

weather report

37°
at noon

Today

• Sunset, 5:52 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:58 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:53 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 41 degrees

• Humidity 54 percent

• Sky mostly cloudy

• Winds north 23-30 m.p.h.

• Barometer 29.64 inches and rising

• Record High 81° (1935)

• Record Low -3° (1958)

Last 24 Hours*

High 58°

Low 30°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, low lower 20s, winds north 10-15 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly sunny, high mid 40s, low mid 20s, winds west 10 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: partly sunny, high lower 50s. Sunday: partly cloudy, high near 50, low mid 20s. Monday: partly cloudy with chance of showers, high lower 50s, 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 — \$2.58 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.49

Corn — \$1.87 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.86

Loan deficiency payment — 13¢

Milo — \$1.60 bushel

Soybeans — \$4.06 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.94

Loan deficiency payment — 98¢

Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$9.55 cwt.

NuSun — \$9.70 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 30¢

Confection current — \$16/\$8 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$26

(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.

Forces test for lead terrorists

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Coalition forces searched caves and blasted bunkers today in the Shah-e-Kot Valley abandoned by al-Qaida forces after heavy U.S. airstrikes, as forensics experts conducted DNA tests to make certain none of the terrorist organization's senior leaders was among the dead.

Neither Osama bin Laden nor Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar was believed to be in the Shah-e-Kot valley March 2 when U.S. forces and their Afghan allies launched the biggest offensive of the 5-month-old war. But some corpses were so badly mangled that Maj. Gen. Frank L. Hagenbeck ordered the tests — just to be sure.

A U.S. officer estimated as many as 500 al-Qaida fighters were killed in the 12-day offensive in eastern Afghanistan.

Admission ban could be lifted soon

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

The state has finished a follow-up inspection of Wheat Ridge Acres Retirement Community and could soon lift the admission ban imposed last month because the assisted living center supposedly didn't have correct health and diet plans.

The center's owner and manager say there should not have been a ban in the first place.

They said inspectors were unfair during a survey last month — the first time the state has checked the facility since it opened in May 2000 — and were unprofessional in their notification

of the ban.

Judy Cloyd, Wheat Ridge operator, said the center has contacted a lawyer, but wouldn't say whether any legal action will be taken.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment banned Wheat Ridge, 707 Wheat Ridge Circle, from admitting new residents on Feb. 22 because of two deficiencies found during an inspection earlier in the month.

A copy of the inspection said the center's written negotiated service agreements didn't cover all of the residents' health and diet needs and the facility didn't have plans for how to provide neces-

sary medical care for residents. It said the mistakes put the residents' health and safety in jeopardy.

Mike Heideman, a state health department spokesman, said in an earlier interview the ban would be lifted when Wheat Ridge staff corrected the mistakes to the inspectors' satisfaction.

Cloyd said staff did an exit interview with inspectors late Wednesday and has to talk with department officials in Topeka today.

Wheat Ridge has corrected the mistakes, she said, noting the deficiencies were mainly misunderstandings about how negotiated agreements should be developed.

Heideman said Clyde Graeber, health department secretary, will make the final decision about whether to lift the ban. If it is lifted, he said, the department will call Wheat Ridge staff and then write an order saying the center can admit residents again. He said the order will be retroactive to the date the ban was imposed.

Heideman said Wheat Ridge staff will be the first notified when the ban is lifted so they can start letting in new residents.

"This penalty can have a serious financial im-

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Tobacco tax hike rejected

TOPEKA (AP) — House members continued to demonstrate their distaste for raising taxes, rejecting efforts today to increase excise taxes on tobacco.

Their actions came a day after repeated efforts to increase the state sales tax and repeal nearly \$3 billion in exemptions failed.

The debates Wednesday and today were the latest exercises in the House to gauge members' support for various ways of closing a projected budget gap of more than \$679 million over the next 15 months.

Earlier in the week, the House voted down proposed increases in the state's income tax, estate tax and property tax for public schools.

Today's debate began with a proposal to raise \$148 million with an increase in taxes on tobacco products, offered as an amendment to a tax bill. House members voted 99-22 against it.

