

**weather report**

**70°**

noon Monday



**Today**

• Sunset, 6:39 p.m.

**Wednesday**

• Sunrise, 6:40 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:36 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil temperature 73 degrees
- Humidity 28 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds 8 mph from the north
- Barometer 30.03 inches and falling
- Record High today 95° (1953)
- Record Low today 29° (1945)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High Sunday	73°
Low Sunday	52°
Precipitation	—
This month	.03
Year to date	12.82
Day	0

**The Topside Forecast**

Tuesday: Warmer. Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s, low 50s. West winds 10 mph switching to south 10 to 15 mph, 20 percent chance of rain.

**Extended Forecast**

Wednesday: Much cooler, windy, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s, lows 30s. North winds 15 to 30 mph. Thursday and Thursday Night: Mostly clear. Highs in the lower 70s, lows in the upper 40s. Friday, mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**

**Noon**

- Wheat — \$3.30 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$3.42
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
  - Corn — \$1.82 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$1.53
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 41¢
  - Milo — \$1.53 bushel
  - Soybeans — \$4.95 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$4.88
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 41¢
  - Millet — \$6.25 hundredweight
  - Sunflowers
  - Oil current crop — \$11.19 cwt.
  - NuSun — \$11.00
  - Confection — Call.
  - Pinto beans — \$20 (new crop)
- (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



**Flatlander fun for all**

“Roll the barrel” was a new game for the motorcycle and tricycle riders at the annual Flatlander Fall Festival. Thousands of people walked up and down Main Saturday enjoying classic cars, motorcycles, games and food. See photos, story on Pages 6, 7.

## Total tax levy up a few cents

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Taxes for Sherman County property owners will rise a few cents next year, thanks to a tax cut in the 2006 budget commissioners plan to approve after a hearing Friday.

After some tweaking and changes, County Clerk Janet Rumpel told the commissioners, the bottom line remains the same. The county mill levy will drop from the current 58.174 to 51.562, about 11 percent.

Commissioners agreed the budget gives the county some flexibility to deal with possible changes next year.

With increases for city and school tax rates, though, taxpayers should see the total tax rate about the same as last year, maybe up just a few cents, Rumpel said.

Despite the tax cut, county spending will be up about \$1 million.

Increases in fuel and natural gas costs, increased department budgets, and equipment for the road and bridge department account for much of the increase. Commissioners agreed to start a rotation for replacing road graders that allows the county to use the Caterpillar repurchase program. The dealer will repurchase the grader after five years,

saving the county about \$25,000 per grader.

Rumpel said she put money in the bond fund to help make the payment on an anticipated bond issue for the courthouse repairs, replacement of the bridge on County Road 65 and a storage building and garage to be built north of the Bastille. The total of the projects is anticipated to be about \$350,000, and the bonds will be handled through Gilmore and Bell of Wichita.

The budget includes an increase of 7 percent for pay raises. Commissioners plan to review each department and give raises to make the positions more competitive with other, similar counties and cities. The salary review will be done in December with the new raises to take effect in January.

With a \$5 million increase in assessed valuation, the total county budget for next year of \$8,146,885 will take 6.6 mills less than this year's \$7,112,130. The budget increase is about 14.5 percent.

Increases in budgets passed by the city and school district will swallow the property tax drop from the county, but Rumpel said the total of all property taxes would be up by

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## Engineer to design new power line

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

City commissioners approved an agreement for an engineering and cost study for a power line from the city power plant to the new energy center west of the city.

City Manager Wayne Hill said last Monday he had contacted Keith L. Bennett, of Power Engineering Services of Salina about doing the study.

Bennett said in a letter of agreement to the city the work should be completed within 30 days. He said Darin Neufeld of Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, who does most city engineering work, has agreed to provide information about the project and area.

Hill said the agreement is for the basic engineering, and any decision

about the project detailed design and construction would be addressed when the commission decides to proceed with building the power line.

Neufeld told the commission Bennett has worked on some city projects and was a subcontractor on the airport lighting project.

Commissioner Josh Dechant said he felt the costs were not out of line, and made a motion to approve the engineering agreement.

Hill said it was important to get the project moving.

