

weather report

74°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:46 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:39 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:47 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 55 degrees
• Humidity 29 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds north 8 mph
• Barometer 30.20 inches and falling

• Record High 96° (1934)
• Record Low 32° (1978)

Last 24 Hours*

High 66°
Low 40°
Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, low 50-55, southwest wind 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, 20-40 percent chance of rain, high 85, low 50, southwest wind 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: chance of rain, high 65-70. Friday: chance of rain, high 70, low 45. Saturday: dry, 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

Current wheat — \$2.76 bushel
New wheat — \$2.78 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.77
Corn — \$1.82 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.74
Loan deficiency payment — 25¢
Milo — \$2.90 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.83 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.77
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.13
Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.70 cwt.
Oil new crop — \$5.95 cwt.
Loan deficiency payment — \$3.02
Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$14 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, 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.

China forbids plane flight

BEIJING — China protested the resumption of American surveillance flights off its coast Tuesday and said it will not allow a damaged U.S. Navy spy plane to fly home under its own power.

The United States has considered other options for removing the plane — such as dismantling it and shipping it out in pieces — and China has not ruled those out. But a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday that the EP-3E Aries II aircraft will not be allowed leave the southern Chinese island of Hainan "by means of flight."

The statement released by the official Xinhua News Agency did not say why. But Beijing may be trying to punish Washington for the collision — and for the resumption of U.S. surveillance flights on Monday by making it chop up its plane and spend extra money and time shipping it home.

Senate approves budget bill

House says 'no' to tax increase

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — House members stood firm against a penny-a-gallon gasoline tax increase, forcing senators to approve a state budget that leaves the state with revenue problems to fix next year.

The Legislature finished its work for the year and adjourned just before 1 a.m. Tuesday, draw-

ing out the 13th day of work since members returned from their annual spring break and the 98th calendar day of the session.

Legislative leaders agreed that a compromise spending plan would close a \$206 million gap in the budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1, even without an increase in the fuels tax. But most leaders believed doing so would leave the state short fiscal 2003, which starts in July 2002.

The Senate had approved the year's final spending bill Friday night. The House's 68-53 vote about 12:30 a.m. Tuesday sent the measure to Gov. Bill Graves.

"We can get by this year, but it's going to be

See BUDGET, Page 4

Schools will receive \$2.26 billion

TOPEKA (AP) — House members held their first — and last — serious school finance debate today, sending Gov. Bill Graves a bill detailing how the state will distribute more than \$2.26 billion to public schools.

The House approved the bill, 70-51, early Tuesday, hours after the Senate approved the same bill, 30-9. It ended 10 days of negotiations between the chambers.

Rep. Bill Reardon, D-Kansas City, a House education negotiator, noted that the House did

not have its first school finance discussion until 11:15 p.m. on the 13th and final day of their wrap-up session. Senate Democrats voted against the bill, saying that it did not go far enough to help schools and put the burden of adequately financing education on property taxpayers. All 30 Republicans voted for the bill.

Earlier, House Education Chairman Ralph Tanner, R-Baldwin City, said negotiators overcame emotions and strong opinions on what is best for education.

Prom Night

Promenade



Prom goes show wear

Goodland High School held its Junior-Senior Prom on Saturday with the theme "Under the Stars, 2001." Students showed off their evening attire for the public in a promenade at the Max Jones Fieldhouse. Senior Courtney Fogg (top) walked around the fieldhouse one last time. Prom goes (center) lined up after walking out onto the floor. Sam Kear, Tranda Ihrig, Cody Schields and Rachael Hagerman (bottom, left to right) waited on the stairs for their turn to be announced.

Photos by Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News



Drivers hit the roof as gas prices soar sky high

By Dave Carpenter

AP Business Writer

CHICAGO — Summer vacations are just around the corner, and once again soaring gasoline prices are driving some motorists around the bend.

U.S. pump prices have hit record highs, topping the \$2-a-gallon mark in Chicago and California and spurring talk of a possible \$3 a gallon sometime after the peak driving season begins on Memorial Day.

