

weather report

28°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:50 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 41 degrees

• Humidity 63 percent

• Sky cloudy

• Winds southeast 9 m.p.h.

• Barometer 30.27 inches

and falling

• Record High 74° (1959)

• Record Low 1° (1978)

Last 24 Hours*

High 56°

Low 23°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: cloudy with 20 percent chance of snow, low upper teens, winds southeast 5-10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: cloudy with 20 percent chance of snow, high upper 20s, low upper teens, light and variable wind.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: mostly sunny, high lower 40s, low lower 20s. Friday: mostly clear, high mid 40s. Saturday: partly cloudy, high lower 40s, low lower 20s.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.92 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.05

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$2.45 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.24

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Milo — \$2.22 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.19 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.20

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Millet — \$14.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$11.90 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Confection current — \$17/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$16

(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.

Bush skeptical of inspections

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP) — Despite reports that Iraq is giving weapons inspectors full access, a skeptical President Bush said today the critical test is whether Saddam Hussein disarms and averts war threatened by the United States.

"The issue is not the inspectors. The issue is whether or not Mr. Saddam Hussein disarms like he said he would," Bush told a partisan crowd of 5,000 during a political trip here.

"We're not interested in hide-and-seek inside Iraq. The only question is... will this man disarm? The choice is his. And if he does not disarm, the United States of America will lead a coalition to disarm him."

The line, a staple of Bush's political speeches, drew loud applause from the crowd. "Go get him, George!" one man yelled.

Trash talks still on table

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

City Commissioners agreed to continue negotiations with the county about taking over the trash collection system at their meeting Monday evening.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the discussions had produced some tentative agreements, but some points still have to be settled.

Commissioner Dean Blume asked about the special pickups of large objects, limbs and the like, which the city would continue to make. The county would not charge any fees to the city for disposal, however.

"Looks to me like we are not getting out of the trash business if we continue to do this," Blume said.

Pickman said the idea behind the city handling these was to keep the big

City roundup

The city commission met Monday and took action:

- To continue the negotiations with the county about the trash collection system. Story above.

- Repealed the home occupation permit process and approved a new water system collection protection program. Story below.

- Heard an update on the economic development program and changes in the micro-loan program. Story to come.

pieces of trash out of the alleys, and provide citizens a way to get ride of them conveniently.

"If we are not getting out of the trash business, I don't see why we can't make some adjustments on both sides and just go on the way we are," Blume said. "I think both commissions want to provide better customer service, and this could be handled in a simple manner."

"I think a few adjustments out at the landfill would make it more customer friendly. This can be made better and provide better service and at the least expense possible."

"I agree with you," said Commissioner Curtis Hurd. "I think there may be some changes if the county holds all the pieces. The county may find they need to make some changes, and we won't be doing the sorting."

"I don't like being forced into it," Blume said. "Why can't we make these changes today?"

"I agree this could have been solved," said Commissioner Chuck Lutters, "but the problem has gone on and on. This is step one and there are other things that could be done in the future. We may need to look at combining other things like fire departments and maybe police."

Blume brought up the need for the county to build a place to store the trash trucks, and that this may raise the cost to the customers.

"I agree this is a step in the right direction," Commissioner Rick Billinger said. "Maybe we ought to make that 10 years in the building to keep the cost down."

"I thought the idea was to get out of the trash system," Blume said.

"I like this because the dollars are staying here," Billinger said, referring to a proposal to sell the system to a Colorado company. "The county may make changes after they get the whole system."

Mayor Tom Rohr said the big thing is that the county would be in charge and could make the decisions.

"We won't be subsidizing this any more," Hurd said. "We can use the money to do other things, like fix streets."

A question was asked about how much longer the discussions would go on, and if there had been a new proposal from the private firm, U.S. Waste Industries of Colorado Springs.

Pickman said there has not been a new proposal from the Colorado firm, but that they were supposed to be on the agenda for the next commission meeting on Monday, Dec. 16.



Several Highway Patrol troopers and sheriff's deputy Roger Studer searched Jessica Brantner's car this morning for identification and evidence of how the Kansas City, Mo., woman got into the accident. Photos by Rachel Hixson/The Goodland Daily News

Woman's car rolls on freeway

20-year-old flown to Wichita hospital

A 20-year-old Kansas City, Mo., woman was flown to a Wichita hospital with a leg fracture and other injuries this morning after her car rolled several times on I-70 about 15 miles east of Goodland.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that Jessica Brantner was eastbound in a 2002 Toyota about 8:17 a.m. when the car went into the median, swerved back into the eastbound lanes and then rolled.

The car landed on the driver's side with its top facing west, blocking the right-hand lane. Glass, broken hubcaps, pieces of headlights and tail lights and Brantner's personal items littered the roadway.

