# Public asks questions on plans at trash forum

#### FORUM, from Page 1

#### tion system.

At the end of the meeting, the audience was asked to raise their hands in a straw poll to see who was in favor of the county taking over the collection. Twenty-six people indicated their support for the county while at least two vocally said they thought the city should keep the system. About seven raised their hands saying they did not want the county to take over the system. The others did not indicate an opinion on either side.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the Colorado company, U.S. Waste Industries of Colorado Springs, plans to make a formal presentation to the city commission on Monday, Feb. 3.

One main question was, "what will be the cost if the trash goes out of state, and what about those on fixed incomes?"

was to keep the costs as low as possible.

City Commissioner Curtis Hurd said that without seeing the proposal from U.S. Waste, it was hard to know what the costs may be.

"Nothing is firm," he said. "Neither commission has voted on this." A question was asked about "why the city wants out of the collection

business?" Daniels said one reason was that they felt they were spending too much time on the trash and that getting out would give them more time and money to handle other needs of the city, including the streets.

Garcia said a county requirement for sorting trash question was one of the issues with the city, and that tion," Blume said. it would make things smoother to have the system under one agency through the county, which also runs the landfill.

Pickman said the system is at a break-even basis now. To keep the

prove the service, having the \$36,000 per year for the billing, county handle the collections would be best.

City Commissioner Rick Billinger said that the collection system was not showing a profit, and that if the county takes over all the costs, there appeared to be a plus financially.

City Commissioner Dean Blume said he felt the city had been put in the middle between the county regulations and the citizens. He said the problems at the landfill, where the city employees were told they could not unload because of contamination in the loads, pointed out the problem.

"Costs are not the whole ques-

A question was asked about why the proposal said the county would pay the city \$1.25 per month per customer for billing and mailing.

Pickman said the city staff had looked at the costs over the past Garcia said the primary mission costs as low as possible, and to im- three years and found it spent

which divided by the number of customers comes out to \$1.25.

Daniels said the proposal was to leave everything in place as it is now with the billing in an effort to keep the price at the current \$13.25.

Another question was whether city employees would lose their jobs with the county proposal.

County Commissioner Kevin Rasure said the plan is to give the city employees first option to stay with the job or to consider a different position with the city.

There was a comment from one person that it could be cheaper to haul the city and county trash to the landfill at Garden City which was used until the county opened it's new landfill.

Daniels said this remains as an option, but the county plans to maintain the new landfill south of town.

Billinger said he thought this should be looked at because he felt

the sorting rule raised the cost above what it might cost to haul to Garden City.

"It is like the city power plant," Billinger said. "We are not generating power there because we can buy it cheaper from outside, but if the cost raises, we can produce our own power. It is our ace in the hole, and the same could be said for the county landfill.

Daniels said he felt the sorting problem began with the customers.

"I believe the people haven't understood the need to separate the

trash." he said. Questions about insurance costs to the county and a new building to house the trucks was answered by Rasure.

"There is no separate cost for a new building in the budget, but based on the figures, there should be enough to cover this," he said. "It pencils out. The insurance costs have been addressed and are in the budget.

to set a trap and then see if she falls

controlled Legislature must deal with a gap between expected rev-

enues and spending commitments

that could exceed \$1 billion over the

Aid to public schools consumes

Republicans said Tuesday pro-

"Everything is really question-

"I think she made a mistake leav-

budget that uses only existing finan-

Last year, Republican Gov. Bill

able," said Rep. Brenda Landwehr, Chairman John Edmonds said his

By law, Sebelius must propose a apologized publicly to his col-

Graves presented a budget that re- Roeland Park, resigned from the

quired deep cuts in programs, then House to become assistant insur-

disavowed the plan and pushed for ance commissioner.

52 percent of the state's general tax

dollars, more than \$2.3 billion un-

Sebelius and the Republican-

"This cannot be subsidized by county taxes. It has to be funded by user fees only. By state law, we cannot use any property tax for this service."

A question was raised about increasing recycling to reduce the amount of trash.

Pickman said it was the goal of both the county and city to expand this program.

"We want to keep working on this, especially the cardboard, because this makes it easier to handle the trash, and there might be a way to get some money back."

Rasure said that recycling can grow under the city and county plan. At the end of the forum, several people said they knew more than when they came, and hoped that the city and county would continue to work together.

The county commissioners said during their meeting today they would finalize their proposal at the next meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

House Speaker Doug Mays, R-

"If she pulls it off by decimating

But some Democrats don't ex-

One tactic, said Rep. L. Candy

Topeka, said GOP legislators don't

social services, she's going to have

more problems with her own party

pect that the budget plan that

Sebelius proposes Wednesday will

Ruff, D-Leavenworth, is to present

an unacceptable budget plan and

"let people see what you have when

you don't have a tax increase."

