

weather report

57°  
at noon

Today

- Sunset, 7:43 p.m.

Tomorrow

- Sunrise, 5:43 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:44 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 49 degrees
- Humidity 26 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds northwest 30-42
- Barometer 29.69 inches and rising
- Record High 94° (1936)
- Record Low 25° (1944)

Last 24 Hours\*

High	62°
Low	43°
Precipitation	.05

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly Cloudy; 20 percent chance for rain and snow; low 25-30; wind NW 25-30

Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy; 20 percent chance of moisture; high 60; wind NW 20-30.

Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday. Dry Friday and Saturday; highs 75; lows 40-45. Sunday chance of thundershowers; high 75; low 45.

(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.19 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.13  
Loan deficiency payment — 32¢

Corn — \$1.79 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.90  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 9¢

Milo — \$2.53 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.20 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.10  
Loan deficiency payment — 79¢

Millet — \$4.00 hundredweight  
Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$8.60 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.10  
Oil new crop — \$8.85 cwt.  
Confection current — \$17/10 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Dad accused of poisoning

MINNEAPOLIS — Two young sisters who were admitted to a Wichita hospital earlier this year had antifreeze in their bloodstreams, a lab technician testified at a preliminary hearing.

The girls' father, Donald P. Ayres, 29, is accused of poisoning them by putting antifreeze in their soft drinks. He is charged with two counts each of attempted first-degree murder, child abuse and endangering a child.

Ashley Marie Ayres, 9, and Chelsie Leanne Ayres, 8, have since recovered and are living with foster parents. Ashley was first hospitalized on Feb. 24. Chelsie joined her sister six days later.

Magistrate Judge Adrian Lapka continued the preliminary hearing until May 24 because a key witness, Drl Jeffrey Friedrich, spent much of Monday night treating victims of a tornado in Wichita.

# You'll get a buzz out of Sharon Springs' weekend

This weekend is the annual Rattlesnake Roundup and Spring Fling in Sharon Springs and Wallace County, where turning over rocks and looking for the scaly reptiles is a normal pastime.

The Snake Pit will open for viewing and buying at 9 a.m. Saturday. The first of many hourly events begins at 10 a.m. with a display and lecture on fangs and rattler research.

The weekend begins at 7 p.m. Friday with a ham and been feed at the Wallace County Fairground. Saturday and Sunday mornings, early risers can enjoy a hearty farmer's breakfast beginning at 7 a.m. at the Community Activity Building near the fairgrounds.

At 11 a.m. each day, the Snake Snack Shack will open for those developing an appetite.

Music will be provided Saturday by the Jeff Wagoner family, and masters of the chainsaw will be doing wood carvings to be auctioned late in the afternoon. Also there will be powered parachute demonstrations and helicopter rides.

There will be a community-wide yard sale beginning 8 a.m. Saturday, and maps will be available at the SS Country Store, at the corner of K-27 and U.S. 40.

While the Rattlesnake Roundup is underway at the fairground, downtown merchants will be celebrating spring with events including a car show. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., and awards will be given for the most unique car. At 12:30 p.m., a poker run will begin at the firehouse, behind the courthouse.

Bed races sponsored by Van Allen Implement will begin at 1:30 p.m., bed pan races will follow at 2:30 p.m. and at 3:30 p.m. the Fire Department will sponsor "water sports" at the courthouse and firehouse.

There will also be sidewalk booths and vendors south of the courthouse.

Sunday, there will be a demonstration at 12:30 p.m. by Tony's Trained Dogs. In the afternoon will be the official measuring of the snakes and presentation of the prizes. The Snake Pit will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and prizes and trophies will be awarded after the snake pit closes.

There is a cash prize and trophy for the longest snake, a cash prize and trophy for the longest Wallace County prairie rattler and a cash prize and trophy for the longest diamondback.

For information, call (785) 852-4935. For more on the Spring Fling, call Scott Miller, 852-4296, and on the Rattlesnake Roundup call 852-4473.