In other action, the commission:

- Held a hearing on the Eagle Communications franchise for providing their cable television and a wireless Internet system. There

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## Tricky dogs perform for 'Scruffy' title

Missy (above), a schnoodle — a mix between a schnauzer and a poodle — owned by Tiffany Charron, showed off her skills as she “danced pretty” for the judges at the Scruffy Dog Contest on Saturday. An audience member (right) took a moment to cuddle with her dog.

Photo by Kathryn Burke  
 The Goodland Star-News



## School board spends day learning, planning

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

No palm trees, spa treatments, massages or fun in the sun: members of the Goodland School Board were up early last Saturday to meet in the board room for their annual retreat.

The meeting was the first for newly appointed board member Andy House, who was chosen to join the board on Monday, Sept. 12, to fill the seat left empty when Danny Whalen moved to Castle Rock, Colo.

Superintendent Marvin Selby started by saying the retreat is a chance for board members to be thorough about all subjects facing the district.

## Students give impressions of school

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

A brain, an athlete and a relative newcomer to the Goodland School District gave school board members an assessment of the high school at a board retreat Saturday, Sept. 17.

Janelle Wolak, a senior and top student in her class;

Brandon Tatman, a senior and football player; and Troy Harrison, a junior going into his third year in the district, showed up early to share their high school experiences.

Wolak wrote up a neat list of things she likes and

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“We often times don’t have the opportunity to do so,” he said.

Every board member, school principals and Selby took the KOLBE leadership style test before Saturday and the results were ready

for the meeting.

Selby said the tests were more in-depth than the ones administrators took at a retreat in June. Since the tests included some personal information, he let each member look

over results and discuss anything they thought interesting. He said a representative who better understands the test would be on hand to answer questions another time.

The board heard from high school

students Troy Harrison, Janelle Wolak and Brandon Tatman, who discussed what they like, dislike and would like to change about the high school.

Selby explained the tax history to give board members a greater understanding of school finance.

He said Board Clerk Pat Juhl started charting the history of district mill levies a few years ago. The board heard about how Kansas schools changed from more local funding to rely more on state funding.

The board explored the consequences of possible growth fueled

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## Development council agrees to pay some Chamber bills

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Working out the proper wording has delayed a plan to have the Sherman County Economic Development Council help bail out the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce.

Last Tuesday evening, the council agreed to get a list of “economic development” related bills from the Chamber, and to pay up to \$8,000 of the more than \$19,000 the Chamber has in outstanding debt.

County Commissioner Chuck Thomas, who was at the meeting to

represent the county, said the commissioners had agreed the council could use county money to pay the those bills. Thomas said the money could pay for activities designed to bring people to town, such as FreedomFest and Flatlanders, but not for regular monthly bills.

Council Chairman John Garcia said he understood the reason for the change in plans after talking to the county auditor, who said it would be a problem for the council to loan the Chamber the money. He said the auditor agreed it would be OK for the council to pay bills that have a

economic development purpose.

Council member Gary Slough, regional manger for S&T Telephone, said the best way to ensure the bills are paid was to have the Chamber submit a list and the council would issue checks for those that meet the auditor’s criteria.

Vice Chairman Dwane Timm asked if paying the Chamber bills would obligate the council for all of the Chamber debt?

Thomas said it would be better for the council to pay individual bills rather than give the Chamber a lump sum to pay bills.

Chamber President Brian Linin said the Chamber board would be willing to provide a list of those who the council could pay at least part of what was owed.

He said Joe Diaz, who provides the fireworks for the July 4 celebration, is friendly to this community because he feels it is his home.

“Diaz said there will always be a Freedom Fest,” Linin said. “He did say he would like to see the Chamber make an effort to meet our responsibilities and pay him.”

“Diaz said he might help with fund raising for Freedom Fest.”

Council member Harlan House asked if the Chamber had talked to many members yet about donations to pay the back bills.

Linin said the Chamber has been contacting members and finding good support for the new direction the Chamber is taking.

He said the process would take time because the board members are all volunteers.

“We are getting a positive response,” Linin said. “We haven’t talked to a lot yet, but those we have

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