"This is price gouging," complained Jacquie Van Keuren, filling up at a San Francisco gas station after paying as much as \$2.64 a gallon on a weekend trip to Los Angeles.

The odds appear to be against \$3 gas, according to one industry analyst. That would happen "only if something goes seriously wrong" with supplies, said Adam Sieminski of Deutsche Banc Alex Brown.

Even where prices are now, consumers are having unhappy flashbacks to last year when prices also climbed to more than \$2 a gallon.

"It's ridiculous," Cedric Norwood said Monday as he fueled up in downtown Chicago. "The oil companies are going to suck us dry."

A recent Federal Trade Commission report on last summer's price run-up found no evidence of oil industry collusion, and no blame has yet been laid for this year's increase, which is tied to

tight supplies. U.S. motorists still pay far less than their counterparts in Europe and Asia.

Pumpage is in full blossom as prices hit unprecedented levels — especially in smog-prone parts of the Midwest and West that are required to use cleaner, "reformulated" gasoline in summer. Recent fires at Tosco refineries in Los Angeles and Wood River, Ill., threatened those supplies and sent prices surging.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will probably increase its production quotas by the end of the year, possibly by enough to erase the 2.5 million-barrel-a-day cut it made earlier this year, Saudi Arabia's oil min-

ister Ali Naimi said Monday in interviews with CNBS and *The Wall Street Journal*. Depending on world economic growth, Naimi said, OPEC might go beyond restoring that cut.

U.S. gas prices reached an all-time high in the past two weeks, not adjusting for inflation, said the Lundberg Survey of 8,000 service stations.

Overall, the average price covering all grades of gasoline increased 8.58 cents to \$1.76 a gallon as of May 4.

Factoring in inflation, though, that's a full dollar less than the average cost of gasoline in March 1981.

Don't tell that to drivers in Chicago, which has the nation's most expensive gasoline.

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The commissioners said they will do some research and address the matter at a later meeting.

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Library asks for money

Higher tax would buy books, pay staff

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Librarian Janet Warren asked Goodland City commissioners Monday to consider raising the 4-mill property tax levy which supports the library so they can keep up with book purchases, operating costs and services.

Warren said the library, which is run by the city but also supported by the county, needs more money. The board would like the city to increase the levy, which now generates about \$87,000 for operation of the library.

A couple of years ago, the city was allowed by the state to budget .33 of a mill for the library for employee benefits, which is about \$7,000, City Manager Ron Pickman said.

The library board established an endowment trust fund to bring in more money, and it gets money from the county, state, the Northwest Kansas Library System and local contributors, Warren said, but it's not enough.

In order to continue to meet the needs of residents, she said, city support of the library needs to increase, Warren said. If they repeal a charter ordinance setting the levy at 4 mills, she said, commissioners could adjust the library levy up or down.

Warren said in 1993, 24.3 percent of the library's money went to purchase library materials, but this year, only 18.5 percent was available for books and the like. And while the percentage of money to spend on books has gone down, she added, but the cost of materials continues to go up.

She said operating costs also are going up and they must maintain the heating and cooling system and the plumbing. She said recently the library spent \$1,500 for updates on the boiler in order to get insurance.

Warren said the library's board has worked hard to find other sources of money.

"We feel we need to go higher," she said about the mill levy. "We have nowhere to go."

Mike Foust, a Goodland lawyer and library board member, said it's important to keep the library services. He said they have a reference library, but the information is several years out of date.

That's the kind of thing that suffers when your library services go down, he said. Some of the information is on the Internet, but not all of it and not in the format that kids are taught to use.

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Commissioner Hurd said he wanted to thank the high school students who picked up trash along Business U.S. 24 and K-27.

Mayor Tom Rohr said he also wanted to commend those students and the junior high kids who cleaned up yards for senior citizens. He said the city needed to welcome Jay Jolly, hospital administrator, and Ken Clouse, who would