Patty, a python owned by Jim and Julie Withers, was on display to advertise the annual Rattlesnake Roundup. Photo by Nell Frohlich / Goodland Daily News

# City annexes area for senior housing

**By Keith Lippoldt**  
*Goodland Daily News*

The Goodland City Commission approved annexation of 12.4 acres to be used as a senior housing facility Monday, and the developer said work could begin by summer.

The land, known as the Wheat Ridge Acres subdivision, borders Eighth Street from Westmore to property owned by the Goodland School District. It will be developed by Heritage Healthcare Management similar to a project in Burlington.

The project will include 26 "congregate living" duplexes for seniors who can live on their own but don't want to maintain a house any longer, as well as 30 "assisted living" units for those who need some help.

A similar, but unrelated project, is planned for part of the school tract.

"This is a project that will benefit the City of Goodland," Mayor Chuck Lutters said. "We are in need of a facility such as this in our community."

David Beardsley, director of development and management for Heritage, assured the commission that now that the annexation has been approved, financing will be secured and construction will begin within 60 to 90 days.

"We are going to get on this as fast as we can," Beardsley said. "The light is green. This is going to be a fun project for the community."

Commissioner Curtis Hurd asked about expenses that the city may incur for the annexation. City Manager Ron Pickman and Beardsley said that the developer will be responsible for the installation of sewer lines, curb and gutter and other items such as snow removal. The city will be responsible for installation of a water line.

The plat was approved at a special meeting of the city planning commission on April 29. The agreement, which officials said meets all subdivision requirements, was unanimously approved by the city commissioners.

One concern that came up was the fact that rubbish from the proposed site had been hauled to a dump site on Caldwell Street, just off 19th. Pickman told the commissioners that he has sent a nuisance abatement notice to Mike Yarger about the Caldwell site, but has yet to receive a reply.

In other action, the board:

- Agreed to pay \$21,223 to Allied Construction for the completion of Phase I of the Water Improvement Program.
- Approved payments totaling \$270,333 to Pitt-DeMoine for the water tower grant project for all materials and 70 percent of the erection payroll. Payment is contingent on receiving payroll information from the company, necessary for grant repayment, by Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Committee.
- Requested payment from the state totalling \$168,456 for reimbursement of expenses on the water tower and water line projects.
- Agreed to a resolution that executes an agree with the Kansas Department of Transportation for aid in the K-27 construction project that will allow resurfacing of the road from the intersection Business U.S. 24 north to the Cheyenne County line. This project is scheduled for 2001 or 2002.
- Accepted a bid from B&H Paving of

City Manager Ron Pickman explained the plat for the Wheat Ridge Acres Subdivision at the City Commission meeting Monday. The commission approved annexation of 12.4 acres to be used for senior housing. Photo by Keith Lippoldt/Goodland Daily News

enne County line. This project is scheduled for 2001 or 2002. Accepted a bid from B&H Paving of

# Second wave of storms strikes as victims pick up the pieces

OKLAHOMACITY (AP)—Tornadoes roared across the Plains for a second straight day, killing a Texas woman before rolling into Arkansas and knocking out power to thousands of people.

In their wake, a cold rain fell in Oklahoma as stunned residents picked through the wreckage of their homes, searching for mementos and precious scraps of lives ripped apart. Tornadoes and devastating winds have killed at least 44 people in the southern Plains since Monday.

Hundreds more were injured as entire communities were reduced to rubble.

Rescuers looked for more victims Tuesday in the Oklahoma City area, bringing in bulldozers to clear away debris.

"There may be someone, somewhere, still out there, under the clutter," said John Vears, one of the hundreds of volunteer emergency workers in Midwest City, just outside Oklahoma City.

In Monday's outbreak, 76 twisters swept through five states. One tornado, at least a half-mile wide, struck parts of Oklahoma City with winds topping 260 mph, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said. The tornado was classified an F5, the most powerful.

