

# The Goodland Daily News

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Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas, 67735

## weather report

63°

at noon



### Today

Sunset, 7:29 p.m.

### Tomorrow

Sunrise, 6:00 a.m.

Sunset, 7:30 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil Temp. 55 degrees
- Humidity 42 percent
- Sky Mostly cloudy
- Winds N 21-28
- Barometer 29.56 inches and falling
- Record High 93° (1989)
- Record Low 20° (1931)

### Yesterday's Data

High 79°  
Low 39°  
Precipitation none

### Northwest Kansas

Tonight: Mostly cloudy; 60 percent chance of rain; low 40-45; winds N 5-15. Tomorrow: Cloudy; 70 percent chance of rain; high 50-55; winds N 10-20.

### Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday: Chance of rain Friday, Thundershowers possible Saturday and Sunday; highs 55-60; lows 40.

24-hour weather information is broadcast at 162.400 MHz.

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$2.29 bu.  
Posted county price — \$2.24  
Loan deficiency payment — 21¢  
Corn — \$1.87 bu.  
Posted county price — \$1.92  
Loan deficiency payment — 7¢  
Milo — \$2.80 cwt.  
Soybeans — \$4.00 bu.  
Posted county price — \$4.22  
Loan deficiency payment — 67¢  
Millet — \$4.15 cwt.  
Sunflowers  
oil current — \$8.70 cwt.  
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.71  
oil 1999 crop — \$9.05 cwt.  
conf. current — \$17/\$10 cwt.  
Pintos - \$12 (new crop)  
Local markets courtesy of Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun and Frontier Equity  
Local bean market courtesy of Prairie Pea and Bean

## afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

## Missiles strike Belgrade office

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — NATO missiles slammed into a high-rise building termed a "nerve center" of Slobodan Milosevic's ruling machine today in a bold attack on the offices of Yugoslavia's hard-line governing party, and destroyed a key railway bridge just outside Belgrade.

The United States, meanwhile, rushed more troops and equipment into Albania as border clashes raised fears of an expanding Balkan war.

International monitors said two Kosovo Liberation Army fighters were killed and 18 wounded in a second straight day of heavy fighting with Serb forces in western Kosovo, near the Albanian border town of Bajram Curri.

The first of about 24 Apache anti-tank helicopters intended to improve NATO's ability to strike Yugoslav ground forces in Kosovo began arriving in Albania today.

# County OKs bid to chip seal detour roads

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

Sherman County commissioners approved a proposal Tuesday from Heft and Sons for chip sealing of County Road 14 from I-70 north to County Road 65 (the west extension of Eighth Street) and Road 65 back to Goodland.

The roads will be improved this summer as part of the "local access" planning for the rebuilding of K-27 north of Goodland in the next two years.

The Kansas Department of Transportation has agreed to help Sherman County pay for the project to help move local traffic while the highway is closed. District Engineer Chriss McDiffert told Sherman County that the state would provide up to \$75,000 for the project.

County Public Works Superintendent Curt Way said the proposal from Heft and Sons is \$66,199 to seal 6.25 miles, and the remaining money will be used to add gravel to County Road 14 north toward the county line.

Heft is the same company the county has contracted with to do the chip sealing project on old U.S. 24 later in the summer.

Commissioners Chuck Frankenfeld and Kenny Davis approved the proposal, and signed the agreement. Commissioner Gary Townsend was absent.

The commissioners also approved signing a permit with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for operation of its trash transfer station and the pit for grass and construction and demolition materials.

County Attorney Mike Irvin told the commissioners the permit has to be renewed annually, but is good for 30

years. He said the state regulations could change, and the county would have to comply with any changes.

Way said an example of recent changes at the site included having to devise a way to test the level of water in the washdown tank to be sure it was not leaking. He said a plan had to be approved by the state, and then the county is responsible for implementing the plan, which calls for the workers to put a test stick in the tank every week to determine the level and to show it is not leaking.

Commissioner Davis said it seems like the county is acting as agent for the state in operating the site, and also having to also pick up the bills.

