

weather report

76°

at noon

Today



• Sunset, 7:10 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:30 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:11 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 46 degrees
- Humidity 13 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds north 10 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.71 inches and falling
- Record High 86° (1940)
- Record Low 10° (1949)

Last 24 Hours*

High 61°
Low 34°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers turning to snow late, 30 percent chance of precipitation, low near 30, winds northwest 15-35 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly cloudy, 30 percent chance of snow, high upper 30s, low near 20, winds north 10-20 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: partly sunny, high mid 40s, low mid 20s.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Side may end session early

New maps upset Democrats

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA—Upset by the way things are going with redistricting, Democrats are threatening to end the Legislature's session early, even if the state budget isn't finished.

Though a minority in both chambers, Democrats have the power to do it because of the calendar that legislators have followed for a generation. A two-thirds majority is needed to extend the session beyond the constitutional limit of 90 days, and Republicans don't have the votes in the House.

The Democrats have the desire because they're not happy with how Republican leaders have handled redistricting issues.

They are discussing a plan in which they force the session to end on April 13, the last day before legislators begin their spring break, and cancel the wrap-

up session scheduled to begin May 1. If the budget is not done, Gov. Bill Graves would be forced to call legislators into special session, the first in 12 years, because state government can't operate without a spending plan.

Democratic leaders aren't clear about what they would hope to accomplish, other than demonstrating their unhappiness and showing that the Republican-dominated Legislature is slow.

The threat appears to be a tactic to get GOP leaders to move more quickly on redistricting.

"In this process, you always look for as much leverage as you can find," said Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka.

Republican leaders said they are baffled by the Democrats' talk of shut-

See SESSION, Page 4

Stuck truck closes I-70 at construction

Bridge work to last throughout summer

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

A semi-trailer truck too big to get through the construction west of town closed down both sides of I-70 last week.

Bridges Inc., based out of Newton, started repairing six bridges west of Goodland on March 18, from Kanorado east about 12 miles west, said Donna Binning, an engineer with the Kansas Department of Transportation. Traffic is down to one 14-foot lane on both east- and westbound sides of the highway.

About noon Wednesday, a truck pulling a 16-foot load got stuck trying to get through the construction around mile marker 7, said Lt. Kevin Winston, Sherman County supervisor for the Kansas Highway Patrol. A second truck, behind the first, tried to turn around over the median, she said, and got stuck. Sections of the interstate, on both sides, had to be closed until about 1:45 p.m., Winston said, while the truck

was freed. There are no signs to warn that the interstate lane narrows, Binning said, but commercial drivers are required to check the department's website, where road conditions are posted.

"The driver obviously didn't check," Binning said.

East on I-70, Venture Corp. based in Great Bend, started taking off and replacing asphalt in Thomas County between Colby and Levant last week. Construction workers have narrowed the westbound side to one lane, Binning said, and will narrow the eastbound lanes in a couple of weeks. Later they will recycle the pavement and put down a new surface overlay.

Originally, the department planned to detour westbound traffic on I-70 through Colby on U.S. 24, but decided to change plans after getting phone calls from Colby residents.

The construction will last through the summer, Binning said, and both projects should be done by October.



Big bunny draws crowd

The Easter Bunny made an appearance Saturday at Gulick Park and about 100 youngsters made quick work of picking up the nearly 1,200 eggs that were spread out. The Easter Bunny (Carol Guyer) was assisted by the Topside Lions and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

Photos by Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News



local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.71 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.56
- New Crop — \$2.67
- Corn — \$1.85 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.82
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 17¢
- Milo — \$1.56 bushel
- Soybeans — \$4.11 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.11
- Loan deficiency payment — 81¢
- Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$9.10 cwt.
- NuSun — \$9.25
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 43¢
- Confection current — \$16/\$8 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$27

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Israel seizes Arab towns

BETHLEHEM, West Bank — Israeli tanks and bulldozers rumbled into more Palestinian towns and massed on the edge of Bethlehem in an expansion of their West Bank offensive today, as Palestinian militants killed 10 suspected collaborators ahead of the advancing Israeli troops.

Israeli soldiers conducted door-to-door searches in Ramallah and the northern town of Qalqilya, which troops and tanks seized the night before. Sporadic gunfire and explosions echoed through Ramallah for hours. The Israelis fired anti-aircraft guns at a downtown building; a group of Palestinian boys drew live fire from soldiers when they lit a bonfire of tires and threw stones.

A blast apparently caused by a car bomb went off near Jerusalem's Old City.

Doc's guns



Seth Ward examined some of the 50 guns from the collection of Dr. A.E. Gulick on special display Saturday at the High Plains Museum. Ward, the son of Evelyn Ward of Goodland, came from Trinidad, Colo., for the gun show. He said he was interested in the old guns because he is in a gunsmithing program at Trinidad Community College. The collection includes guns from before the Civil War up to the First World War.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

Baler may extend landfill's life

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County commissioners plan to see a demonstration of a trash baler for the landfill when they meet Tuesday, hoping to extend the life of the new landfill and cut costs as well.

Meantime, a citizen appeared at their last meeting Friday to take the commissioners to task for not working better with the city of Goodland.

Bill Kephart, 1222 Sherman, asked to talk to the commissioners about their trash dispute with the city. Although he was not on the agenda, they gave him 10 minutes. Kephart pointed to the trash story in the Wednesday *Goodland Daily News* and told the commission-

ers the situation was "ridiculous."

"I called the state in Topeka and Ken Brooks at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in Hays," Kephart said. "They told me the state doesn't enforce the things the county is saying can't go in the landfill."

He suggested the problem could be solved "with changes in the faces at the transfer station."

Commissioner Chuck Frankendorf defended landfill manager Margaret Russell, who had rejected a load of trash from the city after finding construction debris in a load. The county had warned the city about delivering loads with materials it has banned from the landfill.

"She (Margaret Russell) is doing what she has been told," he said.

"I am on the city, too," Kephart said. "I ask that you do a better job."

The demonstration Tuesday will be by Dave Lane from the Glen L. Deheart Co., said Curt Way, county public works director. Commissioners from several other counties have been invited to see the baler.

This baler is being considered to improve the use of the landfill and to reduce the amount of compacting and covering that has to be done each day. With the baler, the trash is compacted and baled at the transfer station and the

See TRASH, Page 4

Wal-Mart biggest company in the world

NEW YORK (AP) — It started out 40 years ago as a discount retailer that carved out a niche in small-town America by selling everything from toothpaste to toys.

Now, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is the biggest company in the world on the annual Fortune 500 list, with nearly \$220 billion in revenues.

Wal-Mart, No. 2 on the list a year ago, overtook oil giant Exxon Mobil Corp. in the rankings compiled on the basis of companies' annual revenue. The

retailer's ascendancy was expected after both companies issued 2001 results earlier this year.

The list, published in the Fortune issue that reaches newsstands April 8, did have some surprises, most notably the appearance in the top five of Enron Corp., which moved up two notches to No. 5 despite its downward spiral into bankruptcy.

Carol Loomis, a member of Fortune's board of editors, said Enron made the list because the magazine

used Enron's restated earnings from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, which gave it revenues of \$139 billion. The company's bankruptcy filing on Dec. 2 didn't make it ineligible for consideration, he said, and the company has yet to report fourth-quarter results.

The magazine also took into account the fact that energy companies are permitted to list the gross value of energy trading contracts as revenues — a fact that enabled other energy companies to rise quickly in the Fortune 500.