

weather report

76°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:42 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:19 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:41 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 48 degrees

• Humidity 11 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds west at 12 mph

• Barometer 29.95 inches

and falling

• Record High 78° (1955)

• Record Low 10° (1967)

Last 24 Hours*

High 66°

Low 34°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low near 30, west winds 5 to 15 mph.

Friday: mostly sunny, high in the mid 60s, east winds 10 to 20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: dry, low in the 30s, highs in the 70s.

Sunday: dry, low in the 30s, highs in the 60s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.18 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.13

Loan deficiency payment — 32¢

Corn — \$1.54 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.62

Loan deficiency pmt. — 37¢

Milo — \$2.25 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$3.98 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.99

Loan deficiency payment — 90¢

Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.75 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.85

Oil new crop — \$5.75 cwt.

Confection current — \$9 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$15 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Gay attacker gets life sentence

LARAMIE, Wyo. — The man convicted of killing a gay college student was sentenced today to two consecutive life sentences, accepting a deal approved by Matthew Shepard's parents that spares him from lethal injection.

"I would like nothing better than to see you die Mr. McKinney, but now is the time to heal," Shepard's father, Dennis, told Aaron McKinney in court today. "Every time you wake up in your cell, remember you had the opportunity or the ability to stop your actions that night."

Earlier, McKinney, 22, expressed regret for his role in the murder, which spurred nationwide rallies for anti-hate crime legislation.

"I really don't know what to say other than that I'm truly sorry to the entire Shepard family," McKinney told the court. "Never will a day go by I won't be ashamed for what I have done."

Red figures get worse

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — The state's budget problems have become worse.

New numbers issued Wednesday by the people who make the official predictions about how much money Kansas government will collect show the state taking in less than previously thought during its current budget year, which ends June 30.

They also made a relatively conservative revenue estimate for the state's next budget year, fiscal 2001.

The bottom line: The state must cut its spending by more than \$108 million over the next 20 months.

If Gov. Bill Graves and legislators want to add money to some programs, they'll have to cut even more.

"We cannot maintain the status quo budget," said Budget Director Duane Goossen. "It must go down."

The Consensus Estimating Group met for more than three hours Wednesday to draft the new revenue estimates.

The group includes Goossen, members of his staff, legislative staff and university economists.

State law requires the governor and legislators to use the group's figures in drafting budget proposals. The 2000 Legislature, which convenes in January, will revise the current budget and approve one for fiscal 2001.

The state already had finished its 1999 fiscal year on June 30 with \$73.4 million less than expected in its general fund, the largest source of money for government programs.

Graves already has proposed \$43 million in cuts to the state budget, 1 percent of all general fund spending except for payments on bonds and teacher pensions. The new estimates mean another \$65 million in cuts, either in fiscal 2000 or fiscal 2001.

However, the new estimates do not mean the state's economy is stagnant. In fact, Goossen said it will continue to

See BUDGET, Page 3

Genesis provides help

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Genesis, a group which provides food to families in need in Sherman County, began with a desire by a handful of people to provide for those who were asking for help.

Director Pat Jordan said that was in 1986, when Wendy's opened and was looking for an organization to donate to. The restaurant gave money to start the program.

Each year since, the non-profit, all-volunteer organization has held a food drive to get non-perishable food items to give to needy families for Christmas.

This year, people will be asked to leave non-perishable food donations outside their homes on Dec. 4, which will be picked up by members of 4-H clubs and the Boy Scouts.

The food will then be taken to the "food bank" in the basement of the United Methodist Church, where it is sorted and stored in cupboards. Holiday boxes are wrapped by members of the Catholic Youth Organization before being packed with food and toys. They will be packed on Dec. 15, and distributed on Dec. 18, but food is available year around.

"It's not just a Christmas thing," said Jordan. "It's used all year round."

Present board members are Chairman Jeff Mason, Jim and Kathryn Wedermyer, Gordon and Caroline Pettibone, Pat and Clark Jordan, Barbara Fernandez and Loren Strait. They meet once a month to discuss how many have been helped or turn in any money received.

The group gets volunteer help from Northwest Kansas Technical School

students, who contribute food and help where they can. Civic organizations help decide if someone should be taken off or added on to the list of recipients.

"We try to involve as many as we can from the community, because it truly is a community organization," said Jordan.

The organization accepts donations of money, which is used to buy perishable food, such as turkeys, hams and milk, to put in the boxes. About 100 boxes are distributed in December. Cards are sent out to the recipients, who then come to pick up the boxes, which contain about \$150 worth of food or toys.

