

weather report

28°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:48 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:05 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:49 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 34 degrees
- Humidity 58 percent
- Sky sunny with high clouds
- Winds south 15 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.00 inches and falling
- Record High 68° (1943)
- Record Low -6° (1930)

Last 24 Hours*

High 43°
Low 16°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: cloudy, low lower 10s, winds northeast 10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly cloudy, high lower 30s, low mid 10s, winds north 5-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: mostly sunny, high upper 20s. Friday, Saturday and Sunday: partly cloudy, high lower 30s, low lower 10s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.69 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.64
- Corn — \$1.98 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.85
- Loan deficiency payment — 14¢
- Milo — \$1.70 bushel
- Soybeans — \$3.89 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.85
- Loan deficiency payment — \$1.07
- Millet — \$3.50 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$8.70 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 67¢
- Confection current — inquire
- Pinto beans — \$23 (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.

U.S. military stops airstrike

KABUL, Afghanistan — After days of intensive airstrikes, the U.S. military stopped bombing a mountain honeycombed with suspected terrorist hideouts today, enabling civilians living nearby who had fled the onslaught to return to their homes, many smashed into rubble.

Pakistani troops searched vehicles on their side of the border across from the former al-Qaida base at Zavar in eastern Afghanistan, seeking Arabs and other foreigners who could be members of Osama bin Laden's terror network trying to escape. None were immediately discovered.

U.S. officials in Washington said the military was now seeking new targets in its hunt for die-hard supporters of bin Laden and his Taliban allies.

The military said its airstrikes destroyed the complex.

City seeking ideas on trash service

Individual dumpsters proposed

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

Goodland city commissioners hope people will turn out Monday to talk about plans to change its trash-hauling service, including a proposal to provide individual roll-out dumpsters to homes and an extra fee for yard waste.

City commissioners held a workshop Monday night to discuss options on dealing with solid waste. City Manager Ron Pickman presented a proposal which includes eliminating the green neighborhood trash dumpsters and providing roll-out dumpsters at each home all over the city. Optional yard waste pickup, also in roll-outs, would cost \$6 a month extra, or people could just take yard waste clippings to the transfer station themselves.

The current \$10-per month fee would not be raised right away, but the commission already has decided to end separate pickups of cardboard and lawn waste. Special dumpsters for those items have been collected and stored.

To pick up the roll-outs, the city would need rear-load garbage trucks in addition to the top-load trucks it has now. Pickman's proposal would sell one of the city's three top-load trucks, and buy one new and one used rear-loader.

The city would still need two top-load trucks, Pickman said, since commercial sites would keep the large dumpsters. They would be outfitted with locking metal lids, though, to keep



The city collected all its yard waste and cardboard recycling containers and hauled them off to storage near the city shop. If a proposed plan is enacted, the containers could be sold off to private companies.

Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

the trash from being contaminated with items the landfill won't accept.

The city would have to put two men on each truck as opposed to the one it has now.

As the roll-outs are dumped into the truck, a worker would have to look through the trash to see if anything which isn't allowed was in it.

The city would be able to sell 2,200 large dumpsters it has now, but the total cost of the proposal would be between \$200,000 and \$300,000, including \$106,000 just for buying the new roll-outs.

A proposal from the audience of nine was keeping the system as it is now, but

putting locking metal lids on all dumpsters. Each person on a block would be issued a key, and all would be held responsible for what is put in it. Blocks which could not control their trash could be charged a higher fee.

Yard waste would probably still be in individual roll-outs under this proposal.

Mayor Tom Rohr estimated it would cost \$150,000 to put lids on all dumpsters.

Commissioner Rick Billinger suggested we keep the system exactly as it is now, but hire two people to sort out the trash before it gets to the landfill. Mary Volk, city clerk, estimated this would cost the city \$50,000 a man, and

the commissioners doubted whether they could get people to stick with the job.

Pickman said a simple solution would be to keep things the way they are, but raise trash hauling fees, possibly to four times what they are now.

He said the waste program is not supporting itself and the city is dipping into other funds to pay for it.

The county started charging a \$32-a-ton "tipping fee" on Jan. 1. The city is charged extra for loads of trash which contain items which the landfill does not accept.

Pickman said the landfill weighs these loads, and charges the city \$11 a

ton. The load is separated, the unacceptable items are weighed again, and the city gets charged a second time for the offending items.

If a load is heavily mixed, he said, the city has to send workers out to sort the trash, manpower which could be used elsewhere.

Items which have different types of parts, such as a box spring mattress or a television, have to be broken up and separated. The city is charged a handling fee.

When the county took trash to the Garden City landfill, everything was thrown in together, said Pickman, but new state and federal rules have made it harder to get rid of trash. He said Sherman County has some of the most stringent regulations about landfills in Kansas.

"But we need to realize, it's not we versus them," Pickman said, "Everyone in the City of Goodland lives in Sherman County. We need to work with the county to solve this problem."

Pickman said there would be no problem if people would follow the rules, and he thinks most people do.

"It is the few who are ruining it for the many," he said.

Audience members pointed out people might not know what can't go in the different dumpsters, and the commission talked about ways to educate the town on what to do with items the landfill won't accept.

The city will pick up appliances, tree branches, and other items if a person calls.

The commission will hold another workshop Monday after its regular meeting, which starts at 5 p.m. at the city building. The commissioners ask that anyone with ideas or suggestions about the trash situation to come to the meeting.

