

weather report

61° at noon

Today

Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 6:49 a.m.

Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 45 degrees

• Humidity 37 percent

• Sky Mostly cloudy

• Winds North 7

• Barometer 29.80 inches and steady

• Record High 64° (1951)

• Record Low -5° (1985)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 69°

Low 35°

Precipitation —

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy; 20% chance of rain; low 35-40; winds Southeast 10. Tomorrow: Cloudy; 30% chance of rain; high 40; wind West 20-30.

Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday. Chance of rain or snow through Sunday. Friday high 40-45; low 25. Saturday high 35-40; low 25-30. Sunday high 35-40; low 30-35.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.10 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.00

Loan deficiency payment — 45¢

Corn — \$1.51 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.59

Loan deficiency pmt. — 40¢

Milo — \$2.08 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.01 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.06

Loan deficiency payment — 83¢

Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.95 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.87

Confection current — \$11/\$7 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.

Two bodies found at ranch

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico — U.S. and Mexican authorities unearthed the remains of two people during an intensive search of border ranches where an FBI informant has indicated that as many as 100 victims of a powerful drug cartel could be buried.

FBI forensic experts worked with Mexican soldiers and ski-masked police Tuesday searching two desert ranches near the city of Ciudad Juarez, once the undisputed territory of the Juarez drug cartel, at one time Mexico's largest and most violent drug outfit.

Bones, clothing and shoes were found at the Rancho de la Campaña, 10 miles southwest of Ciudad Juarez, Attorney General Jorge Madrazo told TV Azteca in a live interview late Tuesday.

Madrazo reiterated that officials do not believe that any bodies of U.S. agents are at the ranches.

# Hog farm request splits farm family

**By ROXANA HEGEMAN**  
*Associated Press Writer*

LAKIN (AP) — Iris Graham pulled together her community in 1994 to defeat a corporate hog farm referendum in Kearny County.

Now, five years later, the Lakin farm wife can only watch helplessly as corporate hog farming tears apart her own family.

The family farm operated jointly by her husband and his brother is among a growing number of western Kansas farms that have contracted to raise pigs for corporate hog giant Seaboard Farms, based in the Johnson County suburb of Merriam.

"It is a very divisive issue to a community and to a family," she said. "It has certainly divided

ours."

The farm's proposed 16,200-hog wastewater permit — requested by her nephew, Todd Graham — was among the latest two large-scale hog permits brought up for a public hearing Tuesday by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

About 170 people, a standing room only crowd, showed up for the more than three-hour-long hearing. All those who spoke were against issuing the permits. They contend the large hog facilities would pollute the groundwater and air, and create a health hazard.

Graham himself turned in written testimony, but he said in an earlier interview Tuesday that

he made his decision to raise the hogs based on scientific evidence. He also has pending a second application for about 40,000 hogs that comes up for public hearing on Jan. 4.

"I did a year's worth of research before I made my decision," he said. "A lot of these people made their decision and they are trying to find evidence to back it up."

Todd Graham, who farms with his father, said the hog operation would diversify the family's farm.

"This is an opportunity for me to get into agriculture," he said. "It is a tough industry to work into when you are young."

Among those who testified against the permit

was Tiffanie Robert, daughter of Iris Graham and a cousin of Todd Graham.

Afterwards, several people in the audience congratulated her on her courage.

"It is World War III at our house every day," she said later. Her own father is torn because he figures people should have the right to do what they want with their property.

She said she is no longer speaking to her uncle or cousin.

"Dad is — but it's not so much speaking as yelling," she said.

She also worries her cousin has signed his name

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# Forbidden junk fouling city's trash

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

There are too many forbidden items being thrown into the city dumpsters, and everyone who attended a special joint meeting Tuesday of the Sherman County Commissioners and the Goodland City Commission agreed, it's gotta' stop.

While the items, ranging from furniture to old carpets, dead animals and metal scrap, may be acceptable for special pickup, they are not supposed to be put in regular trash. While the city is able to haul them to a private landfill near Garden City, when the new county landfill opens next year, the county doesn't want them.

After discussing option, the two commissions decided it would be best to have a smaller group review the issue and bring back some recommendations. The advisory committee would include landfill manager Margaret Russell and Public Works Director Curt Way from the county, Public Works Director Ed Wolak and Rich Simons from the city, and Kevin Butts and Jeremiah Wickham from the recycling business.

No timetable was established, but all the commissioners were asked to draft questions for the committee to answer.

"Our responsibility is hauling trash for the city," City Commissioner Jim Mull said in opening the discussion. "We want to make it work, and we know we cannot stop people from breaking the law."

