

The Goodland Daily News

FRIDAY

**May 7
1999**

50¢

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Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather report

64°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:45 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:40 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:46 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 53 degrees
• Humidity 47 percent
• Sky Clear
• Winds NW 18
• Barometer 29.90 inches and falling
• Record High 95° (1966)
• Record Low 29° (1978)

Last 24 Hours*

High 60°
Low 37°
Precipitation —

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear; low in the mid 30s; wind N 5-15. Tomorrow: Sunny; high 75-80; wind SE 10-20.

Extended Forecast

Sunday through Tuesday. Chance of thunderstorm Sunday; high 65-70; low 40-45. Monday and Tuesday dry; highs 65-70; lows 40-45.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.21 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.13
Loan deficiency payment — 32¢
Corn — \$1.75 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.87
Loan deficiency pmt. — 12¢
Milo — \$2.47 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.12 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.06
Loan deficiency payment — 83¢
Millet — \$4 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$8.45 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.26
Oil new crop — \$8.70 cwt.
Confection current — \$17/10 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Jones show negligent

PONTIAC, Mich. — A jury decided today that "The Jenny Jones Show" was negligent in the slaying of a gay guest who admitted a crush on another man, ordering the producers to pay more than \$25 million in damages.

The jury of five women and four men debated for just under seven hours before returning the verdict in its second day of deliberations. Eight out of nine jurors had to approve a verdict; one juror told the judge that he had voted against it.

Scott Amedure's family had argued that a mentally ill Jonathan Schmitz was lured onto the talk show in 1995 believing he would meet a woman, and was humiliated into murder when his secret admirer turned out to be Amedure. Schmitz, who admitted shooting Amedure, has said he is heterosexual.

Jones lawyers plan to appeal.

Showing good form



Workers from Koss Construction of Topeka prepared the concrete curb and gutter forms for the west-bound on-ramp of I-70 Thursday afternoon. The west Goodland exit has been poured but is not expected to open until May 21

Photo by Keith Lippoldt/Goodland Daily News

13 Goodland teachers receive 25-year awards

The Goodland School Board will honor 13 teachers who have taught for 25 years at their regular meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at the district office.

The 13 teachers will receive special recognition from Kansas University which has a statewide program to honor teachers who have taught for 25 years.

Receiving the awards will be Deb Bantam, Jackie Elliott, Dennis Friedrichs, Sharon Gregory, Pam Hardy, Mary Kratyk, Virginia Palmgren, Sharon Palmquist, Janice Pearson, Norma Staker, Karen Stone, JoAnn Wahrman and Gail Walter.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said the land sale is delayed while they wait for a survey to be completed so the contract can be drawn up. "She has offered to come and pay us, but we need to wait until the attorney can draw up the contract," he said.

He said the district construction projects are doing well with the interior walls going up at the Max Jones Fieldhouse and the walls going up at the new restrooms at the track.

Annual site council reports from each building within the district are to be presented, and will brief the board about what they have been doing over the past year. Kara Smith is to give the West Elementary report, Deb Martin is to give the North Elementary report, Jodi Miller will give the Central School report, Christie Rasure is the representative from Grant Junior High. School Principal Harvey Swager will give the high school report.

Also on the agenda is the request from Tom Harrison about listing the remaining portion of the school land through his real estate firm. The item was tabled in April.

The next regular board meeting will be 7 p.m., Monday, May 24.

Gore offers assurances

HAYSVILLE (AP) — Vice president Al Gore visited Lynn and Gary Larkin's tornado-ravaged Haysville home and politely asked whether he could look inside.

"Yes, sir," a surprised Mrs. Larkin told the vice president.

He spotted their car, its windows smashed. Then he swapped a tornado story of his own, telling the Larkins that he and his wife were in a tornado years ago and the windows also were blown out of his car.

"We are going to be here for you," Gore reassured the couple.

Some 8,500 homes and businesses suffered damage, with nearly 1,200 buildings destroyed, in a deadly storm

Monday that left five people dead and thousands more homeless in Kansas before moving east.

Stopping in front of a collapsed building at Norland Plastics Co. — the town's biggest employer with more than 275 workers — Gore told reporters it was inspiring the way the community has pulled together.

"The devastation is enormous," he said.

The vice president announced Thursday a \$5.7 million grant from the Department of Labor for short-term employment for cleanup efforts, temporary security guards and other work. He told residents all the cleanup costs would be reimbursed.