They said they will hold off on making any decisions until they meet with the county commissioners.

Kansans say they shouldn't pay for state's mistakes

By Joshua Akers

Associated Press Writer

NORTONVILLE — Margaret Green sees the state's current economic trouble as a result of poor planning, something she says she and other Kansans shouldn't have to pay for.

Green, who owns Great Central Trucking and spends her weekends working at her restaurant, Mike's Place on Main Street, said she doesn't favor cutting or raising taxes, just spending tax dollars better.

"We're pretty well taxed," she said. "I think they need to budget better. They raise a lot of money and it's just not being distributed properly."

Legislators convened the 2002 session Monday facing a projected \$426 million gap in the budget for the 2003 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Gov. Bill Graves proposed increasing sales, cigarette and motor fuels taxes and vehicle registration fees to prevent cuts in education, social service and transportation spending.

As Graves delivered his State of the State address Monday night, three special investigators for the Kansas Corporation Commission, having dinner at Terry's Bar and Grill in Topeka, said it is time to set realistic expectations.

Graves proposes \$228 million in tax increases for budget

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Gov. Bill Graves wants to increase taxes on cigarettes, gasoline and groceries to help prevent cuts in social services and road programs and to raise a little extra money for public schools.

In his State of the State address Monday night, Graves outlined a plan to raise \$228 million in fiscal 2003, which begins July 1. The tax package is his attempt to help close a \$426 million hole between expected revenue and spending commitments.

"We're either going to invest in the

future, or we're going to deny vital services, critical programs and economic opportunity to Kansans," Graves told legislators in his eighth and final State of the State. "It's that simple."

Smokers would pay an extra 65 cents for each package of cigarettes. Motorists would pay a penny a gallon more for gasoline or diesel fuel and 75 cents more a year to register a car. The proposed 0.25 percent sales tax increase would cost Kansans 25 cents on every \$100 cart of groceries.

Graves already has submitted a

proposed budget to the Legislature that would cut education and social services spending, close five minimum-security prisons and cancel some highway projects.

State law required him to submit a balanced budget that assumes no new sources of revenue, and his package of tax increases is designed to offset the austerity of that document.

Initial reaction from Republican and Democratic legislators was cool.

Sen. Tim Huelskamp, R-Fowler,

See TAXES, Page 6

current level if not higher levels," Murphy said. "I would like to think the state would put that before other programs. If you're going to have a social program, education should be that social program."

Irfan, a Pakistani immigrant who has owned S&A Food Mart in Kansas City, Kan., for nearly two years, similarly sees education as a priority.

"Education and health are the most important," said Irfan, who goes by one name. "Better services mean the state runs good."

And he believes higher taxes would be a good idea.

"Tax is the backbone of the economy," he said. "We take services from the government all the time. When you call 911, they show up. Taxes are good. Taxes are for us."

State government isn't alone in its financial crunch. Citizens struggle with money matters, too.

Margie Begley, owner of Paolucci's Restaurant and Lounge, also in Atchison, doesn't want to think about a possible tax increase.

"Any tax will affect us; it'll hurt us," Begley said. "We've had two fires, and I'm just not into taxes. We're trying to survive here."

"They come in with so many high hopes and use the tax dollars to try and get there," Leroy Butler said. "We need to learn to live within our means; we're paying too much for taxes that shouldn't even be there."

The investigators also cited funding of state agencies as an area that should be looked at.

"I disagree with Graves; I think the sin tax is wrong," said David

Ollenberger, a retired trooper and now a special investigator. "Some agencies could use a little scrutinizing. I think some of them purposely spend money to keep their budget, at least that's what it looks like."

In Atchison, City Commissioner Bill Murphy, who owns a convenience store, had similar views.

"There needs to be more efficiency of money implemented," Murphy said.

"They have a tendency to do certain things where they anticipate the funds and don't want to cut back."

"The state should operate the way individuals do. If the money isn't there, you have to cut back."

Murphy and Green also agreed education shouldn't be the first victim of cuts in spending.

"I hope the Legislature has enough insight to keep education funded at the

Blaze destroys abandoned trailer home east of Goodland

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

A Sharon Springs couple's empty trailer home was destroyed this morning in a fire about six miles east of Goodland on County Road 65.

Roger Studer, a Sherman County sheriff's deputy, said Travis Palmgren, an Edson farmer, spotted the fire while driving on Road 65 and headed back to Edson to call dispatch. Studer said he and rural firemen were called out at 8:45 a.m.

The trailer, about 12 feet wide by 60 feet long, had nearly burned to the ground by the time fire fighters were able to douse the flames with water and foam.

They pulled out blackened appliances and siding to get at hot spots, and the blaze was snuffed by 10 a.m.

Studer said no one lived in the trailer, which Robert and Joan Dalrymple of Sharon Springs recently bought along



Sherman County fire fighters sprayed water on an abandoned trailer home that caught fire this morning east of Goodland. The blaze destroyed

the trailer, which was owned by a Sharon Springs couple.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

with the land.

The fire destroyed the trailer, burned a small area of grass and damaged a

tree.

Studer said later that the Dalrymples said they gave the trailer home to Carol

Fulton of Sharon Springs and someone may have been moving it for her.

Someone may have been welding a

hitch to the trailer and accidentally started the fire, he said, adding that he should know more later today.