

weather
report

32°

noon

Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 4:23 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:54 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:23 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 33 degrees
- Humidity 53 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds south at 11 mph
- Barometer 30.60 inches and rising

• Record High today 74° (1923)

• Record Low today -9° (1978)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	50°
Low Thursday	23°
Precipitation	tr
This month	tr
Year to date	22.02
Above normal	2.54 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny, high near 58, low around 24.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Sunny, high near 57, low around 23. Sunday: Mostly sunny, high near 53, low around 22. Monday: Partly cloudy, high near 40, low near 19. Tuesday: Partly cloudy, high near 47, low around 18. Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 40.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.34 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.60
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$3.48 bushel
Posted county price — \$ 3.23
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$3.30 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.69 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.75
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$7 hundredweight
Sunflowers
NuSun crop — \$12.95
Pinto beans — \$19 (new crop)
(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigo 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



Five wrestlers
finish first

Bob Doxon, a 285 junior, wrestled Shelby Wright of Atwood at the St. Francis Invitational Wrestling Tournament Saturday. Doxon finished second in his weight class. See story and photo on Page 10.

Gingerbread house damaged



By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

Hansel and Gretel are faced with the dilemma: their gingerbread house is in dire need of repair and they need to fix it or sell it.

Second graders from West Elementary School did a musical drama, "Ginger Notes with Extra Sprinkles," on Tuesday night at the Goodland High School Auditorium.

Hansel (Casey Stramel) and Gretel (Elizabeth Fulcher) face every homeowner's nightmare.

Reindeer have been nibbling away chunks from the gingerbread

house.

When the reindeer realize they have wrecked Hansel and Gretel's house, they're sorry. They call Bob Thomas (Joshua Smith) and Gnorm (Jacob Brown) of "This Old House" from Home Improvement TV.

Everyone pitches in, including the neighbors, to get the house back into shape.

Hansel and Gretel are delighted and surprised to find their house fixed. Amanda Coon sang a solo on "Everyone Deserves a Home."

The program ended by inviting the audience to sing with the cast.

Members of Susan McCall's class in the program included Alexandria Adair, Makenna Bogart, Gage Chester, Chrisytl Dudley, Erica Fairchild, Jacob Fisher, Fulcher, Dillon Gillming, Xavier Hernandez, Autumn Johnson, Amber Martell, Norelia Ordenez-Castillo, Makayla Schartz, Joshua Smith, Ariel Tabor, Marquiesha Walker, Alyssa Wear, Kenzie Wentz and Kate Zelfer.

Pat Pickett's class includes Cristina Alvarez, Brenae Bahe, Simon Bassett, Zane Bateman, Nolan Deeds, Kelcie DeHoyos, Braelyn



Joshua Smith as Bob Thomas (left in hard hat) and Jacob Brown as Gnorm from Home Improvement TV are called in by the reindeer to help fix the house. Gretel (Elizabeth Fulcher) and Hansel (Kasey Stramel) talked about the condition of their gingerbread house. They realized they needed to fix it up or sell it.

Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Hoelting, Jose Ledesma, Chalee Luther, Jacob McClary, Abigail Neal, T.C. Ruhs, Heather Smith, Claudia Soto, Tobi Steggall, Stramel, Joshua Turner, Kinsey Volk, Kelsey White and Caylee Williams.

Kara Smith's class includes Rebekah Athey, Shavaun Barnes, Paige Cullens, Kaitlyn Daise, Alex Goodwin, Anthony Hernandez, Erica Hernandez, Hagan Hoss, Kylie Jimenez, Dominick Lewis, Calvin Linnell, Jamie Nemechek, Leonicio Perez, Myrna Ruiz, Kaileigh Sloan, Faith Teter, Alexi

Vasquez, Tate Withington and Matthew Wood.

Cassandra Van Allen's class had Maria Aguirre, Ashley Anderson, Adison Avelar, Brown, Coon, Kennedy Dinkel, Erin Floyd, Gabriela Galindo, Mercedes Garza, Janelle Grammon, Noah Hernandez, Autumn Hudson, Dusty Johnson, Austin Keim, Sianna Miller, Janessa Selbe, Margaux Thompson, Tayler Thorson and Isaac Walton.

Director of the show was Linda Lucas, music teacher.

February bills will have rate increase

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Home electric rates in Goodland will go up by about 9 percent on the February bills after approval Monday of a utility ordinance by the City Commission.

The change hikes the monthly residential meter charge from \$2 to \$3.75, or 87.5 percent, and the kilowatt-hour rate from 10.5 cents to 11.2 cents, a 6.7 percent increase.

The average residential customers use around 638 kilowatt hours per month, city officials said.

Based on the average usage and the increase in the meter charge, the new monthly bill would be \$75.20, up about 9 percent.

Commercial meter rates will go from \$15 to \$19.73 per month, or 31 percent, and the kilowatt-hour rate from 9.5 cents to 9.86 cents, about 4 percent.