Tax revenue spurts upward

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

As expected, the county sales tax figures rebounded in March as the Kansas Department of Revenue caught up with the processing, and for the year Sherman County continues to show a 17 percent plus growth in county sales tax collections.

County Treasurer Shelby Miller said she breathed a sigh of relief when the March check of \$52,685, arrived from the state, up from the \$20,412, received in February.

In addition, the health services fund and the special road fund each received \$27,635 in March, more than double the \$10,706 received for each in February.

Without knowing there was a reporting error, the 73 percent increase shown in March would look incredible. In February Steve Brunkan of the Kansas Department of Revenue agreed there was a problem and said the state expected to catch up in March.

"We know the 17 percent is more realistic," said Goodland Chamber Executive Director Ron Harding when reviewing the latest figures. "It certainly looks better than the last month, and much closer to what we have been estimating ourselves."

"The trend continues upward and we continue to narrow the gap with neighboring Thomas County," he said. "It is not impossible that one day we will draw even with them."

State sales tax figures were reported

for January and show Sherman county with a 9.96 percent increase for the seven months of the fiscal year. The January figures show a 7.88 percent increase with total state sales tax collections reaching \$240,176 for the month.

Neighboring Thomas County showed no gain in January's figures and there was actually a drop of about \$200 in January with total state sales tax collections of \$289,568 for the month.

On the annual basis Thomas has had an increase of less than one percent for the seven months. For the year Thomas' total state sales tax collections have been \$2,490,464 while Sherman County's total is \$2,154,590. Between the two counties Sherman closed the gap by \$178,735 in the past year.

The closing of the west bound ramps at the western Goodland exit have softened the sales Harding said. "I am being told the sales are somewhat down, but not by as much as we feared," he said. "The food places are telling us they are down at least 10 percent. We are glad to see the contractor is moving quickly on these and already has one poured."

Wallace County continues to show a growth trend in sales tax collections with a report of an increase of 11.6 percent in January and 18 percent for the year to date. Cheyenne County's trend remains downward with a decrease of 5.3 percent for the year, however, the state collections were up in January by nearly four percent.

Bomb squad work done

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — The bomb squad has completed work inside Columbine High School and only federal agents are still working at the site of a massacre that left 15 people dead.

Investigators discovered nearly 60 bombs at the school, Jefferson County sheriff's spokesman Troy Gardalen said Thursday. The school, which is closed, will remain a crime scene until the end of the month.

Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, shot and killed 12 classmates and a

See BOMB SQUAD, Page 4

Still no clues in investigation; area canvas turns up nothing

By Keith Lippoldt

Goodland Daily News

The cause of the fire that caused an estimated \$300,000 damage to the vacant Mosburg IGA has still not been determined.

Melvin Dale, an investigator with the Kansas Fire Marshal Office, was in Goodland again Wednesday along with insurance adjusters to take additional samples from the scene. These samples, along with samples taken earlier in the week are currently being analyzed in the KBI Crime Lab.

Goodland Fire Chief Dean Jensen reported that the investigation to this point has not uncovered any leads as to the cause of the blaze.

"We are still treating this as a suspicious fire," Jensen said. "There is no rhyme nor reason as to how this thing started."

Firemen were called to the empty building just after 5 p.m. Friday and when they arrived flames were shooting through the roof at the south end of the building. The crew had the fire under control within 30 minutes and had left the scene by 8 p.m.

Jensen expects Dale back next week and he will be taking depositions from each fireman that helped battle the blaze. The belief is that something may be uncovered, or a pattern developed that may lead the investigation to the source.

"He wants to talk to each and every one of the firefighters," Jensen said. "Hopefully something will come up during these depositions. We are not going to leave any stone unturned. He (Mr. Dale) has said he is going to pursue this until he finds out what happened."

Goodland Police Chief Ray Smees has also been left scratching his head.

"We conducted a neighborhood canvas and it turned up zip, zero, zilch," Smees said. "Nobody saw a



Goodland firefighter Scott Gilmer (left) showed the fatigue brought from battling the blaze at the vacant Mosburg IGA. Randy Topliff (right) listened to Gilmer's view.

Photo by Keith Lippoldt/Goodland Daily News

thing. Even though we know where it started we don't know how it started."

Both the police and fire departments would like to visit with you if you have

any information that may pertain to the fire or if you saw anything out of the ordinary on the afternoon of April 30.