On Wednesday, Rep. Bonnie Sharp offered the biggest revenue-generating measure yet suggested — repealing most of the exemptions from the state's 4.9 percent sales tax to bring in nearly \$3 billion.

Sharp, D-Kansas City, said the economy has changed and that the state has grown increasingly reliant on retail sales and services, which is not reflected by a taxing system that depends on income and property taxes.

"We're taxing under a model that's not working," Sharp said.

Her amendment was defeated 100-22. The bill to which it would have been attached — a sales tax exemption for hearing aids — was rejected later in the day, 64-41.

Sharp said repealing all exemptions in a single amendment was ambitious, but that it points to the need for legislators to rethink all exemptions and become serious about tax policy.

"I'm offering you some lettuce, some green stuff," Sharp said. The weeklong tax debate has been dubbed "build-your-own salad week."

Opponents were not amused.

The other side of the fence



A horse peered out from behind a barbed wire fence on Wednesday afternoon in a field about 8 miles south of Goodland.
Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

'Terrorist influence is fading'

Bush says Saddam still poses a problem

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush has declared that Osama bin Laden is fading into irrelevance. Saddam Hussein remains "a problem," however, and "we're going to deal with him," Bush said.

Shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks, Bush said he wanted bin Laden "dead or alive." Since then, as bin Laden vanished and the war progressed, Bush shifted his message, saying the war was about more than one man.

Bush took that rhetoric to new territory in a news conference Wednesday, saying of the al-Qaida leader: "I truly am not that concerned about him.

"I was concerned about him when he had taken over a country. I was concerned about the fact he was basically running Afghanistan and calling the shots for the Taliban."

But, Bush said, "We shoved him out more and more on the margins."

Vice President Dick Cheney is on a coalition-building mission to the Middle East to make a case for widening the war on terror to include Iraq under Saddam. Bush took pains to say the United States will consult with allies on Iraq but didn't rule out unilateral action.

The president was continuing his consultations today in a meeting with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada, who sent hundreds of combat soldiers to Afghanistan for Bush's anti-terror coalition.

"I am deeply concerned about Iraq, and so should the American people be concerned about Iraq, and so should people who love freedom be concerned about Iraq," Bush said. "This is a nation run by a man who is willing to kill his own people by using chemical weapons. A man who won't let inspectors into the country. A man who's ob-

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Barb Whisler held still the backboard Patty Gensil was laying on, while Shelly Williams, an emergency medical technician, prepared to load her into an ambulance. Gensil was hit by a car while crossing Main on Wednesday afternoon.
Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Woman hit by car on downtown street

Victim said to be in stable condition

By Doug Stephens
The Goodland Daily News

A Goodland woman is in stable condition at Goodland Regional Medical Center today after she was hit by a car at an intersection downtown on Wednesday afternoon.

Patty J. Gensil, 48, was hit by a 1992 Pontiac driven by Kristi M. Boyce, 16, Kanorado, about 3:30 p.m.

A police report said Boyce was turning south onto Main Avenue off 12th Street and ran into Gensil, who was walking east across Main. Gensil told police she had waited for the walk sign before she started to cross.

Sandy Miller, 30, said she was two cars back on Main and saw most of the accident. The traffic light across Main was red, she said.

Miller said she went out to help Gensil, but saw she was already being helped by Barb Whisler, who had been

driving east on 12th Street. Miller came into the office of *The Goodland Daily News* and called 911. She said she thought there were three other people in Boyce's car.

Whisler said she didn't see the accident, but she came upon the scene right after it happened.

She kept Gensil still, she said, and kept her from moving her neck. Whisler said she has training in handling medical emergencies.

Three emergency medical technicians from Goodland Regional Medical Center, Charlie Baker, Shelly Williams and Leslie Farley, showed up with an ambulance and took Gensil to the hospital. As of 10 a.m. this morning, she is listed as being in stable condition. The hospital would not release any more information.

Police Chief Ray Smee had not returned a phone call by noon today.