"We need to do what we can to reduce the problem. People are making the problem and we may need to have the people pay for the increased costs."

One suggestion to help in the short-term was that the city would provide manpower to help with sorting and removing the unwanted material from the trash stream.

"If this would help, the city might have to raise rates to help clean up the trash," said City Manager Ron Pickman. "It seems only fair that if much of the problem is coming from our trucks, we should help shoulder the burden of sorting the trash."

A question was asked about when the county could open the new landfill, and if it would be less restrictive on what



Among the forbidden items in just one load of trash being dumped at the Sherman County transfer station are a metal cart, plastic chairs, cardboard boxes

(which are supposed to be recycled) and what looks like an old bicycle tire. — Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News

could go into the pit. Commissioner Gary Townsend said the county has been told by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment it should have the permit for the new landfill in the next four to six months.

Way said because the county is operating under a "small landfill" definition, the restrictions will be tighter than what they have today.

"We can haul more items to the Browning Farris Industries pit at Garden City because they are a larger operator and their pit is double sealed," Way said. "If we take the same sort of things at our pit, it would dramatically

increase the cost and I don't think either the city or county could afford to match the requirements of the larger landfill."

"I want to commend the city for the yard waste program you have started," said Townsend. "We are having to set up a compost operation and have a five acres location fenced. We will be look-

ing for a turner to handle the material."

Getting into the specifics of what is being thrown into the dumpsters, Way said, "I don't know how this county can produce so much scrap metal. We have to take it out as much as possible be-

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# Documents online help open government

*Nineteen Kansas newspapers, including The Goodland Daily News, joined this fall to survey access to public documents held by cities, counties and school districts. This report is part of the results of that project.*

**By Mark Scott**  
*The Manhattan Mercury*

With the creation of the Information Network of Kansas in 1990, the door opened for Kansans to have access to public records via computer.

Today, INK's Web page gets an estimated 16,000 hits a day, according to Michael Cook, its director of development.

"We've always had a steady increase (in use)," Cook said. "More people are getting Internet access. During the legislative session, we usually double our activity."

INK is divided into two operations: free, and by subscription, which is where the bulk of INK's business is conducted.

The free home page — [www.ink.org](http://www.ink.org) — features information on Gov. Bill Graves, Kansas history, how to apply for employment with the state, and even how to apply for a state hunting and fishing license.

Here's how to go after public records

Public Records

Private Rules

you can ask the sheriff's office for a copy of its offense reports.

And if you want to see how well your high school's football coach is paid, you can ask the school district office for his salary records, usually contained in a contract.

Under state law, each of these records is yours to see and copy as you wish.

But it pays to understand your rights and how the pro-

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Also free of charge is a listing of public services, which includes a listing of cities on the Web, news releases from Attorney General Carla Stovall, access to the League of Kansas Municipalities and Kansas Association of Counties, and several of the state's larger counties, including Sedgwick and Johnson.

Premium services are available for an initial annual subscription of \$75. Renewals are \$60 a year. As of mid-October, INK had 3,500 subscribers.

"We get a lot of subscribers from the legal and insurance industry," Cook said.

Cook said the most often accessed documents are motor vehicle registration reports, sexual offender records and tax forms.

INK also charges for certain documents. For example, it costs \$4.50 for a driver's license record; \$4 for a title, registration and lien record; or \$7.50 for a corporation certificate of good standing.

INK also charges a 25-cent transaction fee for such documents as legislative bills, district court records, Kansas statutes and records from the Kansas Board of Healing Arts.

On the local level, 66 cities in Kansas have Web sites. The content of these pages ranges from basic information to the minutes of city commission meetings.

The city of Manhattan, for example, introduced its Web page in February 1997, and the site underwent a major upgrade last May.

Manhattan uses what is called an "In Touch" system, with which residents can sign up to get information on a particular city board, or to find out if a softball game has been rained out. There is no charge for signing up, and there are 20 listings for the choosing.

"It's real handy," said Diane Stoddard, assistant to the city manager. "As we call up the page, we can send them an e-mail."

Stoddard said the Manhattan City Commission listing has 100 people signed up. Available on the listing are city commission agendas and the minutes from recent meetings.

"People are very interested in our parks and recreation activities," Stoddard said.

Stoddard said the city tracks Web page activity by tabulating sessions. A session is each time an Internet user accesses the site.

Hits are not counted since there could be 20 hits in just one short visit.

From June 1 to Oct. 11 of this year, the city of Manhattan had totaled 9,500 sessions.

"Some people spend hours, others a minute," Stoddard said. "People are more and more using the computer."