# **Power users warned** to brace for higher bills

#### By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News City power customers should brace themselves for higher bills in June, because Sunflower Electric shut down the Holcomb plant Friday for maintenance and the city will be buying some expensive power.

electric production, said the maintenance shutdown is scheduled to last three weeks.

He said the city pays Sunflower \$51 per megawatt on peak. Replacement power for the three weeks could be as high as \$82 per megawatt.

Blake said the city has negotiated with the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska, a division of Nebraska Municipal Public Power, to purchase 23 megawatts per day in the \$50 range, but the delivery depends on available transmission capacity.

The Kansas Municipal Energy Agency was contacted as well, but Blake said the Kansas City, Kansas, Nearman plant will go down for maintenance on Friday, April 22.

city to purchase power from the wind company, said last week they eastern part of the state.

"As for running our own genera- find a location. tors," he said, "it is not cost effeceration costs would be well into the able to find one that will work." \$80 to \$90 range per megawatt.

on their June bill.

as best they can to keep their bill as of town. If that works out, another low as possible. The city electric department is doing everything possible to keep costs down, but building of the wind farm, but the situations such as this can't be city will have an option to purchase helped, and we will deal with them the equipment later. as best we can."

"We have seen these spikes before," City Manager Ron Pickman May, and have the system operating said. "We hope they are not as high by September. as the one a couple of years ago, but want the customers to know that vide about one megawatt of power higher fuel costs will mean higher bills.'

The city has been working with Renewable Energy Resources to braska, he said. erect a small wind farm near town to help provide some of its power has opened an office at Main and That makes it more difficult for the needs. Mark Justus, manager for the 12th.

have been working with the city to

"They wanted to locate the towtive at this time because of the ers on city property if possible," higher natural gas prices. Plant gen- Justus said, "but we have not been

The firm plans to erect five tow-"We feel our citizens need to be ers on a site about one-half mile Rod Blake, superintendent of aware of the increase they may see south of I-70 and near County Road 17. The site would allow the power "We suggest everyone conserve to connect with the city lines west five towers could be added.

There is no cost to the city for the

Justus said the firm hopes to begin pouring pads for the first five in

Five wind generators will proto the city, which should ease some of the cost of having to buy peak power from Sunflower or Ne-

Renewable Energy Resources

### Stacking paint cans



William McKnight and Daryl West stacked paint cans on the scale Saturday morning as part of the Sherman County Household Hazardous Waste collection. Kenny Griffith and Lynn Abbott also were on the crew, which kept busy for four hours. Griffith, rural fire chief, said the effort brought in 7,300 pounds of material. He said the next collection will be on Saturday, July 16, with the collection facility open from 7-11 a.m. Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

Chamber wants entertainment

for big Fourth of July weekend

## Visitors bureau revotes on \$2,000 raise for director

#### By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News The Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau had to go back and vote again on a raise for its director after county commissioners pointed out the board had made the decision behind closed doors in January.

Chairman Dale Neill told the board he had received a letter from commissioners saying the bureau had not complied with the Kansas Open Meetings Act in handling a closed session at the January meet-

The commissioners said the board didn't properly disclose why it was going into an executive session at the meeting, Neill said, and after the session was held to discuss giving Director Donna Price a raise, what he needed to do and let his sec- vide notice of the time, date and the board was required to say how ond stand. much of a raise was being voted on. with Commissioner Kevin Rasure and had been assured the board had not handled the matter properly and needed to fix it. Any action taken in a closed session can be declared void under the law. The board approved a \$2,000-ayear raise for Price in January, making her salary for this year \$30,000, but members had to vote again Wednesday to approve the raise and disclose the amount in public session.

amount to anyone who asked for them.

a copy of the board's meeting minutes, Neill said, adding that when to bring it up here. We can't promote the commissioners reviewed travel and tourism if we undermine January's minutes, they felt the the board's purpose." raise hadn't been properly disclosed.

Board member Brenda McCants, director of patient relations at tel. Goodland Regional Medical Center, made a motion to approve the raise, and member Ryan Hageman, manager of Wendy's, seconded.

Then Hageman wanted to amend how we got there. the motion. Neill and others tried to explain to him that he couldn't quires all meetings of public board amend it unless he retracted his second, but Hageman misunderstood reporters. Public bodies must pro-

After the motion carried, ings to anyone who requests it. All

nancial reports would show the ions at meetings rather than bickering through rumors.

"If we have someone who is not The commissioners each receive happy with the decisions of the board," McCants said, "they need

> "We need to conduct business as business," said Lincoln Wilson, owner of the Howard Johnson Ho-

> The presence of a reporter makes it difficult to discuss things openly, Neill said. Only the end result should be printed, Wilson said, not

> The state Open Meetings Act reto be open to the public, including place of all regular or special meet-

#### By Kathryn Burke The Goodland Star-News

With less than four months to plan, the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce is looking for entertainment at Freedom Fest, the town's Fourth of July celebration.