Families that receive the boxes are required to have lived in Sherman County for at least three months, but no one is helped more than once in six months. The idea is to give emergency help, not to support people forever. The group also can help with utility bills in an emergency.

To boost the food drive, Dave Branda, owner of the Sherman Theatre, will have a movie on Dec. 4 and 5. Admission will be a toy or a non-perishable food item to go to the organization. Fred Studer with Toys for Tots is collecting toys to be given away in the Christmas boxes.

Since Genesis began, people have been generous. Jordan said people leave money to the organization in their wills, or may donate at the end of the year for an income tax deduction. The organization always gets plenty of food and never has had to turn people away.

If someone has questions about the organization, wants to donate or needs help, they can contact any of the board members.

Reaching to bedrock



A crew from Reece Construction out of Scandia worked on the replacement bridge west of Goodland on old U.S. 24 on Tuesday. A worker said the good weather has allowed the project to move ahead of schedule, and if it continues, the bridge may be completed sometime in December.

Photo by Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News

County decides on dirt liner

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County commissioners decided Friday to use a compacted soil liner and leachate rock for the first cell in the new landfill, with compacted soil covered by a 30-millimeter plastic liner and leachate rock for the sump pond.

Curt Way, county public works director, brought samples of the material for the commissioners to see. Mark McMullen with Terranext, the engineering firm out of Colorado that is working on the landfill plan, had previously recommended the soil liner, which is cheaper than using plastic or clay.

Commissioner Kenny Davis was worried that a soil liner alone might not be enough to keep the cell from leaking, and wanted a more secure alternative.

With the material selected for the liner, the next step will be to have Terranext submit the final draft plan to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for approval. McMullen told the commissioners in September that the state might require a test plot at the site to determine the amount of compaction required with the soil liner. He said this would require a small amount of excavation and having someone compact the soil in stages to determine the depth and pressure needed to meet the state requirements.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby asked about the amount of money being spent on the landfill project, and specifically the bills from Terranext. The purchase order signed in June which was the estimate for Phase One was for \$98,575. However, to date, the bills for Phase One have come to \$151,095 so far. Selby said

in total, the county has paid Terranext \$193,000 to date, and wondered if there was an estimate of the total cost.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said she was concerned about having enough money to handle both the opening of the new landfill and the closing of the old one. Way said the cost estimate from Terranext on opening the new landfill was around \$600,000, but that may have changed with the changes in the liner.

Selby asked if the commissioners knew where the new landfill was in the permitting process. The commissioners said that Terranext was waiting on the state, and that with the liner decision made, the final plan can be submitted. Selby suggested the county needs to get an updated cost estimate from Terranext.

On the subject of the old landfill, Way said the plan to test the city supply well will not work because the well is drilled 346 feet down and it could cost \$18,000 to test. That is because pump head would have to be removed.

Selby asked the commissioners what

exactly they thought a county administrator would do, and whether the county could afford to add this position.

Townsend and Frankenfeld said they had visited with Randy Allen, director of Kansas Association of Commissioners, about the administrator position, and that he said he didn't think it would be a problem for the county to get an administrator. Townsend said he was not sure the county needed a full-time administrator, but Frankenfeld said he felt the county could use a full-time administrator like the city or school district.

Selby said an administrator for the county was different than the city manager or school superintendent because the county has several elected department heads. She suggested the commissioners take time to decide exactly what they want or expect from an administrator and what benefits an administrator would deliver above what the current department heads handle.

The next regular commissioner meeting will be 8 a.m. Tuesday.

Crash bad news for Boeing

SEATTLE (AP) — Just as it seemed Boeing Co. had turned the corner on its way back to prosperity, a week of bad news and death rocked the world's largest commercial airplane manufacturer.

Unlike recent financial and production problems, the latest trouble touches at the heart of Boeing's public trust — the safety of its aircraft.

Sunday morning, EgyptAir Flight 990 plunged six miles out of the sky into the waters off Massachusetts, killing all

217 people aboard the Boeing 767. The cause of the EgyptAir crash has not been determined, and the wreckage lies in 250 feet of water.

Though speculation has focused on an engine thrust-reverser problem — the plane rolled out of Boeing's factory immediately before a Lauda Air 767 that crashed in 1991 when a reverser deployed in flight — there's no evidence a mechanical flaw contributed to Sunday's disaster.

Adding Cowboy spirit



Mike Boyson, owner of HotBrush, painted a Cowboy logo on the wall in the weight room at Max Jones Fieldhouse addition Tuesday. School Superintendent Marvin Selby said the weight room should be ready for use by the end of the week, and he and the school board are planning an open house from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 15. The school board will meet after the open house for their November meeting.

Photo by Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News.