

weather report

94°

noon Monday

Today

- Sunset, 8:11 p.m.
- Wednesday
- Sunrise, 5:35 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:11 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 83 degrees
- Humidity 26 percent
- Sky partly sunny
- Winds 16 mph, gusts 22 mph
- Barometer 26.32 inches and falling
- Record High today 106° (1936)
- Record Low today 50° (1972)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	102°
Low Monday	65°
Precipitation	—
This month	.53
Year to date	12.14
Below normal	.7 of an inch

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny and hot, high near 102, low near 69. East winds switching over to south at 10 to 20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Mostly sunny and hot, high near 104, low near 68, south wind at 15 mph. Thursday: Partly cloudy and hot, high near 98 and mow near 66. Friday: Partly cloudy, high near 93, low near 34, and chance of showers. Saturday: High near 92, 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 — \$4.47 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.51
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.31 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.19
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$2.01 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.22 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.21
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$5 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$9.35 cwt.
NuSun crop — \$10.35
Confection — Call

Pinto beans — \$15.50 (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

Saw opens garage door

Fire Chief Scott Gilmer (far right), with Stan Duell helping, used a saw to go through the garage door at Dr. David Schnee's house at 510 Arcade on Friday. Rebecca Schnee was injured in the garage fire. See photos on Page 3.

City budget up; tax levy drops

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

City commissioners reviewed each department's goals during two days of work sessions, and agreed on a budget with an 8.5 percent spending increase that drops the property tax levy about half a percent.

The sessions Monday and Tuesday lasted about eight hours total, but the commissioners agreed this year was easier than the past two or

three, when they faced big deficits in the sewer, water and electric funds.

A hearing on the proposed budget will be held on Monday, Aug. 7. Total spending would be \$1,395,499, or \$109,839 more than this year, but with increased valuation for taxable property, the tax levy would drop from 56.53 mills this year to 56.29 for next year. That is a drop of .24 of a mill.

At the end of the first session on Monday, City Clerk Mary Volk said there was a difference of \$80,000 between what had been budgeted and her estimate of the revenues. She said the commission could raise the mill levy or find a way to cut \$80,000.

Tuesday, Mayor Rick Billinger was looking for ways to keep the property tax levy at the present level. The first cut was the \$75,000 from

the library budget to replace the air conditioning and heating system. The library board would have had to ask for an increase in its property tax levy to pay for the new system.

The city commission agreed to help the library and take the first half of \$37,500 out of reserves this year, and the second half of \$37,500 would come out of next years budget.

Then the commission agreed to

chop out \$50,000 for a two-bay addition to the fire stations. The department planned the building to house a new pumper, but agreed to look for one that will fit in the existing building.

The Sherman County Economic Development Council appeared to request that the city continue to provide \$50,000 as half the office's

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Cooling off library gets city approval

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Things are warming up at the Goodland Public Library, not from feverish reading, but because the air conditioning is not keeping the building cool.

The city hopes to fix that with a \$75,000 project to install eight home-type heating and cooling units this fall — and save on the power bill as well.

Librarian Karen Gillihan and members of the library board brought up the air conditioning problem during a City Commission budget work session on Tuesday.

Gillihan said the library had sent out requests for bids to replace the existing system, and Bowman Heating and Air Conditioning of Goodland was the only business to respond.

She said Keith Bowman had looked over the library system, which was installed 30 years ago, and suggested putting in eight residential heating and air conditioning units that would allow them to better control the temperature in different sections of the library.

"We want to have local service," Gillihan said. "Bowman said the residential units are cheaper than the commercial units, and we can regulate the areas that are not in use. We need to go ahead with it the bid was in October. We think the efficiency would save about 38 percent per year."

Gillihan said they were using fans to try to keep the building cool.

"We have done a lot of repairs on the building over the past few years," she said. "We were wondering if the city could help."

City Clerk Mary Volk said the library could pay for the new system this year because it is a capital expense. She said it would help the city budget to split the cost, taking it from the capital reserve over two years.

Mayor Rick Billinger asked if the

city had replaced the roof.

Gillihan said she did not think the roof had been done, but the library has paid for new carpets, bought handicapped-accessible doors for the front and replaced the back doors. She said the city might have helped with the stucco of the outside.

She said the library added insulation, but it had not helped with the heating and cooling costs.

City Commissioner Josh Dechant asked if the \$75,000 was the most recent bid. Gillihan said it was the only bid.

Billinger asked when the work would be done and if the library would have to be closed.

She said Bowman plans to start in September, when it is not too hot or too cold. She said Bowman told her he did not think they would have to close the library, but the hard part would be taking the old system out.

"We will have a fireproof storage room when they are done," Gillihan added.

