Goodland, Kansas 67735

Godland Daily News

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A view from the topside of Topside

By Charlie Baker

Goodland Daily News If you have been watching the construction of the new water tower, you may have been wondering how the crane, that sits inside the ball at the top, was going to be removed.

The crane, a T-4 derrick that weighs around 5000 pounds, according Rob Vasco, the assistant foreman for Pitt-DeMoyne, was lowered through a hole cut in the bottom of the tank.

Members of the crew cut a section out of the bottom of the tank. The crane was then lifted off it's perch with a block and tackle placed on the top of the tank, and lowered through the hole.

Then the welders have to replace the plate they cut out, and seal everything up again. The welds on the tank are checked by using special x-ray equipment. The welds have to stand extreme pressure, since the weight of the water will be over 4 million pounds.

There can't be any weak spots, and there can't be any leaks.

"I've heard of tanks letting go," said Vasco, "but never one of ours."

"We build these all over the country, we know what we're doing, and we do it right," he said.

"There aren't too many welders crazy enough and good enough to hang off the side of one of these tanks, 110 feet off the ground, and still get a weld that will pass inspection," said Shane Adams, a specialist that welds the top sections of tanks into place.

"It's hard, dangerous work," he said, "but the money is great."

The tower stands 110 feet tall, and the only access is by a steel ladder, welded to the inside of the tower. Workers begin their day by making the climb, carrying their gear with them.

"The smart ones do it as little as possible, hopefully only once a day," said Vasco.

'If you make that climb a couple of times a day, you get used to it," said job supervisor Brad Heer.

"But you have to be in top physical condition to work up there," he said.

The crew welding the tower together is just finishing up their part of the project, and will a huge "Goodland" sign that will face south, be done this weekend, The electrician is wir- with spotlights that will illuminate the tower ing the tower for the light that will be placed at night.

The welding crew from Pitt-DeMoyne removed the crane from inside the new water tank Thursday. Crew leader Rob Vasco (above) gathered up some of the equipment that the crew used while lowering the crane. Welder Shane Adams (below), attached by safety harness, smoothed off the seams on the side of the tank. At left is the 110' ladder that the workers must climb to reach the top of the tower.

Photos by Charlie Baker/Goodland Daily News

FRIDAY

June 4

1999

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Eight Pages



 Soil Temperature 67 degrees Humidity 17 percent

weather

report

89°

at noon

• Sunset, 8:09 p.m.

- Sky sunny
- Winds southwest at 10 to 20 mph
- Barometer 29.75 inches

Today

Tomorrow

- and falling • Record High 101° (1956)
- Record Low 36° (1943)

Last 24 Hours* 87° High

LOW	58°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly cloudy, 20 percent chance of precipitation, low near 60, winds south at 10 to 20 mph Tomorrow: Partly sunny, 20 percent chance of precipitation, high in the 80s, winds south at 15 to 25 mph

Extended Forecast

Saturday through Tuesday: chance of thunderstorms, lows near 50, highs 80 to 85

(National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.



Noon Wheat — \$2.30 bushel Posted county price — \$2.22 Loan deficiency payment — 23¢ Corn — \$1.74 bushel



on the top.

The painters are on their way in, and the tower will soon be completed.

Plans for the painting of the tower include

Posted county price — \$1.90 Loan deficiency pmt. - 9¢ Milo — \$2.64 hundredweight Soybeans — \$4.02 bushel Posted county price — \$3.97 Loan deficiency payment - 92¢ Millet — \$4 hundredweight Sunflowers Oil current crop — \$7.65 cwt. Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.92 Oil new crop — \$7.90 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.)



LITTLE ROCK, Ark.- Federal investigators visited a hospital today to interview survivors of American Airlines Flight 1420, while other survivors and relatives gathered at the crash site to see the crumpled plane.

The group was kept about 100 yards from the MD-82, which crashed on landing late Tuesday at Little Rock National Airport, killing nine people and injuring 83.

As eight charter buses rolled along Runway 4R to the site, National Transportation Safety Board investigators went to the city's University Hospital, where six survivors remained hospitalized. They also planned to visit other hospitals.

"We're going to get to as many people as we can get to now. Those who are in too bad a state, we'll come back and get them," the NTSB's Robert Malloy said.



Renea Reasoner (left) prepared to put an orange under her neck to pass on to Aubree Schlepp (second from left). Eryn Topliff (second from right) gave directions to Renea, while Halli Stone (right) watched. The girls were playing a game at the Girl Scout Campout held Thursday and Friday at the National Guard Armory.