Amy Griffey of the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission met with the commissioners to discuss the Community Development grant program for the upcoming fiscal year, and get ideas for possible projects.

She said the state made a change in the procedures this year and has split the program so that water and sewer projects will not be considered at the same time as other community projects.

Commissioner Davis suggested the county rural fire department might be a candidate to improve the truck and equipment in Kanorado.

Griffey said some of the programs were not very useful to counties. She said she was to meet with Kanorado officials about a possible water or sewer project, and had discussed several projects with the City of Goodland.

The commissioners delayed signing a certificate for the hospital master lease until the next meeting, set for 8 a.m. Friday, April 30.



## Contractor closes west I-70 ramps

Westbound I-70 traffic found the ramps at the west Goodland exit closed this morning as Koss Construction began tearing up the pavement. State officials said the contractor has 30 working days to finish the new ramps by May 24. Ron Harding, area Chamber of Commerce director, said there are supposed to be signs at the east exit saying the next exit is closed. Westbound traffic can return to K-27 by exiting at Caruso and taking old U.S. 24 back to town.

Photos by Tom Betz / Goodland Daily News

## Kansas sets a record for busting 'meth' labs

TOPEKA (AP) — With the year only one-third over, more methamphetamine labs have been seized in Kansas than during all of last year.

"We broke the record today," Kansas Bureau of Investigation director Larry Welch told a legislative committee Tuesday. "We had 189 all of last year, and now we have 190 so far this year."

He provided no specifics about the labs' locations or the amount of meth seized.

Five years ago, the report shows, four meth labs were seized in Kansas. In 1997, there were 99. The KBI estimates at least 600 meth labs will be seized by the end of this year.

"This is the kind of record we don't like to be posting on the billboards in the state," KBI agent Kyle Smith said. "It's like a plague or epidemic."

Smith said most labs seized were making between four ounces and 12 ounces of meth, "but that depends on how much of the ingredients they can buy, steal or borrow."

A lab can be just about anywhere — a kitchen sink, the trunk of a car, inside a recreational vehicle or inside a farm shed. One ounce of meth is

enough get 100 people high for about four hours.

Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and California lead the nation in production of the illegal drug. Smith said it is due in large measure to Kansas having more lenient laws against making meth than surrounding states.

"If you are looking to set up shop, Kansas is a productive state," Smith said. "We are trying to make it unfriendly. Once you get them here, they train everybody about how quick and easy it is, and the problem spreads."

Smith said meth-making ingredients are legal chemicals easily purchased on the open market, but he added that a bill now in the legislature could change that.

The bill would impose harsher penalties for making meth and make it illegal to possess large amounts of over-the-counter medication used to produce the drug. Lawmakers are expected to continue working on the bill when they return to the Statehouse next week.

Smith said the idea is for Kansas to have stronger meth-making penalties than its neighbors.

## Search for bombs slows effort to recover bodies from school

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — Worried about bombs and booby traps, specially trained officers painstakingly checked thousands of lockers and cast-off backpacks today in a suburban high school where 15 people were killed in the deadliest U.S. school rampage on record. Close to 30 explosive devices were found.

Victims' bodies were left in the school overnight as agonized parents braced for the worst. Students streamed into Clement Park next to the school early today to leave flowers and share their feelings about the shootings.

"It helps to talk about it," said Brandon Reisbeck, a 19-year-old senior who bolted from his choir class to safety after he heard gunshots Tuesday.

The investigation was delayed by the thorough police sweep of the school, which was prompted by the discovery of bombs in the parking lot and on the bodies of the gunmen.

At midmorning today, sheriff's spokesman Steve Davis said close to 30 explosive devices were found at the school, in the suspects' vehicles and possibly at their homes. Late Tuesday, more than 11 hours after the shootings, a bomb on a timer blew up, but no one was injured.

"Some of these devices are on timing devices, some are incendiary devices and some are pipe bombs," Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone told ABC's "Good Morning America." "Some are like hand grenades that have got shrapnel in them wrapped around butane containers."

