

weather report

72°
noon Thursday



Today
Sunset, 8:02 p.m.
Saturday
Sunrise, 5:46 a.m.
Sunset, 8:01 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil temperature 72 degrees
• Humidity 57 percent
• Sky partly sunny
• Winds southeast 6 mph
• Barometer 30.09 inches and falling

Last 24 Hours*
High Wednesday 80°
Low Wednesday 58°
Precipitation trace
This month 4.04
Year to date 12.89

The Topside Forecast
Today: partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high around 77, low near 58, winds south-south-east 7-10 mph. Saturday: mostly sunny, high near 83, low around 60, winds south 7-9 mph.

Extended Forecast
Sunday: mostly clear with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high near 91, low around 62. Monday: mostly sunny, high near 91, low near 62.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
*Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon
Wheat — \$2.98 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.08
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.24 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.04
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$1.75 bushel
Soybeans — \$6.12 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.98
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$9.95 cwt.
NuSun — \$10.20 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
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



Camp helps girls prepare

Cowgirl coach Jerry Mc-Kee used some humor to make a point Wednesday evening while demonstrating proper passing technique. Photos on Page 10.

Longtime 4-Hers to lead parade

By Kathryn Gurfinkel
The Goodland Star-News

This year's grand marshals for the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair Parade, Doris and Jesse Craft, are tickled by their appointment.

"We feel like it's a real honor that we got chosen to be the grand marshals," said Doris.

As marshals, the soon-to-be-74-year-old couple will be given a position of distinction as they ride through the parade in a convertible.

"It's just an honor," said Amity Ihrig, adult advisor for the 4-H Ambassadors, the group that chooses the parade marshal.

Aaron Duell, a member of the Ambassadors, said the Crafts were chosen for their work with the fair and 4-H clubs through the years.

"Usually, we look at what (nominees) had to do with the fair and 4-H," he said.

The Ambassadors review the nominees with Dana Belshe and LaDonna Frerichs from the Kansas State Extension, and then vote on a winner, he said.

"It's a good pick," Duell said. In their quiet dining room, the Crafts review their history with the



Doris and Jesse Craft said they're ready to serve as grand marshals in the Northwest District Free Fair Parade. Although the couple is nearly 74, they still find ways to help out at the fair and encourage their grandchildren with 4-H projects.

Photo by Kathryn Gurfinkel/The Goodland Star News

4-H clubs and the fair. As natives of Sherman County, they both joined 4-H as children. Later, they helped their children and grandchildren through the program.

Doris' short hair and small frame

shook as she laughed remembering all of the time she spent with the 4-H clubs.

"We used to be real active," she said. "It's a good program."

Doris said they were both leaders

4-H Ambassadors expect a good parade

By Kathryn Gurfinkel
The Goodland Star-News

Last year saw over 100 individual entries in the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair Parade, and organizers say this year, starting at 6 p.m. Saturday, is shaping up to be just as successful.

Aaron Duell, a member of the 4-H Ambassadors, who work with the fair board to direct the parade, said he expects the same sort of entries they saw last year.

Although only a few parade participants have sent in early

registration, he said many people wait until the day of the parade to enter.

"We'll have a good turnout," he said.

Amity Ihrig, adult advisor for the 4-H Ambassadors, said the line up for the parade will begin at 5 p.m.

Duell said normally the parade includes horses, tractors, bikes, four-wheelers, style review winners, floats and clowns. He said dealers enter their tractors, and as

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City salaries, budget hearing Monday

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

A raise for city employees, an increase in property taxes and a \$2-per-month hike in water bills are included in the budget for next year which will be presented for City Commission approval at 5 p.m. Monday.

The budget would increase the city's property tax by 3.87 mills, or about 7.7 percent, and raise base water rates by \$2 per month. City employees would get a 75-cents-an-hour raise, about \$1,560 a year for each worker.

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

The city commission spent two nights earlier in July reviewing departments' budget requests and came to a consensus on the budget, which is what will be presented in an open hearing at the beginning of the meeting Monday.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the raise request for city employees is about the same as the total of 5 percent that was in this year's budget.

"This year, the commission approved a 1 percent cost of living raise," Pickman said, "plus a merit raise of up to 4 percent based on performance."

"An employee had to do better to get more than the 1 percent, and had to be almost perfect to get the additional 4 percent."

He said raises this year for 61 employees averaged about 2-3 percent,

including the 1 percent cost of living. "The money not used in the raises carried over into the budget for next year," Pickman said.

For the proposed raise for next year, Pickman said they took the total of the employees and figured 5 percent, but then the formula was changed.

"We did not feel the straight percentage was being fair," Pickman said. "With the percentage, the guy making \$45,000 would get a raise of \$2,000 and the guy making \$15,000 would get \$750."

