

weather  
report

70°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:14 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:22 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:15 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 51 degrees

• Humidity 32 percent

• Sky mostly cloudy

• Winds southeast 25 mph

• Barometer 29.59 inches

and falling

• Record High 88° (1991)

• Record Low 8° (1936)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 63°

Low 44°

Precipitation 0.03 inch

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 50 percent chance of thunderstorms which may produce large hail and damaging winds, low 40, wind 35-45 mph and gusty. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 70-75, low mid 30s, west wind 20-30 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: dry, high 65-70. Monday: dry, high 60s, low 30s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.71 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.62

Loan deficiency payment — 00¢

Corn — \$1.95 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.85

Loan deficiency pmt. — 14¢

Milo — \$3.12 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$3.81 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.72

Loan deficiency payment — \$1.18

Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$6.70 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.00

Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$14

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Frontier

Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean.

These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon  
wire

Late news  
from the  
Associated  
Press

1 p.m.

Comrade says  
U.S. at fault

BEIJING — Shaking his fist in anger, a Chinese fighter pilot sent to tail a U.S. spy plane said on state television today he saw the aircraft slam into his partner's jet, sending it spinning out of control over the South China Sea.

Pilot Zhao Yu's account echoed official Chinese claims that the American plane was to blame for the collision between a U.S. Navy EP-3E and a Chinese F-8 fighter. "I saw the nose and the left wing of the American plane hit Wang Wei's plane," Zhao told the state-run Xinhua News Agency. "I advised Wang Wei, 'Your tail's been destroyed. Try to hold your course. Hold your course.' Wang Wei replied, 'O.K.'"

State television showed Zhao in his blue aviator's uniform shaking his fist as he condemned the U.S. plane.

# Budget chairmen don't see tax hike

## Leaders say enthusiasm low on idea to increase taxes to make up shortfall

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — The chairmen of the Legislature's budget committees say they see little enthusiasm for increasing taxes as a way to solve state government's financial problems.

Lawmakers sent an incomplete budget that the state cannot afford to Gov. Bill Graves on Thursday and began scrambling to find ways to balance spending and revenues.

On a 22-17 vote Thursday, the Senate approved a compromise \$9.11 billion spending bill

that contains most of the budget for fiscal 2002, which begins July 1.

The House had passed the measure Wednesday, just hours before revenue forecasters slashed their estimates of tax receipts for fiscal 2001 and 2002. The forecasters predicted a \$185 million gap between likely revenue and the spending approved in the compromise bill.

Legislators must cut some appropriations they have already approved, raise taxes, find new sources of money, or produce some combination of all three. Some were prepared to reduce appro-

priations, while others put staffers to work researching possible tax increases.

But House Appropriations Chairman Kenny Wilk said he isn't counting on legislators increasing taxes.

"I don't sense a groundswell of support for a tax increase," said Wilk, R-Lansing.

Senate Ways and Means Chairman Steve Morris said he won't rule out any tax increase, but he said he thinks it would be small and limited to the state's "sin" taxes, on alcohol and tobacco. He said he doesn't see his colleagues approving a general

tax increase, such as a sales tax hike.

"Right now, we're going to have to bite the bullet," said Morris, R-Hugoton.

Legislators plan to start their annual spring break Saturday, reconvening April 25 to complete the year's business and consider one last budget bill.

"We would like to avoid across-the-board cuts," said Rep. Rocky Nichols, of Topeka, the ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Com-

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Judge  
Heartless  
(Steve  
Evert),  
listened to a  
plea from  
an arrestee  
in his  
Cardiac  
Arrest Court  
held  
Wednesday  
in the  
Sherman  
County



## It's a Cardiac ARREST



Jazzmin Weis and Sydni Callahan, both six-years-old, displayed their guilt behind bars at Wednesday's Cardiac Arrest in Goodland. Weis

was charged with "failure to have a heart." and Callahan was being "too generous."

Photos by Eric Yonkey / The Goodland Daily News

## Volunteers arrested for having a heart

By Eric Yonkey

The Goodland Daily News

Raising nearly \$2,000 over the \$6,000 goal, Sherman County arrestees brought in more than \$7,900 by the close of Wednesday's Cardiac Arrest campaign at the Sherman County Courthouse.

Randall Braden, regional director of the American Heart Association from Hays, said he anticipates that a few hundred dollars will push the final amount over \$8,000.