"I think that is good," Billinger said, "and the difference between the commercial and residential system for efficiency will pay for itself in short order. What does the commission think about half this year and half next year?"

That would mean \$37,500 this year and the same next year, Billinger added.

The commissioners agreed it is a good idea.

"This helps us keep in our budget," Billinger said. "I think the savings in the long term will be good."

Library board member Barb Winston said the new system has a humidifier included that will help keep the books in better condition and reduce costs for replacement.

"We do have a lot of expensive items that need to be preserved," Winston said.

Without the added expense of the

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Lighting the way

Lights installed at Pioneer Park make walking around the loop after sunset safer. City commissioners said last Monday they had received compliments about the lights and passed them on to Charlie Bandel, electrical crew chief, which installed the lights. Sunday evening, a family was using the gazebo after dark. City Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she appreciates the lights when she walks her dog.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Cost of installing water meters could triple, city says

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

People putting in new homes or commercial buildings could see the tap fee for a new water connection double or triple if the City Commission follows through with a plan to charge the full cost plus some for new taps.

Water and power rates might continue to rise, too, if the city isn't making money later in the year.

In his budget summary at a City Commission workshop on Monday, City Manager Wayne Hill said it is too soon to see the effects of the water and electric rate increases the city put into effect in January. He

said it would be better to review these in October to see if more adjustment is needed.

"My philosophy is to do incremental increases," Hill said. "I don't like to wait for 10 years and find that we have to make huge increases to catch up."

Talking about the water depart-

ment, Hill said he thinks tap fees for new water connections, now \$300, are too low. He said the city loses money on every new connection, while admitting that new businesses are good for the economy.

"I know it may be a bit controversial," he said, "but I think it is wrong to keep the connects at low rates

when our costs for meters has gone up incredibly.

"I am pro economic development, but I don't think you can give away the farm.

"If we have a big customer, we might be able to look at the number

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More than \$9,000 collected for fireworks

The July 4 fireworks show has been paid for, and about one-third of the cost for next year has been raised, the Sherman County Community Foundation reported last week.

Kin Huang, foundation director, said Tuesday that the Freedom Fest Fireworks fund has collected \$9,135 so far.

Huang said a check for \$7,000 has been approved to pay Joe Diaz for this year's show.

County Commissioner Kevin Rasure said at a meeting of fest organizers on Thursday he thinks there may be more contributions coming. He said he expects the fund to be near \$3,000 going into next year.

Huang said the fund has a balance of \$2,135 as of Monday.

Contributors can make donations to the Sherman County Community Foundation, Box 888, Goodland, Kan. 67735, and earmark them to the Freedom Fest Fireworks Fund,

Huang said.

Sherman County Economic Development is picking up the cash jars that were in businesses. Kay Younger said Thursday she had picked up 11 of the 15 jars, and was looking for the four missing ones. She told the fireworks group Thursday she thought there was over \$100 in the jars she had.

Brad Shields reported that the home-owned carnival had its biggest July 4 ever. He said he thought the whole night went well. Shields said the rides worked well. He said a family from Winona showed up early, and the man helped set up some of the rides.

Shields said he had people come up to him and say how much they enjoyed the evening.

"I had Chuck Wilkens go through the parking lot to see where the cars were from," Shields said. "He told me a lot of the cars were from Nebraska and Colorado."

Donna Price, director of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau, said she got calls from people who had heard about the Freedom Fest and wanted details.

Rasure said he had compliments on the evening, and had talked to people from Cañon City, Colo. who had come for the show.

Shields said a couple from Kansas City were driving home and heard about the show, so they stayed overnight in Goodland to enjoy the fireworks.

Shields said the 4-H Junior Leaders had planned to sell 200 hamburgers and hot dogs.

"I told them that was not nearly enough," he said. "I told them if there were any left, Kiwanis would buy them for the fair. The 4-H got 600 hamburgers and hot dogs and sold out. They were surprised and pleased.

"The high school cheerleaders came out and sold pop corn and pop, and even with the

rain, they told me they made about \$300."

City Commissioner Dave Daniels said the stories show that people do come to town for the Freedom Fest events, adding that the city has budgeted a \$500 donation for next year.

Shields said a special account for "entertainment" has been established at Bankwest. He said the Willie Mack concert cost about \$4,200. He said it was nice to have sponsors help pay the costs, and said the group hopes to have another concert next year.

"The efforts of Alan Townsend and Darren Kannady are what made the concert work," Shields said. "Townsend's daughter helped with the connections, and Kannady surprised the band with the stage setup.

Shields said the Sherman County Community Services, which operates the carnival, has agreed to organize the Freedom Fest from now on.