The Chamber board has been looking at ways to prolong the celebration into a three-day weekend. Since the Fourth falls on a Monday this year, they want to attract people to town for the fireworks earlier than usual.

Andra Townsend would be available for a performance, but she's asking \$5,000.

that people will pay to see her," she July 3. Joe Diaz, a Goodland native, said, adding that many people here will be in charge of the show again already have seen Townsend perform.

Kizer suggested booking an artist for the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair this summer or the the fireworks. Flatlander Fall Festival in September.

Swager said Goodland graduate that houses their offices, told Warden he can print logos for the billboards.

The Chamber has decided to set "She's good, but I just don't know off fireworks the night of Sunday, this year.

Warden told the board the Chamber has already raised \$850 of the \$2,500 in contribution it needs for

The city has agreed to match funds up to \$2,500 and the county He said the board could look at has agreed to give \$2,500 for the "Freedom Fest looks like it's on good ground," said Swager.

During discussion, members disputed whether they should have to

amend the motion after it was approved, but had to make a new motion. Hageman made a motion to approve a \$2,000 "cost-of-living" raise. The motion was seconded and

carried Pointing out figures on the December 2003 financial report, Neill said Price's salary was \$25,000 that year and has increased by only \$5,000 in the past two years, not \$10,000 as he said has been rumored. The bureau has not exceeding its travel budget in the last three closed doors, and there are guidesay the amount of the raise in open years, he said, adding that board lines about what subjects can be dissession when the figures on the fi- members need to discuss their opin- cussed.

Neill said he had talked at length Hageman asked again about decisions must be made in open sesamending and was told he couldn't sion, though discussions may be closed for specified reasons, such as personnel matters.

Boards may go into closed session, sometimes called executive session, only when a formal motion is made, seconded and passed. The motion must state the justification for the closed session, the subject being discussed and the time and place the board will return to open session.

A public body is not allowed to take any binding action behind

The last day to enter is Tuesday,

May 31, Wilson said, and the target

date to select a winner is June 8. A

each of the boards will select the

winner, he said. The \$100 prize can

be split, he said, if the selection

One suggestion for entertainment over the weekend was to hire a band, and, in a meeting Monday, Chamber Manager Courtney Warden brought a list of available sing-

Warden said she has been working with Ford Entertainment and Productions, a Missouri company, to find talent. She said the list is short for the weekend and many of the performers are asking for too much money.

Country music singer John Michael Montgomery is available, she said, but he is asking for \$50,000. Tracy Lawrence, another country singer, is asking \$25,000. "That's out of our range," she

said.

Chamber President Donna Swager asked if the limited choices were due to the holiday weekend. "It could be," Warden said.

"I would hate to go with somebody just to get someone in here," said board member Tremon Kizer.

Board members agreed that if they don't book a recognizable name, no one will sponsor the concert.

starting early this year, in July or event this year. August, to get someone lined up for next year's Freedom Fest.

"I'd love to be able to do this if we could get a decent name," he said.

The board agreed to have Warden pull out five more names from a list of available performers to see how much they would charge.

"I would really like to see it happen," said board member Debbie Reed.

Warden said if they do book an artist, they will want some corporate sponsors to offset the cost. If the Chamber does book an act, she said, they will need to charge around \$20 each for concert tickets.

Swager said she talked to high school teacher Mark Hagerman, and he said his art students could paint billboards for a concert. She said he has some students who could do the work.

Justin Bentziner, a Chamber member and owner of the building

#### corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.





Dr. Mark F. Wahlmeier, Optometrist, invites you to an **OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION** Wednesday, April 20th from 4-5:30 p.m.

Come and meet Dr. Wahlmeier and staff. Register for door prizes. Refreshments served. **DRS. MORRISON & WAHLMEIER** FAMILY PRACTICE OPTOMETRISTS

> 110 W. 10th, Goodland 899-3654 www.eyeclinic.com

### wn needs new logo, slogan

#### By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News Will you be the one to decide how Goodland is represented to the rest of the world? Do you have creative ideas to market the town to outsiders?

If so, the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau hopes you enter its contest to find a logo and slogan for Goodland. The Sherman County Community Foundation has provided a \$100 cash prize for the winner or winners.

The bureau, foundation, the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce and the Sherman County Economic Development Council committee with members from are all participating in the logo plan, said Lincoln Wilson, owner of the Howard Johnson Hotel and a bureau board member. The city and committee likes one person's logo county commissions may also par- and another person's tag line. ticipate, he said.

Anyone in Sherman County is invited to develop a logo and slogan for the town, Wilson said, and mail them to Box 126, Goodland, Kan. 67735.

### "Show your appreciation"