Becky Schulte of Goodland was the Top Arrestee, raising \$420 for the group. Braden, a longtime Kansas publisher who previously owned the

Oberlin, St. Francis and Bird City newspapers, said he sold his last newspapers in 2000 and joined the Heart Association in December. He and other directors conduct Cardiac Arrest programs across Kansas throughout the year. Braden congratulated both arrestees and members of the parole board for vastly exceeding their goal.

Charges against the volunteers were mostly tongue-in-cheek. Arrestee Beulah McClung was jailed for spending her children's inheritance, Dorothy Bentzinger for dognapping, and Robbi Pottorff for disconnecting calls at her business.

Vera Beneda thought she would ob-

serve Heart Healthy exercise by climbing the stairs to the Sherman County courtroom. Judge Heartless, alias Steve Everet, slapped Beneda for using the stairs because this was "too good for the heart." Two 6-year-old girls, Jazzmin Weis and Sydni Callahan, were charged respectively for "failure to have a heart" and for "being generous."

Cardiovascular diseases have been America's No. 1 killer of men and women since 1919, the association says. These diseases kill 960,000 Americans each year, more than cancer, accidents and AIDS combined. Each year, 32,000 babies are born with

heart defects.

In 1997-98, the association funded \$1.26 million in cardiovascular research in Kansas. The group offers educational programs in schools, work places and other programs. The goal is to reduce coronary heart disease, stroke and risk factors by 25 percent by 2008.

Local parole board members helping with Cardiac Arrest were Shawna Anderson, Vera Beneda, Donna Fennner, Jo Simmons, Crystal Linsner, Lynn Swayne, Sheila Wilkening, Judy Ashton, Tina Gould, Brenda McCants, Donna Pickman, Nina Mersch, Rebecca Downs and Lori Leonard.

## Official says roadwork will start this summer

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Construction on the Cherry Street project, where a new road will be built connecting Cherry Street and Business U.S. 24, could begin as early as May 1 or as late as June 25, City Manager Ron Pickman said.

He said Venture Corp., a construction company from Great Bend, received the bid on the project earlier this year and have a loose time frame for when construction could begin.

The project, which includes removing the old wye near the Business U.S. 24 intersection and straightening Cherry Street, is to be completed within 90 working days.

Pickman said a large portion of the work will be done off the street so it won't interfere with traffic.

"When they get done with the first part, I'm sure we'll have some orange barrels to negotiate," he said, adding that at some point a section of Cherry Street between 18th and 19th Streets

will be closed.

After the project is completed, Pickman said, the street will run straight through to Highway 24, instead of curving to the east as it does now.

"We've talked to the Kansas Department of Transportation, Venture and Ritchie Paving to make sure there is access to downtown Goodland at all times during the summer," Pickman said.

There are other construction projects around Goodland this summer, includ-

ing the rebuilding of K-27, which is closed between Goodland and Cheyenne County, and the repaving of a portion of K-27 between Goodland and Wallace County.

"At no time will the east and west entrances to Goodland be closed at the same time," he added.

Pickman said the city is as tired of the orange cones as everyone else, but it will be worth it in the end.

"We will be extremely happy when they're all gone," he said.

## Park ceremony planned

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Pioneer Park supporters plan to have a dedication ceremony Monday at the city building to kick off their campaign and let people know how much money they have raised to build the park near the old wye at Cherry Street and Business U.S. 24.

The Rev. Gene Tromble, chairman of the Pioneer Park Advisory Board, asked the city commission at the regular meeting for permission to have the event. The volunteer group is trying to raise money for the park because the city's budget for the project is short.

Several committee members and two youths working on the project were present at the meeting.

At a noon public ceremony, Tromble said the committee wants to erect a thermometer showing how much has been raised for the project. At the dedication, the amount of money raised would be painted in. The ceremony will be held from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

Tromble said within three days after the committee began fund-raising ef-

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Promotional guide

## Newspaper features new guide

Inside today's Goodland Daily News subscribers will find a special 24-page color promotional booklet highlighting the history of Goodland and Sherman County and tourist attractions here.

The book is the combined effort of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau, The Goodland Daily News and Red Brick Road Promotions.

Distribution of the booklet will be as wide as possible with 15,000 being printed. Participating merchants, motels, tourism centers, real estate businesses and the convention and visitors bureau will have copies of the book.

The colorful booklet contains information about the city and Sherman County, as well as advertising for many of the area businesses. The cover photo highlights the new giant Van Gogh sunflower painting which is to be erected this spring in Goodland.