

weather report

93°

noon

Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 7:49 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:57 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:47 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 76 degrees
- Humidity 23 percent
- Sky partly sunny
- Winds variable at 6 mph
- Barometer 30 inches and falling
- Record High today 106° (1936)
- Record Low today 48° (1931)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	99°
Low Thursday	55°
Precipitation	tr
This month	.8
Year to date	13.6
Below normal	1.5 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly sunny, high near 93, low near 66. Calm winds becoming southeast between 5 and 10 mph, switching to the south at around 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Partly cloudy, 20 percent chance showers, high near 94 and low near 65. Sunday: Partly cloudy, 30 percent chance of shower, high near 90 and low near 60. Monday: Mostly cloudy, high near 81, low near 58.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.23 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.27
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.20 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.05
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$1.85 bushel
Soybeans — \$4.78 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.77
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



Wildcats start practice

Former Cowboy Jordan Bedore began his second season with the K-State Wildcats when practice started on Saturday. Bedore is one of three former Cowboys on the Wildcat roster this year. See Photos, story on Page 12.



City electric crews strung a steel cable and banner welcoming the Sherman County Alumni across Main in front of Central Elementary where the old stop light was.

The Alumni reunion, held every five years, began Thursday and continues today and Saturday. See the special alumni section inside today's newspaper.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Budget lowers property tax levy

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

City spending will increase 8.5 percent next year, but the property taxes will show a slight drop — less than 1 percent — based on the budget approved without public comment on Monday.

Mayor Rick Billinger opened the budget hearing and asked if there were any comments either in favor or against the proposal.

There were none, and after waiting for a couple of minutes in case someone might be a little late, the mayor closed the hearing.

Later in the meeting, Billinger asked the commissioners if they had any comments.

City Clerk Mary Volk said the budget reflects the work sessions the commission held July 10 and 11. Total spending would increase by \$109,839 to \$1,395,499. The property tax levy would drop by about .59 of a mill, from 56.883 mills this year to 56.29 for next year.

Taking a \$50,000 home as an example, Volk said on Wednesday, the property taxes would decrease about \$14.60 for the year. Volk said taxes on a \$50,000 business building would go down about \$47.61.

Volk said the estimated budget for this year had been based on a property tax levy of 56.53, but when County Clerk Janet Rumpel certified the levy last fall the actual figure was 56.883.

Commissioner John Garcia said he was OK with the budget, but asked Police Chief Ray Smee if there was a way to extend the life of the police cars.

Smee said when the cars come off active duty, they pretty much have to shoot them. He said the cars have well over 100,000 miles of city driving.

"We do get a new one every year," Smee said. "We replace the one that has been on the street for five years. We tried going six years, and the repair costs were higher than driving the car for the extra year."

"We do everything in our power to keep the spending in control," said Billinger, "and we have put some things in the budget in case of an emergency. We hope we won't spend all the money in the budget so we have a little left."

Commissioner Josh Dechant made a motion to approve the budget and Annette Fairbanks seconded. The

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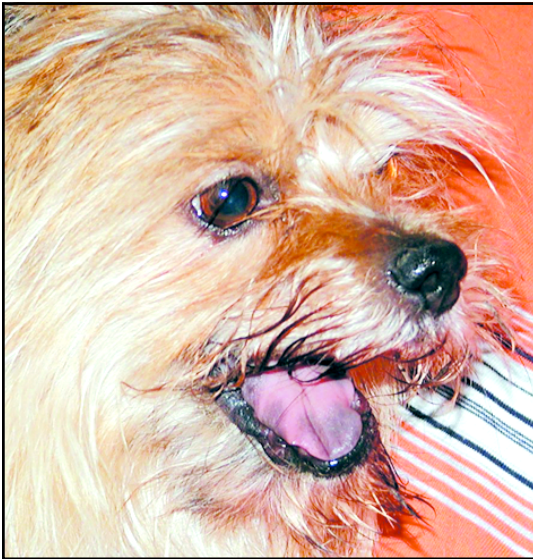


A crew of nine finished laying bricks at Ninth and Main about 4 p.m. on Wednesday, and the intersection was opened Thursday afternoon. Justin Middleton (front right) and Rodney Bouwens (left) of Stonescapes of Wichita

said there were about 40,000 bricks in the intersection. Middleton said the crew will begin laying at 13th and Main on Monday.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

This dog's a real survivor



Pee Wee

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

Meet Pee Wee, the survivor.

