


weather report

53°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 5:57 p.m.

Tomorrow

- Sunrise, 5:50 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:58 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 36 degrees
- Humidity 32 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds west 8 mph
- Barometer 30.19 inches and falling
- Record High 83° (1921)
- Record Low 0° (1965)

Last 24 Hours*

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| High | 43° |
| Low | 25° |
| Precipitation | trace |
| Snow | trace |

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 30s, southwest wind 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 60-65, low mid 30s, northwest wind 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday to Friday: chance of rain, high 55-60, low 30s.

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

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.72 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.67
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Corn — \$1.88 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.79
Loan deficiency payment — 20¢
Milo — \$3.01 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.88 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.77
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.13
Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.50 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.18
Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$14 (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.
Sides at odds over tax poll

TOPEKA — A state teacher’s union and a lawmaker are at odds over whether the union should release the questions from a poll that claims Kansans would support a tax increase for education.

The Kansas National Education Association says its poll shows that 65 percent of Kansans would support such a tax increase. Kansas House Speaker Kent Glasscock has asked the union for the questions asked in that poll. The union turned him down.

KNEA lobbyist Craig Grant says the organization considers the specifics of the questions proprietary information. And he said he believed that people seeking the wording were trying to discredit the poll.

The poll was conducted by Jayhawk Consulting, a company led by a former school district lobbyist.

It’s a dirty job



Robert Gazaway, a worker with Ritchie Paving of Wichita, was clearing an area north of Goodland along K-27 this morning, preparing for an asphalt plant that will be moved in later this summer. The K-27 rebuilding project, which will close the road for up to eight months, was scheduled to begin today, but a state construction engineer said weather has pushed the start time back to Thursday.

Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

Countywide recycling effort on agenda

Sherman County commissioners hope to revitalize the county’s Solid Waste Committee with some new members Tuesday as a first step toward planning a countywide recycling effort.

The regular meeting begins at 8 a.m. in the commission room on the first floor of the courthouse. During their meeting on March 13, commissioners looked at the list of members and noted that several had moved away.

Reviving the committee was one of

the suggestions that came out of a joint city and county meeting Monday. Members of the two commissions discussed the new county landfill and problems with the solid waste collection system.

It was suggested the county revive the committee as a first step in establishing a recycling program, and seeking state or federal grants. Listed as advising members will be Ed Wolak, city director of public works, and Curt

Way, county road and bridge superintendent.

Commissioners said recycling is one of the best ways to get material out of the trash and keep from having to bury it in the landfill. Way said that would prolong the life of the landfill and reduce the possibility of contamination, which forced the city and county to close the old city/county landfill near the airport over three years ago.

In other business, the commissioners

will meet with William McKnight, grounds and building maintenance supervisor, about bids for spraying weed at the county fairgrounds.

Steve Duell, president of the county fair board, is scheduled to meet with the commissioners at 9 a.m. to discuss some electrical bids, the need for a sewer line for the carnival, and concrete around the 4-H building. The carnival will pay for the sewer line and 4-H will pay for the concrete.

Troops to cut off Albanian rebel supply lines

By Danica Kirca
Associated Press Writer

TETOVO, Macedonia — The Macedonian army sent four tanks into the country’s second-largest city today to fight ethnic Albanian insurgents as NATO promised to send troops to the border with neighboring Kosovo to cut off rebel supply lines.

The use of the tanks appeared to sig-

nal that the country’s military was prepared to become more involved in the battle against the rebels, who say they are fighting for greater rights for minority ethnic Albanians. Until now, mainly police and special forces have participated in the fighting on the government side.

As the conflict moved into its sixth day, European leaders stepped up their

criticism of the rebels’ tactics. In Brussels, European Union foreign ministers discussed proposals to boost support for the Macedonian government, including help to improve border controls and increase financial aid to the country.

The rebels insist their battle is not being instigated by the former Kosovo Liberation Army from the Yugoslav

province of Kosovo, but the latest uprising shares the aspirations of Kosovar Albanians for self-determination, if not outright independence. Some Western governments fear that hope for independence could take the shape of an expanded Kosovo including territory now part of Macedonia. The fighting was making it difficult to get shipments of medical supplies into Kosovo.

Long-time commissioner hangs up his hat

Principal decided not to run again

By Rachel Miscal
The Goodland Daily News

After 10 years in office, Jim Mull is hanging up his city commissioner hat to make room for some new ideas, but said he’s not ruling out a comeback.

“I think you can stay on for too long,” said Mull, the principal of Grant Junior High, who was elected to the commission in 1991. “When election time came around, I just wasn’t as excited about it as before.”

