

weather report

82°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:44 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:41 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:45 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 64 degrees
- Humidity 20 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds northeast 10 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.91 inches and rising

- Record High 95° (1934)
- Record Low 30° (1978)

Last 24 Hours*

High	87°
Low	41°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, low upper 40s, winds southeast 10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: partly sunny, high lower 80s, winds north 10 m.p.h., low mid 40s with 20 percent chance of rain in the evening.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: partly sunny, high lower 60s, low upper 30s. Thursday: mostly clear, high upper 60s. Friday: partly cloudy and breezy, high 70s. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Snake show infuriates animal lovers

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

Not everyone thinks holding a Rattlesnake Roundup is such a great idea.

One of the organizers of the show in Sharon Springs, Judy Withers, says she has gotten obscene phone calls and threatening letters.

"We got one very horrible message on our answering machine," she said, "and a letter with a death wish in it. We turned them over to the (Wallace County) sheriff, so that our law enforcement is aware how much some people are against what we are doing."

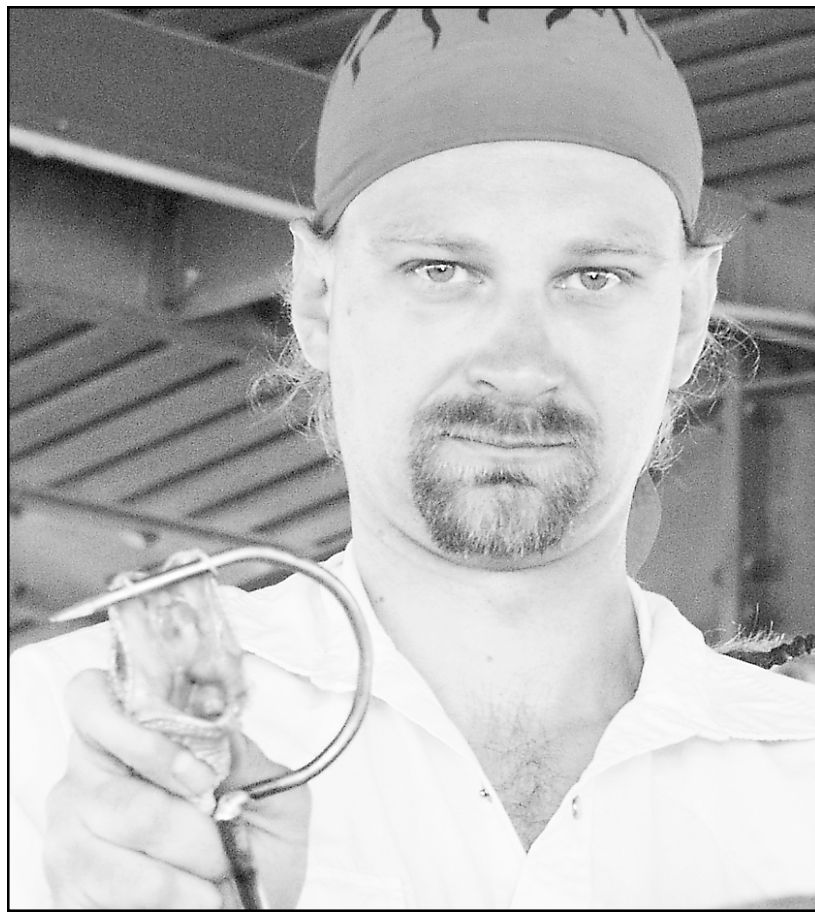
At least two animal rights groups, the Humane Society of the United States and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, and the Kansas Herpetological Society, are calling for an end to the show, calling it "barbaric," "inhumane," and "dangerous." In past years, Topeka Collegiate School, a private middle school, has been active in protesting the event.

Teresa Telecky, director of the wildlife trade program of the Humane Society, claims that many hunters flush snakes out of their dens with gasoline, which makes the den uninhabitable for both snakes, and any other animals which might use it.

"Yes, it is illegal," Telecky said, "but I am absolutely sure hunters are still doing it."

Withers says her group, Rattlesnake Roundup Inc., will not accept any snakes which have been gassed out of their homes.

"We don't want people to gas," she said. "We just want to harvest the



Tim Gunther, a rattlesnake handler from Fort Collins, Colo., showed a rattler's fangs to the crowd at last year's Rattlesnake Roundup in Sharon Springs.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

snakes, not eradicate them. If we killed them all, where would we be? It doesn't make any sense to do that."

Telecky says the Humane Society has sent people in undercover to all the different roundups, including the one in Sharon Springs.

"Hunters have told us, off the record," she said, "that they still gas the snakes. It's easier for them to do it that way."

Kevin Jones, director of law enforce-

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Rattlers to slither in for annual roundup

Snakes, snakes, and more snakes. Sharon Springs will be crawling with them at the annual Rattlesnake Roundup, the only show of its kind in Kansas.

There will be about 300 rattlers at the show on Saturday and Sunday, said Judy Withers, one of the organizers.

The show, in its 11th year, was started as an economic development project, Withers said. Organizers noticed that roundups in Texas and Oklahoma drew big crowds, she said, and decided to get in on the action.

When the show is on, Wallace County doubles its tiny population.