The storm carved a 19-mile gash through the area, leaving at least 38 dead and about 2,000 demolished homes. Five people also died in Kansas, including a month-old baby in Haysville.

Hundreds were injured, including 500 in Oklahoma City and more than 100 in Wichita, Kan. At least 1,500 businesses and homes in that state were destroyed or heavily damaged.

Later Tuesday, new storms struck Texas and Arkansas. One tornado tore through nearly 100 buildings and injured at least 11 people in the northeastern Texas town of DeKalb.

"The only thing I remember is that the lights went off and the roof came off," said James Sckittone, 18, a student at DeKalb High School. "Everybody started crying and praying. It looked like an atomic bomb fell."

A 77-year-old woman was killed in neighboring Titus County, 35 miles southwest of DeKalb. Gov. George W. Bush was expected to tour the area today.

In southern Arkansas, thunderstorms also spawned tornadoes, large hail and heavy rain, leaving thousands of people without electricity. Several houses and a church were damaged. No injuries were reported.

The tornado outbreak on Monday was the nation's deadliest since 42 people were killed last year in Florida. It was also the deadliest to hit Oklahoma since 1947, when a twister killed 113 people in Woodward.

Cars were tossed across highways and crushed like soda cans. Houses were smashed into piles of splintered timbers and brick. The ground was scoured bare in places, stripped of trees and grass.

Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating and James Lee Witt, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, viewed the damage Tuesday. President Clinton, who has declared 11 Oklahoma counties disaster areas, is expected to visit the stricken area Saturday.

"This is unbelievable," Witt said as he walked past scores of destroyed vehicles in a high school parking lot next to a row of flattened houses in had-hit Moore.

"There's going to be anger and there's going to be frustration," Witt said of the task ahead of Oklahoma City residents. "But they will rebuild and they will rebuild better and we're going to help them."

Insured losses in Oklahoma City could reach \$225 million, according to a preliminary estimate from the Southwestern Insurance Information Service in Austin, Texas.

"These are all hard-working people in this area," City Councilman Jerry Foshee said, staring out over piles of rubble and overturned cars next to Westmoore High School. "You literally see thousands of families devastated."

# Legislature quietly lets state's tax lid slip away

**By John Hanna**  
*Associated Press Writer*

TOPEKA — The lid is about to come off.

A law restricting the ability of cities, counties, townships and other local governmental units to raise property taxes will expire July 1. The 1999 Legislature simply did not to renew it.

Local officials have grumbled about the tax lid law for years. Gov. Bill Graves and some legislators have said it is wrong for the state to interfere with local budget decisions.

Other legislators have complained the lid is too loose. Some worry that local governments' budgets will soar without it, making the Legislature's failure to renew the lid a big political mistake.

"It's one of the biggest disappointments of the session," said House Minority Leader Jim Garner, D-Coffeyville. "Property taxpayers are not going to have the protection provided by the property tax lid."

For years, local officials pushed legislators to let the lid expire. In 1995, Graves asked them to allow it to die.

"It says, 'We trust you,'" said Don Anderson, mayor of Lindsborg, a city of 3,300 residents 25 miles south of Salina. "I think what they will find is that locally elected people are not going to abuse their authority."

The state has had property tax lid laws of various kinds since 1907 and limits on individual local government budgets since the 19th century. The latest incarnation took effect in 1989, after the state reappraised property for the first time in three decades.

The lid was designed to prevent local governments from reaping a windfall from increases in property values.

Under the lid, local governments cannot raise more property tax revenues than they did the previous year and must reduce property tax mill levies to keep revenues constant.

The law isn't quite that simple, of course. It exempts from the lid certain budgetary items, such as their employees' unemployment taxes and health benefits. It also allows local governments to reap the benefits of new construction or annexation, which expand the tax base.

Also, local governments can remove themselves from the lid by adopting a resolution. Opponents could force a public vote by gathering signatures on a petition.

Some legislators thought it re-

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