Seeing him with his owners, Mary Beth Zwick and her son, Caleb, 11, playing and being himself, you'd never know how badly he'd been hurt.

Pee Wee, a two-pound Yorkie mix, has undergone several surgeries after being kicked around and taken for veterinary care. He became a ward of the county and found a new home.

The guy who kicked him was convicted, but never went to jail. He's still paying his part of the vet bills.

PeeWee's tale starts between July 10 and 12 last year. He allegedly was kicked by his owner, Victor Delgato, 41, 407 Center, Kanorado. Sherman County sheriff's Deputy Brad Parker checked on an animal abuse complaint and reported finding the dog with a broken jaw so deformed he was unable to eat.

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Visitors bureau board buys fidelity bond

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

The Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau decided even if you feel your money is in trustworthy hands, insurance is still a good idea.

The bureau's board voted Tuesday morning to buy a fidelity bond to protect the bureau's money in the event the director or any board members are dishonest. The board also decided it needs to change meeting times.

When the county's auditor did a procedures and operations analysis earlier this year, said

Director Donna Price, he recommended the board consider a fidelity bond, a form of insurance against employee theft. He didn't so much recommend getting the bond, she said, as want it reflected in the minutes that the board had voted for it or not.

The bond would protect the bureau, said Chairman Dale Neill, in case the director or a board member takes the money and runs. A bond from Eklund Insurance would cost \$371 per year, Neill said, to cover the di-

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District, teachers negotiating on contract

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland School Board and teachers' union negotiating teams have met twice since Friday, trying to come to an agreement on how much of the schools' "new money" to put into teacher salaries.

The negotiations were on hold until the Kansas Supreme Court made its ruling on the legislature's funding bill for the 2006-2007 school year. If the court had not dismissed the suit, the amount of state aid the school would get could have changed.

The district used 944 as its student count to figure the budget, Superintendent Shelly Angelos said Friday. For the previous school year, the

district used 958.7. The district lost \$64,445 or 14.7 students multiplied by \$4,316, the amount of state aid per student. The district however ended up with \$180,998 more in its operating budget because of increase in the state formula.

Most of the new money from the state can only be used for at-risk, or low-income, students, or to help students who do meet the proficiency standards on state tests, Angelos said. That leaves only \$4,044 of unrestricted money in the budget which could used for teacher raises.

The school board offered the teachers a \$200 raise to their base pay or a .9 of 1 percent raise.

The leader of the National Educa-

tion Association negotiation team, Mary Porterfield, countered that the teachers would like a 4.9 percent raise or \$1,500 on base pay. Porterfield estimated that would cost the district \$150,000.

Porterfield had suggestions that the money could be raised through the local option budget. She said the district will be saving \$90,000 from experienced teachers retiring and being replaced by new teachers at a lower pay scale.

The board had a special meeting on Monday night to discuss teacher salary negotiations in closed session.

The negotiation teams met again Tuesday afternoon. The school board countered by offering a \$400

increase on base pay or 1.8 percent. The teachers responded with a demand for a \$850 increase on base pay. There was no agreement, so negotiations will continue.

In other business Monday, the board hired the following for the coming school year:

- Gary Winter as assistant eighth-grade football coach and assistant junior high wrestling coach.
- Ben Coates as assistant seventh-grade football coach, assistant eighth-grade boys basketball coach and head eighth-grade volleyball coach.
- Cleve Trachsel as head-eighth grade boys basketball coach.
- Teresa Sieck as assistant sev-

enth-grade boys basketball coach and assistant eighth grade girls basketball coach.

- Traci Waugh as cheerleading sponsor for Grant Junior High.
- Travis Witman as head eighth-grade girls basketball coach.
- Jerry McKee as head seventh-grade girls basketball coach.
- Myron Tedford as assistant high school cross country coach.
- Aimee Stoffel as assistant high school volleyball coach.
- Alicia Avila as three-hour cook at Central Elementary.
- Brad Bergsma as computer technician for the school district.
- Jonathan Whisnant as at-risk teacher for North Elementary.