Girl Scouts relive days of the 1890s

By Janet Craft

Goodland Daily News "Camping in the 1890s is what 42 grade school age girls learned about on Thursday and Friday. Girl Scout leaders camped out with Daisy, Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts, at the National Guard Armory. There were also a few girls there who aren't girl scouts, as the campout was open to other girls, so they even simulated milking a cow, by could see what it would be like to be in the organization.

The six Goodland Girl Scout leaders involved were: Lori Amthor, Amy West, Jeannie Topliff, Mary Reasoner, Janice Bonsall and Kristi Nelson. They were directed by Lisa Schlepp, West District Field Executive. They also had the help of Cadet and Senior Girl Scouts, plus some willing mothers.

On Thursday, Karen Gillihan, from boats, wrapped in foil and cooked on a ing s'mores around the campfire.

tell the girls what life was like in Goodland in the 1890's.

In the afternoon, the girls played games that might have been played during that time period. Some of them were: egg on a spoon relay, watermelon seed spitting, wooden hoop toss, sack races, egg toss, and hopscotch. They squeezing on a rubber glove filled with water that had tiny holes in the ends of the fingers.

Some outdoor cooking was on the agenda also. The girls did their own cooking for the Thursday evening meal and breakfast on Friday. The evening meal was hunter's stew (meat and vegetables) cooked in a dutch oven; cornbread, baked in a box oven; banana

the Goodland Public Library, came to open coal fire; and ants on a log (celery filled with peanut butter and topped with raisins). For breakfast, the girls had breakfast burritos (scrambled eggs and sausage inside a tortilla), which they cooked in a dutch oven.

There was also a craft time, when the girls made situpons to be used around the evening's campfire. They also made handkerchief dolls.

Part of the girl scouts' camping experience involved putting up the tents on Thursday morning that they slept in. The group pitched six tents in a big circle in front of the Armory, with the tent doors all facing inward. And the leaders slept with the girls in the tents that night.

Thursday evening, the girls and the leaders had a fun time singing and mak-

Negotiating teams wait for summer

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News School is out for the summer, but the negotiating teams from the Goodland National Education Association and the Goodland School Board are still trying to complete their task.

Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. both sides will again sit down at the table in eight hours from the current seven the board room at the district office to hours and forty minutes. The teachers try to reach a tentative agreement on the remaining contract issues.

At the last session the school board team, led by Kathy Russell, presented a package offer which was expected by the teachers team leader, Mary Porterfield. With it being the end of the school year Porterfield suggested the two sides take extra time to look at the package offer.

In the negotiating process there were after the close of school. 16 issues presented by the teachers and 12 by the school board. In the sessions so far five issues have been tentatively agreed to, and the school board has classes are over, and many of the teachwithdrawn two and the teachers have withdrawn one.

While money is an important item in the negotiations the two sides are not far apart on how much money will be added to the pot in the next year. However, there is a disagreement on where the money would be added. The school board wants to put more on the base to attract and keep younger teachers, and the teachers want to put less on the base and more on the experienced teachers. The school board has proposed adding \$1,000 to the base and said that every teacher would receive at least a \$1,000 raise in pay. The teacher proposal called for a raise of \$500 on the base pay, and would have added over \$1,700 to the high end.

In the discussions concerning the salary issue there is a large increase in See NEGOTIATIONS. Page 4

the Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurance costs which seem to indicate that a teacher with a family might get a \$1,000 raise, and still end up on the short end as the insurance increase would be over \$650-700 for the family.

The school board is intent on trying to extend the teacher work day to a full also seem intent on keeping it at the current length and keep asking the school board what they expect to gain by having the teachers stay an additional 20 minutes.

Russell has said several times that the additional minutes would be used to have staff meetings before school opens and to allow the students to have some extra time to talk to the teachers

Porterfield counters by saying there is sufficient time in the contract for the students to contact a teacher after ers already put in many more hours in helping students without adding the 20 minutes.

Just as insistent as the school board in trying to get the additional 20 minutes, the teachers are trying very hard to get some concessions on the technology requirements. They have made at least three formal proposals on this issue, and in the discussions appear to be willing to make further changes to this issue.

The school board has indicated they are not willing to allow the teachers to count times when they would teach each other as part of the technology requirement, but have indicated they might be willing to accept some "class" effort which would be more than one on