottom right) glued pom pons to her fish. The aquariums are on display at the arts center.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News



Former undersheriff vying for nomination

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Former Sherman County Undersheriff Arthur "Dee" Albers is one of four men vying to be the Republican candidate for sheriff in the primary election next month.

"One of my goals is to start a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program in Sherman County," said Albers. "I intend to get grant money to pay for it; if not, I'll work it into the long-term budget."



Albers

Albers said he wants to get a drug dog for the sheriff's office and have a deputy trained to work with it.

He said he wants to work with the Quad-County Drug Task Force in cooperation with the law enforcement agencies of Sherman, Thomas, Logan and Wallace counties to curtail the amount of drugs in the area.

He said getting more information from the public is one of the things that could help authorities break up the "meth" labs

and prosecute the criminals involved.

Albers served over 10 years with the Sherman County sheriff's office. He said he started as a jailer at the Bastille in June 1991. About a year later, he became a deputy sheriff then was appointed undersheriff in the summer of 1995. He resigned in January 2001.

Albers ran for sheriff in 2000 and lost to the incumbent, Doug Whitson. He said after that election that he and Whitson did not see "eye-to-eye" on several matters and resigned "for the good for the county."

Albers graduated from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Hutchinson on August 1994. During his time with the sheriff's office, he attended training sessions given by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the Kansas Highway Patrol.

"I'd like to get a reserve program for the sheriff's office back," said Albers. "This way, we'll have a ready and trained backup force when needed."

Another thing Albers said he wants to do as sheriff is increase the number of patrols in Kanorado, Ed-

son, Ruleton and throughout the rural parts of the county.

Albers has worked full-time for Sheldon Liquor, 2213 Enterprise Rd., as a sales clerk since last January. Previously, he worked at Frontier Equity Co-op for about a year while working part-time at Sheldon. Prior to that, Albers worked for the Goodland water department for about 18 months.

Albers served in the U.S. Army from 1983 to 1986 as an infantryman assigned to the Berlin Brigade.

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