"The proposal for the 75 cents an hour is to give everyone the same amount of money, and would be \$1,560 a year or \$130 a month. We felt that would be fairer to the laborer, and keeps the gap between the top and bottom from getting larger."

"It is a 5 percent raise, but this way the top may get 1-1 1/2 percent but the bottom will get the full 5 percent."

The total cost for all 61 employees would be \$95,000, with half coming from the city utilities and the other half from the general fund, Pickman said.

Transfers from the utility departments are supposed to help offset the costs, Pickman said, but when transfers can't be made, the general fund — which comes from taxes — has to bear the brunt.

Pickman said the water fund is running in the red. Mayor Rick Billinger and Commissioner John Garcia suggested the base monthly rate

be raised by \$2 to bring the fund into balance, and the other commissioners agreed.

Pickman said additional changes had to be made besides the base monthly raise, and the \$2 a month will not be enough to totally solve the water fund problem.

In other business Monday, the commission:

- Will consider an ordinance to raise the property tax to cover the proposed increase in the budget for next year.

- Consider ordinances adopting the uniform offense and traffic codes by reference. These will include the changes in criminal and traffic offenses that were passed by the state Legislature.

- Consider an ordinance adopting procedures for governing meetings, and one repealing existing provisions in the city code. The procedures would include new guidelines for conducting city business, abandoning "Roberts Rules of Order," which is what the City Commission is supposed to follow.

Pickman said the airport runway lighting project was ahead of schedule despite the rains.

The street sealing was completed before the rains, but Pickman said the contractor will have to come back and redo the blocks on 17th between Clark and the railroad tracks.

The Commission meets upstairs at the Administration Building, 204 W. 11th.



Ronald Edmond (left) and Jason Yartz, both of Girard, spread cement around one of the cans that will be used as a base for the lights being installed on the crosswind runway at Renner Field. Strukel Electric of Girard won the contract for the project, for which about 80 percent is being paid by a state grant.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Youth draws financial support in Senate race

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

The upstart 22-year-old from Goodland wasn't given much of a chance when he announced his candidacy against an incumbent who had been in office for 10 years.

Dan Rasure set about raising money and running a campaign in January. He expected to be facing Sen. Stan Clark from Oakley, a

veteran conservative who appeared to be in line for a top position in the state Senate.

Despite the underdog status, Rasure began crisscrossing the 18 counties of the district, greeting people, shaking hands, listening — and asking for money. He's been pretty successful, raising nearly \$19,000 this spring and a total by last week of more than \$52,000.

That makes Rasure by far the leader in campaign spending in a three-man race.

Fate stepped in on May 29 when a dust storm engulfed Clark in a traffic accident, ending his life two days after he filed to run for re-election.

Suddenly the doors were opened on a totally different campaign, and Rep. Ralph Ostmeier, a conservative two-term from

Grinnell, stepped in to fill the void. Tim Peterson of Monument, Democratic chairman of the 1st Congressional District, tried to recruit a candidate to take the challenge and ended up filing for the Senate race himself.

The primary election is Tuesday, and the

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Policeman says community involvement top priority

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News

Increasing community involvement with law enforcement will be a top priority if he becomes Sherman County sheriff, says Greg Kroskey.

Kroskey, one of four men vying to be the Republican candidate for sheriff, said citizens are the best source of information to help officers do their job. Kroskey said he wants to set up a continuing education program that teaches

the public what to watch for and what information they should report.

"The program needs to explain what kind of help the people can give the sheriff's office," Kroskey said, "and at the same time allows the department to find out what we can do for them."

Kroskey said he plans on hiring at least one more full-time deputy.

"I know the current budget might not be able to support it now," he said, "but in the

long-term I think we can plan for it."

Kroskey has been with the Goodland Police Department since September 1998 and was promoted to corporal last July. Before that, he spent three years as a Sherman County sheriff's deputy.

After graduating from Monaca High School in Monaca, Penn., in 1979, Kroskey said, he joined the U.S. Air Force, serving on active duty for 13 years in law enforcement. His stateside tours include Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Wash.; Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash.; and the U.S. Air Force Academy near Colorado Springs.

Twice Kroskey served at Howard Air Force Base in Panama, serving in Operation Just Cause during his second tour, and went on temporary duty to the Persian Gulf during the Gulf War. He is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He was discharged in November 1992 as a staff sergeant. During his service, he was awarded two Air Force Commendation Medals and four Good Conduct Medals. In addition to completing the Air Force's basic law enforcement course, he completed the Military Police Criminal Investigation Course at Fort McLellan, Ala., in June 1987.

In January 1993, Kroskey became an agent with the quad-county drug task force, graduating from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Hutchinson that December. During his time on the task force, he attended several training conferences put on by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and the Kansas Narcotics Officers Association.

After serving with the task force for 2 1/2 years, he spent three months on the Atwood Police Department before becoming a Sherman County deputy in September 1995.

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Kroskey