

weather report

51°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 4:24 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 6:57 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 36 degrees
- Humidity 28 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds north 17 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.88 inches and falling
- Record High 77° (1939)
- Record Low -18° (1961)

Last 24 Hours*

High	62°
Low	23°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low mid 20s, winds northwest 10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly sunny, high upper 40s, low lower 20s, winds northwest 10 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Friday: clearing, high mid 50s, low mid 20s. Saturday: clear, high mid 50s. Sunday: mostly clear, high upper 50s, low upper 20s. Monday: mostly clear, high upper 40s, low upper 20s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$3.68 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.65
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Corn — \$2.45 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.21
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Milo — \$2.22 bushel
- Soybeans — \$5.18 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.07
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Millet — \$14.00 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$11.95 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.

Missile ship released today

WASHINGTON — The United States and Yemen faced off today as American naval forces held a missile shipment seized in the Arabian Sea, then released it at the demand of the Yemeni government.

Forces from the amphibious assault ship USS Nassau had been aboard the detained vessel since Tuesday awaiting orders on what to do with it and the weapons, Pentagon officials said.

The United States released the vessel and its cargo of North Korean-made Scud missiles after high-level consultations between the two countries, officials said.

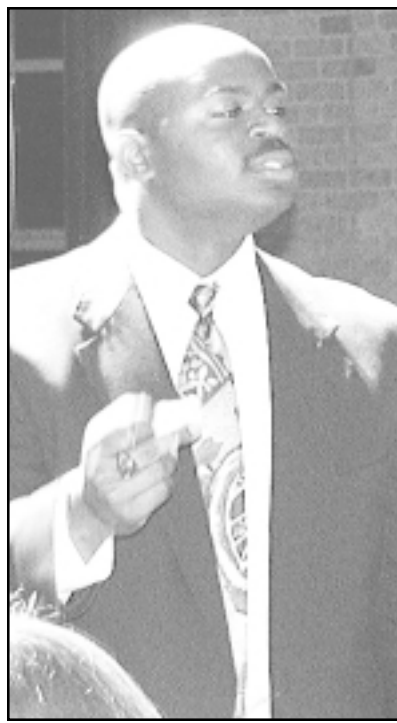
"There is no clear authority to seize the shipment ... the merchant vessel is being released," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer told a press conference.

U.S. officials had said the shipment of missiles and missile parts violated an agreement.

Jazz comes to Grant Junior High

Playing 'Gettin' on With It'

Grant Junior High bands and choirs presented their Winter Program Tuesday at the High School auditorium to a large crowd of parents and friends. Director Tremon Kizer (right) said a number of kids had come to him and Deandra Wirth asking about the possibility of having a jazz band, and Tuesday was the first public performance of the new group. Kizer said this is the first such jazz band he knows of at the junior high level, especially at Grant Junior High. The jazz band played "Gettin' on With It" by Jerry Nowak and received a good round of applause for their efforts. The jazz band included drums, guitar and keyboard (below). Tyler Anderson played the drums, Heidi Yonkey was on the keyboard, and Forrest Trachsel and John Mosbarger on the guitars. Grant Wilkens was handling the other drums and Nathan Linin handled the cymbals. On the saxophones (right) were Molly Witzel, Jena McCall, Sandy Johnson, Nathan Grady, Jonathan McClung, Vanessa Crotinger and Ashley Cebula. The trumpet section (bottom right) featured Josh



Goodley, Christopher Irvin, Andrew Pettibone and Fabiola Olave. Other members were the trombones played by Michael Smith, Benjamin Davis and Darrick Ihrig



County supports public forum on trash

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

About 10 people showed up Tuesday to talk trash with the Sherman County commissioners and most agreed there are questions that remain unanswered.

John Garcia and David Daniels from the Sherman County Economic Development Council were present and said they had met with Commissioner Kevin Rasure and City Manager Ron Pickman to review the status of the discussion.

"We don't have all the answers," Garcia said, "but feel we need to do all the investigation possible to let the city and county make the best decision possible."

Garcia said the suggestion had been made to both Rasure and Pickman that they consider holding a public forum where people could ask their questions

and give their opinions about the trash collection system. He said the city and county commissioners would be asked to be present, and the Economic Development Council would moderate the meeting and answer written questions from the audience.

"Where and when would the meeting be held," was the immediate question from the audience.