"Nobody likes to have rate in-

creases," said City Manager Wayne Hill, "but we have to pay the bills."

"You are right no one likes to do this," Mayor Rick Billinger said. "We are not trying to develop a windfall for the city."

Billinger asked if the new operational cost adjustment would cover everything associated with power system, including fuel.

"If we have a line down or problems in the plant, these are all included in the operation cost," Hill said.

"The old ordinance said fuel cost, and if we are not running, we still have overhead."

"I am glad the city raised the rates last January or we would be looking at a large rate increase. This is going to be a fluctuating matter."

"I am not sure on the rate (increase)," Billinger said. "I do think we need the operating cost adjustment to cover our costs. If we find

the rate is too high, we can cut it back..."

"I think we have plenty here with the operational cost adjustment. I am afraid we have gotten more on the other side. I agree with the meter charge, and I want to be in a position where we are paying the costs."

"When the energy center comes in, this rate is way out of line."

"The energy center is not here yet," Hill noted.

"Our operating cost adjustment is the right thing to do," Billinger said. "It covers our deficiencies, but I think this takes care of that. That is why I like it. I am on the fence on the rate increase, and would like to see the figures in a few months."

Hill said it would probably be a few months before anything would show in the figures.

"I think this is the best way to handle this," Hill said, "and we will just have to look at how it goes and

if there is more income, we will be able to make an adjustment."

City Commissioner John Garcia asked if there would be a line on the monthly bill to show the cost adjustment.

Hill said it will be marked "CA" because the city can only use a two-letter code for each line. He said the new rate will go into effect Jan. 15 and appear on the February bills.

"On the cost adjustment, how much of our equipment does it include?" City Commissioner Dave Daniels asked.

Hill said the cost adjustment would cover anything that is involved in the operation of the power system, including all of the lines.

"Will it include the trucks?" Daniels asked. "Do we still have to budget for these or are they part of the cost adjustment?"

"Would problems at the power plant be part of this?" Billinger

asked.

"Yes, any unforeseen expense would be part of the cost adjustment," replied Rod Blake, power plant superintendent.

Billinger asked if Blake had looked at the figures from October or November to see what the city would have had for an operating cost adjustment.

Blake said he has not done that because they were waiting to see if the new rates were approved before rebuilding the spreadsheet.

Daniels asked if a summary of the spreadsheet could be put in the commissioners' meeting packets for the next few months. Hill said that could be done.

Commissioner Josh Dechant made a motion to approve the ordinance raising the electrical rates, seconded by Commissioner Annette Fairbanks. The vote was unanimous to approve.

Animal shelter on verge of closing foster care

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Keeping up with the stray dogs in town has swamped the volunteer-run Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter, and representatives appealed to the City Commission on Monday to help keep the program afloat.

Commissioners agreed the shelter is a good service, and helps the city, but said they will have to see if there is any money left in this year's budget they could give to the shelter.

Sandy Rogers, president of the shelter board, who works for the county Conservation District, said she and other board members had

come to talk about the plight the shelter is facing.

She said the group started in 1992 with plans to try to build a shelter on land on the east edge of town.

She said the group decided a building would cost too much and the focus changed to a "foster-care" program in 1997, where volunteers take care of animals themselves.

"We have the largest foster-care program between Hays and Denver," Rogers said. "We take in about 250 animals a year. We are a no-kill shelter, which means only vicious or very sick animals are euthanized."

"Because this is our philosophy, we have gained the respect of and

have received a lot of help from animal rescues in the Denver area and one in Canada."

Rogers said the rescue operation in Canada paid to fly 20 dogs from Goodland to Canada.

"We have been trying to get the number of animals in our care down to a manageable level," Rogers said. "We are down to about 75. We had over 100."

Rogers handed each commissioner a two-page report explaining the history, numbers and income and expenditures for the past year.

She said income for last year was

Congressman to be in town Monday

Congressman Jerry Moran starts his 11th tour of the 1st Congressional District on Monday, with Goodland his fifth stop of the day.

Moran will be speak and answer questions at the Goodland Lions Club meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Northwest Kansas Technical College Student Union.

"I am beginning my 11th annual Big First Listening Tour," Moran said. "I will visit communities in each of the 69 counties of the 1st District. I am beginning my annual tour now due to the uncertainty of the voting schedule for the beginning of the next session of Congress under the

new incoming leadership.

"Traveling the state each year has been a great way to spend time with Kansans. I continue this to make sure I know what is on the minds of the people and to bring their thoughts and concerns back to Washington."

Moran plans to begin his tour with an appearance in Elkhart and then move on to Johnson and Syracuse. In the afternoon, from 4 to 5 p.m., he will be at the Greeley County Courthouse in Tribune.

On Tuesday, Moran will travel to St. Francis at 8 a.m., where he

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See DOGS, Page 9