In other legislative activity:

House Taxation Committee

Sen. Ed Pugh, R-Wamego,

– Rep. Bob Tomlinson, R-

panel will consider proposals to

leagues over his arrest for drunken

eliminate sales tax exemptions.

want Sebelius to do the same.

than with ours," he added.

reflect her actual intentions.

## Morris under fire for immigrant stance

TOPEKA (AP) — A newly elected State Board of Education member didn't have to wait long before drawing sharp criticism for her view the state should not educate the children of illegal immigrants.

But Connie Morris, a St. Francis Republican, said at her first meeting since being elected that funding education for immigrants was an issue for her western Kansas constituents and she would be vocal

Four people spoke Tuesday at the board's monthly meeting, directing their criticism at Mor-

"We can't afford to be known as the Trent Lott of the 50 states," said John Martellaro, executive board member of the Kansas Families United for Public Education.

Lott is the former U.S. Senate majority leader from Mississippi who resigned from his leadership

post after making remarks some interpreted as a supporting segregation.

Martellaro said the board's decision in 1999 to deemphasize the teaching of evolution, later rescinded, brought international ridicule on Kansas and cost the state unknown dollars in lost economic development prospects.

"Being the butt of jokes on the Jay Leno and David Letterman shows wasn't funny," Martellaro said.

Morris defeated board Chairman Sonny Rundell of Syracuse in a Republican primary in August, and again in November, when Rundell mounted a writein campaign.

Critics have said her proposal on immigrants is unconstitutional.

To deny those children access to education would invite lawsuits at a time when, Martellaro said, "we simply cannot afford to waste that kind of money pandering to extreme right-wing ideology."

## Split board struggles to organize

TOPEKA (AP) — The state Board of Education tried Tuesday to chart a course for the next two years, only to discover it again is stuck in place by an ideological

After repeated failures, the board ended the first of two days of meetings without electing a new chairman, spitting several votes on varying options.

They mostly included either electing board member Janet Waugh, a Democrat from Kansas City, Kan., or splitting the two-year term into a pair of one-year appoint-

chairman are normally elected for cans. a two-year term and set the 10member board's agenda.

No nomination for Waugh or any compromise plan received more than five votes. Board action requires six.

2001-02. The board will continue to Shawnee, Carol Rupe of Wichita, its agenda each month until the issue is resolved.

The board's chairman and vice Democrats and moderate Republi-

During the meetings this week, the coalition of Democrats and moderate Republicans generally supported Waugh and refused to support the split-term proposal or offer a compromise. The block is Waugh was vice chairwoman in made up of Waugh, Sue Gamble of put the selection of a chairman on Bill Wagnon of Topeka and Bruce Wyatt of Salina. Board member John Bacon, an Olathe conserva-Following November's elec- tive, said electing a chairman who tions, the board is split between five represented only moderate views members identified as conservative was inappropriate and would mis-

## **Budget questions arise** "I'm not sure it's a good attitude higher taxes.

into it." Downey said.

next 18 months.

R-Wichita.

cial resources.

der the current budget.

cation and social services.

ing one group off the table."

### By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer TOPEKA — Some Republicans believe Gov. Kathleen Sebelius won't be able to present a budget that protects public schools while neither raising taxes nor hurting other public services.

Some Democrats suspect GOP legislators are hoping the new governor falls into a budget trap. Sebelius, a Democrat, will present her budget tonight for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

tecting elementary and secondary She had said during her campaign she would not cut state aid to pubeducation without higher taxes lic schools and would not propose would force deep cuts in higher edua tax increase.

'There was skepticism during the campaign that the promises equaled the budget numbers," Sen. Derek Schmidt, R-Independence, said Tuesday.

We didn't set the expectations. We're just waiting to see whether they're met."

Sen. Christine Downey, D-Newton, said some Republicans are "gathering chairs and popcorn to watch" Sebelius stumble.

## British police officer slain during raid By the Associated Press

INTERNATIONAL

LONDON — Police questioned three North African men today after an officer was slain during an can men as part of a murder inves- news headlines. anti-terrorism raid linked to the re- tigation and were to hand another Police also said an inquiry would

around the world

tioning one of the three North Afri- treme," and the killing dominated

driving on Jan. 3.

## Principals give reports on schools

#### REPORTS, from Page 1

School on Feb. 7 and 8 and for two weekends in March.

six weeks for the Central building.

• Gregory invited board members to attend the soup supper which was held on Tuesday night at the school. Performances by students were held throughout the evening.