"Sharon Springs has about 900 people, and Wallace County about 2,000," Withers said. "We have about 2,000 people come through the gates every year, and most of them aren't locals."

The show will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Adults can get in for \$4, and kids for \$2.

Rattlesnake Roundup Inc. has been getting ready for the event for the past few months. The group had a booth at Goodland's Home and Garden Show, and Withers said they

were at Colby's and a few other towns' as well. It featured a python you could pet.

"A lot of people don't like snakes, and refuse to come down," she said. "If we (go to shows), they find out they aren't nearly as afraid as they thought they were."

"They can see we're not reckless with them. We are very careful. We are all parents, grandparents, and so on."

Withers said the prairie and diamondback rattlers will be kept in a large plexi-glass pit during the show. Snake handlers will perform stunts with the reptiles.

Most of the snakes are prairie rattlers, Withers said, caught by Kansas snake hunters who must have a hunting license and snake permit. The show buys them at about \$5 per pound.

Snakes caught for commercial purposes must be in conjunction with an event, said Kevin Jones, director of law enforcement for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in Pratt. Hunting can't start more than 30 days before an event, and a hunter can only catch 10 snakes a day, and

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local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.49 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.41
- Loan deficiency payment — 4¢
- Corn — \$1.75 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.78
- Loan deficiency payment — 21¢
- Milo — \$1.44 bushel
- Soybeans — \$3.98 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.00
- Loan deficiency payment — 92¢
- Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$9.00 cwt.
- NuSun — \$9.15 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 57¢
- Confection current — \$16/\$8 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$27

(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.

Mail bombs very similar

OMAHA — Pipe bombs left in mailboxes in Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska were nearly identical and clearly came from the same source, the FBI said today.

Agent Larry Holmquist said all of the bombs were made with the same materials. The only differences were some slight variations in the detonation mechanisms, he said, refusing to elaborate.

"There is no question that these were planted by the same person or persons," Holmquist said. He said letters planted with the bombs, which carry an anti-government message, also were identical.

Six people were injured by explosions in Illinois and Iowa on Friday. Two other bombs found in Iowa did not explode. Then, six bombs were found Saturday in rural areas of Nebraska, and a seventh was found Sunday.

Budget stuck on tax increases

Republicans ready to compromise

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — House Republican leaders were ready today to strike a deal with Democrats on a package of tax increases to finance the budget legislators approved last week.

Getting an agreement might take a while, though, and that makes a drawn out wrap-up session likely. The session entered its fifth day today.

Any deal is likely to require a promise to increase aid to public schools and provide more money for social services. Also, Democrats want to increase income taxes, something many GOP lawmakers have resisted.

House Speaker Kent Glasscock and other Republican leaders spent 45 minutes behind closed doors with House Minority Leader Jim Garner but when the talks were over still didn't have a firm idea of exactly what Garner's Democrats want.

Glasscock learned from a series of debates Saturday that he doesn't have enough support among Republicans to

pass a tax package. The House rejected proposals to increase sales, inheritance and tobacco excise taxes.

The proposal would have helped raise the \$290 million needed to balance a compromise \$4.4 billion budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. The budget itself is headed to Gov. Bill Graves.

"We still have no idea where the Democrats are," Glasscock, R-Manhattan, said after today's meeting. "I'm going to keep meeting with them until we reach some resolution."

Pressed for details about what House Democrats want, Garner remained vague.

He said Democrats want more than a "token" increase in aid to public schools and more than a one-year patch on the budget.

"There's got to be some legitimate resolution to the budget and not just patch something together, get out, and come back here facing something just as bad next year," said Garner, D-Coffeyville.

County may charge owners for lost dogs

It could cost a little more to get Poochie back the next time he gets away, at least if the county's dog catcher delivers him.

Sherman County commissioners will meet Tuesday with Sheriff Doug Whitson and Scott Gilmer, who picks up dogs in the county, to review the county's policy on animal control.

While paying April's bills, commissioners and county attorney questioned some of the "dog miles" that Gilmer was asking reimbursement for. It was not the miles, but rather the fact that in some cases the county could have billed the dog's owner when Gilmer picked it up and returned it.

In most cases, officials said, when Gilmer picks up a dog in the county, it is taken to the Prairieland Animal Clinic and held for three days. If not claimed in three days, the dog is turned over to the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter group, and volunteers try to find a new

home for it. County Attorney Bonnie Selby asked about charging a dog owner while examining the voucher Gilmer had submitted in April. She said there had been at least one or two times when Gilmer picked up a dog and instead of taking it to the Animal Clinic, he delivered the dog back to its owner.

The county also will hear a report from the Northwest Kansas Family Shelter, which will present a budget request for next year.

In old business, the commissioners are expected to review a bid for the farm lease on land around the new landfill southwest of Goodland.

Commissioners expect to have figures from Rhoads Construction on the proposed remodeling and expansion of the transfer station to prepare for installation of a trash and cardboard baler.

The commissioners meet at 8 a.m. in the commission room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse.



Fixing a leak

Rich Simon, city supervisor for water and sewers, dug a hole with a backhoe to get to a leaking water line in front of Mr. Jim's His Shop on Main on Friday afternoon. The city crew also replaced the building's water meter.

Photos by Doug Stephens
The Goodland Daily News