Garcia said a date had not been agreed to as this was the first time either of the boards had been asked, but that if both accepted the invitation it would probably be held in January and at a location which could handle a larger crowd.

Daniels said part of the thinking for the public forum is to give everyone the details of both the county proposal and the U.S. Waste Industries proposal so the people can judge them on their

merits.

"From our standpoint we felt it was important to try to work out an agreement to keep the trash in the county," Daniels said. "We could see that the cost would go up for all the citizens if it was taken out of the county."

"The City is subsidizing the trash now," said Elmer Jacobs. "I don't care who takes it over the state and feds are going to call the shots. I would like to see it stay here because if it goes out we will lose control and then hold on to your shorts."

"I think we are on the right track," Jacobs said.

Daniels said having the county take over the trash collection would not raise the county taxes because it would have to stand on its own through user fees.

Rasure said looking at the figures he believes the system pays for itself, and

that it not going to be paid for by county taxpayers. It has to pay for itself he said. Larry Enfield asked about the debt on the landfill and how long the current cell would last.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said the county still owes some money for equipment, and County Clerk Janet Rumpel said there were some outstanding bonds that remain to be paid.

Tiede said the real unknown is the continuing contamination problem at the old dump site.

County Public Works manager Curt Way said the current cell at the landfill was expected to last five years and that it should have another four at least. Way said it cost about \$147,000 to dig and line the present cell.

Enfield asked how long the cell might last if the city trash went out of the area.

Way said he would expect it to last nearly 15 years, and Tiede agreed that was possible.

"We could save about \$450,000 over the 15 years," Enfield suggested.

Enfield asked if there was any way the trash collection system would mean the county would raise the taxes.

Rasure again said there would not be any increase in county property taxes because the trash system would have to be funded by user fees.

"I've heard that before," Enfield said. "They told us that when the state gave us the old highway."

Tiede said that was different and agreed that the trash system would have to stand by itself. "It has to pencil out or we won't be interested at all," he said.

"I would prefer to have an individual

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Judge sentences oil man to jail for securities fraud scheme

By Steve Haynes

The Goodland Daily News

A self-styled Wichita oilman has been sentenced to a year and a half in prison after pleading no contest to charges that he defrauded out-of-state investors of nearly \$1.2 million while operating out of Goodland.

Judge Jack Burr sentenced Phillip R. McGuckin, 66, to 18 months in prison Monday for one count of securities fraud and eight months for one count of conspiracy to commit securities fraud. The sentences will run concurrently. McGuckin pleaded no contest to the charges in September. McGuckin operated here as Triton

Exploration Inc., selling interested in oil and gas leases in Gove, Hamilton and Sumner counties. The Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner claimed that the firm amounted to a "Ponzi scheme," where instead of being used for operations, money from investors is used to repay other investors.

Less than 30 percent of the money taken in by Tiron went to exploration or production of oil and gas, the office charged. The rest apparently was used to repay investors, making them think the leases were valuable.

"McGuckin also converted a substantial portion of the investors' funds

to his personal use," the office said.

Judge Burr ordered the Wichita man to repay \$1,083,009 in restitution to the 52 victims, none of whom lived in Kansas.

The securities commissioner said they included a man who had lost both legs in an industrial accident and had been living on disability payments. He told investigators he had been looking for a safe place to invest \$20,000 he received in a liability settlement.

Another investor was from Alabama, a blind man in his 80s who said he was seeking an opportunity that would help him care for his wife, who was suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

Kirk Mitchell McNab, McGuckin's stepson, also has been charged in the scheme. He faces trial Jan. 29 in Sherman County District Court. Both men have been charged in Wichita with running a similar scheme there which netted more than half a million from 39 investors.

Securities commissioner David Brant said oil and gas leases pose a high risk for investors, particularly those with little or no experience in the industry.

"Unfortunately, I continue to see cases where these old-fashioned frauds are perpetrated on new investors," the commissioner said.

He advised people to check out investments that seem too good to be true.

"If a salesperson you do not know contacts you out of the blue with what appears to be a fail-safe investment opportunity," Brant said, "beware."

He advised people to call the securities regulator in the state where the investment is based. If it is not registered, he said, there is a good chance it's less than honest.

Judge Burr had issued an injunction against Triton in July 2001. At the time, the securities commissioner's office alleged that the eight oil and gas leases

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