Sherman County rescue workers used a hydraulic extraction tool to cut the top off the car, exposing its interior so rescuers could remove the victim.

She was reportedly not wearing a seat belt.

Brantner was taken by ambulance to Goodland Regional Medical Center, where Dale Schields, director of



Sherman County rescue workers moved accident victim Jessica Brantner from her wrecked car to an ambulance this morning on I-70.

human resources, said she was listed in stable condition.

She had a leg fracture the hospital

couldn't handle, he said, so she was flown to Wesley Medical Center, where there is a good orthopedic sur-

geon. Brantner's car was towed away by McB's Towing.

City drops home business permit rule

People won't have to go to the city for a home occupation permit any more after the City Commission voted unanimously to repeal the ordinances requiring the permits at a meeting Monday.

Dr. Terry Imel, a Goodland dentist who is the head of the city Planning Commission, said they had spent many hours discussing the home occupation permit process, and felt that it was mostly unnecessary.

"We felt it was more of a nuisance fee to people trying to open a business," Imel said. "We had never had a complaint from people on any of these, and most of the permits were for day care, which is already regulated by the state."

"This will eliminate the extra paperwork and inspections for the city which

are already covered by the state. "Removing this does not eliminate any of the zoning provisions, but does mean there will not be any need for the permits or the annual renewals."

The ordinance repeals the \$25 fee, the annual renewal, the requirement for 75 percent of the surrounding people to agree on the use, a site inspection by the fire chief and rule voiding a permit which is not used for six month or longer.

Jerry Nemechek, city building official, said the repeal would save his office time and eliminate a lot of paperwork.

The ordinance also repeals a section of the zoning code dealing with fees for sign permits. This section was being

repealed because there were two sections in conflict, and removing one will make the zoning code cleaner, commissioners said. The code still requires sign permits and fees.<?>

Commissioner Curtis Hurd said he thought this was a good idea, and made the motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Commissioner Chuck Lutters said he agreed and seconded the motion.

Commissioner Dean Blume wondered if removing the permit process would not mean a lot of unregulated businesses would pop up in homes.

Dr. Imel said he did not think that would happen.

"The people who are trying to open businesses under the zoning regula-

tions were the ones we were getting through the permit process," he said. "If there were businesses who were not doing things under the permit process, we didn't know about them. The ones we were getting were the ones who were trying to do things right and within the regulations."

The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the ordinance. The repeal will be effective after the publication in *The Goodland Daily News*.

The commission also approved a franchise extension agreement with Southwestern Bell Telephone Co..

City Manager Ron Pickman said the extension was needed because the fran-

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Developer pleads guilty in bank fraud case

By Roxana Hegeman

Associated Press Writer

WICHITA — With his hands clenched behind his back, Wichita businessman Richard "Dick" Boushka stood before a federal judge Monday and solemnly replied 'guilty' four times as the judge read the charges against him in a \$19 million bank fraud case.

Boushka, 68, a developer of shopping centers and a racetrack and former Olympic basketball star, was indicted by a federal grand jury in May on 60 counts of bank fraud, wire fraud and other offenses.

Under an agreement with the U.S. Attorney's office, Boushka pleaded guilty to two counts of bank fraud and one count each of making a false state-

ment to obtain a bank loan and omission of information for the sale of a security. As part of the deal, the government agreed to ask the remaining charges against Boushka be dismissed at the time of sentencing.

U.S. District Judge Wesley Brown set sentencing for March 3.

Prosecutors agreed to recommend sentences at the lower end of the federal guidelines, which call for maximums of 30 years and a \$1 million fine on each of the fraud and false statement charges, and five years and a \$10,000 fine on the omission of information charge.

"Protecting our country's banking system by prosecuting bank fraud and white collar crime is a high priority at

the U.S. Attorney's office," said U.S. Attorney Eric Melgren in a statement. "We will vigorously prosecute anyone who commits these types of crimes and, upon their conviction, we will request the court to sentence him to time in federal prison."

Boushka declined to comment following the hearing. His attorney, Steve Joseph, said his client got involved in some business transactions with international con artists who were promoting a so-called bank note trading program. He said they took advantage of Boushka's good reputation to borrow money through him.

"In getting involved with those people, he and others overstepped the bounds of what was permissible in

banking," Joseph said. Boushka is cooperating with prosecutors investigating the international con scheme.

"Folks go around lying all the time. That wasn't the case here," Joseph said. "It was more a situation of Mr. Boushka on several occasions choosing not to learn the truth intentionally because he was afraid of what the truth will be — which in the law is just as bad as knowing."

Prosecutors contend Boushka falsified loan documents to bilk American Bank out of \$19 million. Hillcrest Bank bought American Bank in 1999.

Joseph said the actual loss to the bank was closer to \$3.6 million, not the \$19 million prosecutors contend.