After hours of confusion on the precise death toll, Davis put it at 15, including the two shooters. Four of the dead were women or girls, and at least one was believed to be a school staff member, he said. At one point, authorities had said up to 25 had died.

Some of the victims were found underneath desks, in cubicles or in boxes, slain while apparently trying to hide, Davis said. Witnesses said that during the rampage, the two teen-agers in black trench coats laughed and hooted as they opened fire.

Today, students struggled to understand the tragedy.

Crystal Woodman, a junior who was in the library when the gunmen burst in, said this morning she can't get their voices out of her head.

"They were just, like, they thought it was funny," Woodman told "Good Morning America." "They were just, like 'Who's next? Who's ready to die?'"

They were just, like, 'We've waited to do this our whole lives.' And every time they'd shoot someone, they'd holler, like it was, like, exciting."

Most of the bodies were found in the library. The attackers marched in with guns and pipe bombs, demanding that "all jocks stand up. We're going to kill every one of you," student Aaron Cohn said.

A gunman looked under a desk in the library and said "Peek-a-boo," then fired, Cohn said. Anyone who cried or moaned was shot again. One girl begged for her life, but a gunshot ended her cries.

Cohn said one killer put a pistol to his head but did not shoot him. Instead, he said, the shooter turned his attention to a black student, saying, "I hate niggers." Cohn heard three shots but couldn't see what happened.

Meantime, frantic parents awaited word of their children, watching as busloads of tearful students were reunited with their families.

Twenty-three people were treated at hospitals, most of them with gunshot wounds. Sixteen teens remained hospitalized this morning, including five

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## Firm says expansion will delay start of construction on strawboard plant

Harvest Board International Inc. announced last week that the size of its proposed Rawlins County strawboard manufacturing plant will nearly double, bringing additional jobs and dollars to the area.

More than 60 straw producers gathered in McDonald to hear Don Coleman, vice president of the firm, explain the expansion plans. The plant will be built to manufacture 150 million square feet (based on 3/4-inch panels) of harvestboard annually. That is nearly twice as much as the original proposed capacity of the plant, which will make building materials from wheat straw.

"Basically, HBI is planning to step things up a bit," Coleman said. "We have seen an opportunity to become the leader in the agrifiber board industry and we need to develop larger plants with greater production capacities to meet that goal." Coleman said the plant will require about 100

full-time employees with an annual payroll reaching \$2.6 million. Coleman added that jobs created as a spin-off from the plant will also increase, including those for the baling and delivery of wheat straw.

Rawlins County economic development director Arlene Bliss said the expansion will bring greater interest in the northwest Kansas area from outside business developers and job seekers.

"We have already had quite a bit of interest in our area since HBI announced last year it would locate a plant here," Bliss said. "I'm sure we will get even more interest now."

Coleman also said that some construction and procurement plans will have to be altered.

"It's obvious that with a larger plant, we will have larger straw needs," Coleman said. "We had originally planned to contract about 140,000 tons

of straw annually. Now, we will require about 250,000 tons of straw annually to keep a plant of this size running at full capacity. We are confident that straw producers in the area will be able to meet that demand."

Plant construction, however, will be delayed as state and federal permits and engineering are revised. Construction is scheduled to begin when that is done.

Coleman told growers that since construction will be delayed, it is unlikely that the firm will buy any straw this season.

Lindon Montgomery, a grower and member of the firm's straw advisory board, said people appreciated Coleman's straightforward approach in addressing the delay.

"Don really told it like it was, and we thank him for that," Montgomery said. "We understand that,

as with any business, development takes some time. Though this delay may seem like a setback for now, the benefits for the area down the road will be immeasurable."

McDonald straw producer Gilbert Antholz said although he is disappointed about the delay in construction, he is confident the area will be able to handle the new straw demands.

"It will be good for the area," Antholz said. "HBI can expand a plant cheaper than building two plants. We're happy they want to keep it in our area."

Antholz re-emphasized his commitment to providing straw for the new venture.

"It's no doubt some growers are disappointed about the delay, but it hasn't changed my thoughts on selling straw," said Antholz. "When the time comes, I will still sell my straw to HBI."