

weather report

85°

noon Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 8:03 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:45 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:02 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 67 degrees
- Humidity 27 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds south 18 mph.
- Barometer 30.18 inches and steady
- Record High today 104° (1943)
- Record Low today 48° (1971)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	80°
Low Wednesday	50°
Precipitation	none
This month	1.47
Year to date	9.75
Normal	13.45

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, high around 96, low near 62, winds south southwest 10-33 mph. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon, high around 99, low around 63, winds south southwest 7-13 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny, high near 96, low around 64. Monday: Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers at night, high around 93. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings compiled at midnight.

City to raise rates, taxes

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Dropping water revenue and rising electrical costs have put the city commission in a tough position as they prepared the budget for next year.

Decisions made in the work sessions earlier in July will be the subject of the budget hearing at 5 p.m. Monday as part of the city meeting. The commission wrestled with red figures in the water and electric funds, and decided that raising rates was the best way to bring these into balance.

Estimates are that the rate increases for water and electricity plus the increase in property taxes for the general fund will be about \$22 a month next year.

The water fund has been a drop in revenues over the past three years. Despite a rate increase this year the revenues are below the budget, and City Clerk Mary Volk estimated a loss of \$184,000 for next year without adjustments by the commission.

A portion of the loss in the water fund was because the department has been paying one-third of the annual payment for Steever Water Park. The commission decided to move the \$95,000 payment to the general fund cutting in half the shortfall in the water department.

Volk said the current monthly water rate here is \$7.60 for the first 300 cubic feet and 95 cents per 100 cubic feet after that. A cubic foot is about 7.48 gallons of water which means the 300 cubic feet is about 2,200 gallons.

Commissioner Josh Dechant said with the pool payment of \$95,000

taken out, the city could raise the base to about \$11 a month and the water fund would break even. That would be nearly a 50 percent increase in the water base.

"Take the pool out and go to \$11.25 on base," Mayor Rick Billinger said.

The commissioners agreed the \$11.25 should be enough, and agreed to move the pool payment to the general fund.

On the general fund, Volk said she took \$95,000 from water and moved it to the general fund for the pool payment. She took out \$1,000 for grass in recreation, and then adjusted mosquito spray up by \$1,040. That made a net change of \$95,040 for the general fund.

She said with the extra pool payment, the property tax levy would have to go up 6.84 mills over last year.

Taking a \$50,000 home as an example, Volk said the property taxes would increase \$32.83 a year, or about \$2.75 a month.

The commissioners turned to the electric department. Electric seemed the easiest to fix despite the fact it showed \$409,000 in the red based on the budget estimates. Volk said the problem is not knowing how much power will cost after the Sunflower Electric contract expires in May. There are indications the cooperative could double its charges.

Mayor Billinger asked when rate adjustments have to be made to bring the electric department revenues up.

Volk said the commission should

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New flag pole set in cement



Tom Rohr (right) helped pour cement for his son Matt's Eagle Scout project, setting up a 60 foot flag pole on the northeast corner of U.S. 24 and Cherry Ave. After crews set up the pole, it was kept in place by ropes for the 72 hours needed for the cement to dry. See story, photos on Page 5a.

Student drug testing to begin in August

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland High School students who want to participate in extra curricular activities will have to line up and give samples for drug testing next month.

The testing will start with everyone involved in school activities giving a urine sample at the start of school. Kids who play will then be subject to random testing each month as long as they are in the activities.

High School Principal Harvey Swager said he wanted to start with a test for everyone signed up for extra curricular activities. He said

that would cost about \$800 for everyone. After that, he said, they would test 10 percent of the student population in extra curricular activities each month.

He said the test results would be screened before they come to the school. A doctor will look at the tests and false positives will be weeded out by calling the student's guardians. Officials at the school will be notified only when the doctor and the company are sure the test identifies a true positive.

Swager said the drug testing is set up to prevent the kids from facing legal or academic punishment. Students will be punished through tak-

ing away extra curricular activities. "We want it non-punitive," he said.

After talking with Sherman County Attorney Bonnie Selby, Swager said, he found the school is not legally required to tell police about positive results.

"So they don't get turned into the police and their grades don't get hurt," he said.

The test would be administered to all extra curricular activities in the school. Swager said that includes Family Career Community Leaders of America, XPressos, athletics and more.

Board member Fritz Duke said

they would cover roughly 70 percent of all students through this testing.

Board member Marty Melia asked Swager and High School site council member Jeff Mason why the council came up with drug testing.

Mason said the council thought testing could cut down on illegal drug activity not caught by the drug dog.

"We see it as a positive," he added. "Where students have another reason to say 'no.' It gives them another out."

Mason said parents on the council along with the four kids, student representatives from each class,

liked the idea of drug testing.

Jeff Deeds, farmer and parent of a high school student, said implementing a drug testing program could disenfranchise a lot of students.

"You're really gonna separate the kids out," he said.

Students who are more susceptible to using drugs, Deeds said, would benefit most from the positive influence of a coach or sponsor.

Board member Dick Short said those influences coupled with the testing could help get kids off drugs.

"If you really wanted to go out (for

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inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



New facial service open

Deedi Hoss brushed special Bioelement skin care oils on the face of Mona Carver. Hoss demonstrated the skin product and facial available through The Total Look. Story, photo on Page 8a.

Cold relief for hot days



Laramie Farris, 8 (right) and Carlee Cooper, 8 (left) took advantage of the hot weather Monday to make some money selling cold juice at 221 Kansas. Cooper was waving a sign to attract customers while Farris took money from Colton Cooper, 9, Kyler Amthor, 9 and Cooper Slough, 10. The temperature is expected to be back near 100 this weekend as the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair kicks off Saturday with the dog show in the morning and parade that evening. The fair runs through Friday.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Resignation leaves school board short

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland School Board is looking for someone to fill a board seat left empty by the resignation of Danny Whalen, who has been on the board for two years.

In his letter to the board, Whalen, owner of Goodland's Dairy Queen, said he was resigning for personal reasons. Whalen was not available for comment this week, but reports have said he is moving to Castle Rock, Colo., but will continue to manage the Dairy Queen here.

The empty seat will be filled by an appointment by current board members.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said the board must publish a notice stating they are planning to fill the seat. The appointment can be made not more than 15 days after the notice is published in *The Goodland Star-News*.

The notice is in today's edition of the paper, making Aug. 13 the earliest the board could make an appointment. Selby said the board could schedule interviews as soon as Monday, Aug. 8, but could not decide until Aug. 13.

He said the board can interview as

many potential candidates as they want or as few. The decision and interviews, he said, must be done in a public forum because the seat is elected. The board is allowed to discuss "non-elected personnel" in private, but not for an elected seat.

Whalen has served two years of his four year term so the appointee will be serving the remainder of his term and then be up for re-election.

Selby asked board members if they have any specific questions they want to ask candidates.

"What types of things do you want to know about the person?" he said.

For interview questions, he said, the Kansas Association of School Boards would make a good resource. He said the board could just ask candidates to tell them something about themselves or why they want to be on the board.

Board member Fritz Duke asked what would happen if the board had a tie while choosing a new member. Selby said a tie vote is null; with six member board, they would need four yes votes to choose someone.

Selby told board members to talk to people who might be interested in sitting on the board.