North Elementary School - Steve Raymer

• Raymer who is working as principal for North as well as the athletic school talked to the student body director of the high school said that his double-duty is keeping him busy. He announced the Regional Wrestling Tournament will be held Feb. 21-22 in Goodland and plans are being worked on for the event.

West Elementary School - Gerald Burkett

• The first annual talent contest was held recently at the school thankful he was of the faculty and • Spanish is anticipated to start in Burkett said it was successful and would be something to encourage talents and interests of the students.

Grant Junior High - Jim Mull • Training on the Palm Pilot handheld planners started Tuesday. On Tuesday students started training in math class and continued training on Wednesday in science class.

• Tuesday coaches from the high about weight training, discipline Swager said a questionnaire was and maintaining grades. Mull said he felt this was a good coordination between the schools and good information for the junior high students to hear.

Goodland High School - Harvey Swager

• Swager told the board how staff who handled business while he was ill.

• Seminar classes at the high school are in the process of being changed around to help focus students on special skills for the upcoming assessment tests. He said freshmen would be focusing on science, sophomores on math and juniors on English.

Before Christmas break, sent out to parents asking if they felt it would be beneficial for students to be required to wear uniforms. Of the returned questionnaires, he said two thirds were not interested.

## Congratulations Dr. Sid Unruh!!



The staff of Unruh Family Chiropractic, Britany, Courtney and Colleen, would like to congratulate

Dr. Sid A. Unruh, on his recent completion of the "Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician" Degree. Dr. Unruh obtained the postgraduate designation by the American Chiropractic Board of Sports Physicians. Dr. Unruh has spent one weekend per month, for the last year in Denver where he was attending classes for the CCSP degree. The CCSP degree requires the doctor to attend a minimum of 100 hours of a 120 hour postgraduate program. The instruction is specific to physical fitness and the evaluation and treatment of injuries encountered in sports. Following the completion of these hours, the doctor must then take and successfully pass a comprehensive written examination. Dr. Unruh finished at the top of his class and we are very proud of him! Dr. Unruh is the only Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician in Northwest Kansas! This new training will aid Dr. Unruh in the prevention and treatment of athletic injuries by enhancing his diagnostic skills and patient care. Dr. Unruh can help with more than just neck and back pain. He can treat many other ailments not limited to: shoulder pain, elbow, wrist, knee pain, heel spurs and of course, SPORTS INJURIES.

> If you need an appointment with Dr. Unruh, please call 785-899-2225 His office is located at 1109 Main in Goodland.

cent discovery of the deadly poison ricin in London.

The men were arrested during Tuesday's swoop in the northern city of Manchester during which detective constable Stephen Oake, 40, was fatally stabbed in the chest and two others injured by the suspect with the knife. Police said they found no "dangerous material" during the raid by the unarmed officers.

Manchester Police were ques-

over to immigration authorities. London's Metropolitan Police were raid by the unarmed officers during questioning another for the Jan. 5 discovery of ricin in a north London apartment.

All three men, who are aged 23, 27 and 29, were being held under anti-terrorism laws, London's Metropolitan Police said.

Prime Minister Tony Blair described the stabbing as "an appalling tragedy and wicked in the exbe launched into the handling of the which one of the suspects broke free after it began and stabbed three policemen

#### NATIONAL

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - General Electric Co. workers, who say the corporate giant has pushed them too far, manned picket lines today on the final day of their two-day strike over an increase in health care.



### in partnership with MARKET DATA, INC. of Oberlin, KS is announcing the following **RISK MANAGEMENT meeting dates and locations:**

These **FREE** informational meetings will cover:

- Steps for managing risk and marketing success. 1.
- 2. Information on various FCIC crop insurance products available and an analysis tool for helping to evaluate the various coverages and policies.
- 3. A STEP by STEP process which assists producers in preparing a risk management plan that should help minimize their production risk while incorporating the NEW FARM BILL into a marketing plan.

All meetings will start at 2:00 C.S.T. unless otherwise noted and will last around one and one-half hours followed by a question and answer session.

Wednesday, January 15th at the Gateway building located at the junctions of Highways 36 and 83 in Oberlin, Kansas.

Wednesday, January 22nd at the Buffalo Inn meeting room (west of the motel) located on West Highway 24 in Goodland, Kansas at 1:30 M.S.T.

Wednesday, January 29th at the Red Willow County Community Building meeting room located at the fairgrounds in McCook, Nebraska.

For more information on these meetings or to request copies of the information to be presented, you may call us at 1-800-867-8289 or visit our website at www.marketdatainc.com and click on the USDA/RMA tab

### Please plan to attend these free informational meetings

No RSVP is required however, your reservation would help us with our preparations