The 56-year-old Mull, who served a term as mayor, said he wants to devote more time to his baby grandson, go back to school to earn superintendent credentials — giving him the option of finishing his career as head of a smaller district — and work on his golf game.

Mull said he’d like to see a younger person with fresher ideas and perspectives take his seat, but that doesn’t mean he won’t decide later that he wants it back.



Jim Mull

Mull said he’s disappointed more people aren’t in the race, noting that apathy and fear of failure or embarrassment stop many from filing.

“Anytime you run for anything,” he said, “you put yourself out there.”

But, Mull said, the positive aspects of the job far outweigh the negative. He’s proud of all the city has accomplished in the past 10 years, he said, though much of it isn’t highly visible.

Mull said the commission has updated the power lines, replaced the water lines, helped bring a sunflower plant to town, had a new baseball complex and swimming pool built, collaborated on projects with the county and school board and has worked to spend the city’s money more wisely.

He said he got started because friends, tired of hearing him complain about commission decisions, encouraged him to run.

“Like everyone else,” he said, “I like to run my mouth and say I can do better. Friends said if I wanted to talk, I should put my money where my mouth is.”

Mull said he has taken the job very seriously, missing only three meetings

in 10 years and only losing his temper twice, over issues he can no longer recall.

He said he doesn’t regret much, except that the commission moved too slowly on some projects.

The city plans to remove the old wye on Cherry Street near the Business U.S. 24 junction this summer, but, Mull said, he wished they would have done it a long time ago.

“We could have pushed for it harder,” he said.

Something he’ll never regret, he said, is hiring City Manager Ron Pickman. Pickman came to Goodland as chief of police in 1994 and moved up to the manager’s position after doing both jobs for a while.

“I don’t think I could have lasted 10 years without Ron,” he said. “Pickman’s leadership is a plus for Goodland.”

Though he’ll stay informed, Mull said, he is ready to let go of the office.

“It won’t be hard,” he said. “When the kids left home, everyone said I would have empty-nest syndrome. It took a week for me to adjust. I think everyone needs change.”

Senators to assess proposals

Gov. Graves’ plan includes tax hikes

TOPEKA (AP) — Debate on school finance will remain largely behind the scenes this week as senators step back to digest the latest education proposals and assess support for them.

While there is plenty for legislators to like, there is an equal amount to dislike. Chief among the things to dislike is raising taxes to raise more money for elementary and secondary schools.

A growing number of legislators are quick to point out what Senate Majority Leader Lana Oleen already recognizes as the looming problem: a hole in the 2002 budget.

That hole is being created by slower than expected revenue growth through February. As of Feb. 28, the state’s revenue collections were nearly \$50 million short of expectations.

Unless the numbers rebound, Oleen said, any increase in education spending is in doubt.

“The realization is that the money is not there to fund the governor’s plan and the budget,” said Oleen, R-Manhattan, a member of the Senate Education Committee.

Last week, Gov. Bill Graves proposed a \$112 million plan to raise the base state aid per pupil \$110, from \$3,820 to \$3,930, increase special education funding and set aside \$34 million in incentives for excellence.

The plan would be financed by raising the sales tax from 4.9 percent to 5.1 percent and increasing motor fuels taxes 2 cents a gallon.

The fuels tax would free \$36 million in sales tax money currently used to finance the 10-year, \$13.6 billion comprehensive transportation program.

Graves plans to travel the state this week, pleading the case for his plan to editorial writers and broadcasters. He said that he has an obligation, especially as a Republican governor, to explain why he wants to raise additional revenue after six years of pushing tax cuts.

Society to ask for grant

The Goodland City Commission will listen to a \$1,200 grant request from the Sherman County Historical Society when it meets tonight.

The society wants the money to help with expenses on a 1907 Victorian house that they purchased recently and plan to use as a tourist attraction.

City Manager Ron Pickman will give a report on the sewer line to be put in at the Goodland airport to accommodate businesses that may want to move there.

Commissioners also will:

- Open bids to repair the current roof and install a new roof system at city hall and a grass seeding project at the airport.
- Make an appointment to the Goodland Shade Tree Commission to fill the place left by the resignation of Mike Cochran.
- Discuss an ordinance regulating storage and use of liquefied petroleum in town.
- Discuss an ordinance relating on reading of electric utility meters.
- Hear bids for a copy machine for the city electric department.
- Discuss the annual statement for the land and water conservation fund.

The meeting will include reports from commissioners and Mayor Chuck Lutters. Commissioners meet at 5 p.m. on the second floor of the city offices.