

The Goodland Daily News

FRIDAY

**July 30
1999**

50¢

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Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather report

95°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 8:02 p.m.

Tomorrow

- Sunrise, 5:46 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:01 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil Temperature 83 degrees
- Humidity 29 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds north at 12 mph
- Barometer 29.81 inches and falling
- Record High 106° (1935)
- Record Low 43° (1971)

Last 24 Hours*

- High 97°
- Low 63°
- Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, low near 65, southwest winds 5 to 15 mph.

Saturday: partly cloudy, 40 percent chance of thunderstorms, high near 90, southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday through Tuesday: chance of thunderstorms, lows near 65, highs near 90.

(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 — \$2.00
- Loan deficiency payment — .45¢
- Corn — \$1.68 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.55
- Loan deficiency pmt. — .44¢
- Milo — \$2.46 hundredweight
- Soybeans — \$3.68 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.59
- Loan deficiency payment — 1.30¢
- Millet — \$4 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$6.60 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.86
- Oil new crop — \$6.50 cwt.
- Confection current — \$17/10 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$13 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Man kills 12, wounds 13

ATLANTA (AP) — The inventor who killed his family and nine people at two brokerage firms vowed in a note to kill "the people that greedily sought my destruction," police said today.

Mark O. Barton left the computer-generated note in the living room of his family's apartment in suburban Stockbridge, describing how he killed his wife and two children by hitting them in the head with a hammer Tuesday and Wednesday, said Jimmy Mercer, police chief in Henry County, where Stockbridge is located.

The note made no direct reference to Thursday's slayings at the two brokerage firms in Atlanta, except the reference to greedy people.

"I don't plan to live very much longer, just long enough to kill ... the people that greedily sought my destruction," he wrote.

New projects part of city budget hearing

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Questions about funding for future development of a swimming facility and ongoing support for economic development are part of what may be answered at 5 p.m. Monday when the City Commission holds their hearing on the budget for year 2000.

During the hearing the city commission will review the proposed budget for next year and also be open to hear suggestions from citizens about specific points.

The commissioners spent a week recently reviewing the department budgets and have been approached for funding from a number of groups in the community including the Chamber of Commerce asking for funding for economic development.

It is doubtful the city commission will have a full answer on funding for the replacement of the current city pool, but there is expected to be a provision to move the project to the next step.

The commission received a report on suggestions for a new swimming facility prior to the budget review. The new facility could cost up to \$3 million if developed as presented, but there are also a number of alternatives yet to be examined.

Funding for other city improvements and goals for the city will be presented by City Manager Ron Pickman during the budget hearing.

Several of the projects the city expected to see underway or completed this year have been delayed because of changes by the Kansas Department of Transportation according to Pickman. He says the Cherry Street project as well as the replacement of the brick intersections are on the schedule for next spring.

"We will be pretty busy here next year especially if the state also does the K-27 project from south of the interstate up to the junction with business 24," he said. "I keep thinking how much better things will be when all these are done."

Once project Pickman does expect to be completed in the next few months is the rebuilding of the railroad crossing on Cherry Street. He said the preliminary plans have been approved for this and they are only waiting for the final approval he said.

Once the budget hearing has been completed the commissioners will consider approval of a payment to Allied, Inc on the water improvement project and final payment to PDM, Inc on the water tower.

Resolutions creating reserve funds for electric, water and sewer are to be considered as well as resolutions to adopt the 1997 edition of the Uniform Building Code.

Bids will be reviewed for removal of asbestos at the city power plant, and on sale of police vehicles.

A petition for annexation from Tommy Tompkins is to be presented along with an accompanying ordinance to bring into the city property along Kansas Avenue between Fifth and Eighth Street and south of the school property which was annexed in June.

Bids will also be reviewed for the piece of property between Cattletrail and Wyoming on 11th Street the city was selling.

The next regular city commission meeting will be 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 16, in the commission room upstairs in the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th.



While several of the road projects planned for this year have been delayed City Manager Ron Pickman says the replacement of the bumpy railroad crossing at Cherry Street should be on track as the city has approved the preliminary plans.

Photo by Charlie Baker / The Goodland Daily News

Police catch three furry visitors

Police were called around 7 p.m. to the 700 block of W. 16th Street for a complaint of raccoons in a tree. Game warden Jim Robinson also was called, and found three tame raccoons.

"They just came right down the tree and into our hands," he said. "They weren't afraid of people at all."

Robinson said the problem with taming the creatures is that eventually the young raccoons

will move into an attic or garage, and then get into whatever food source they can find, including pet food.

"They are little robbers, and can be a general nuisance," he said.

The little critters will be evaluated as to whether they can be rehabilitated. "If they can make it on their own, they will be let loose in the wild," he said. "If they can't be rehabilitated, they will have to be euthanized."

Using creative tactics to beat heat

COUNCIL GROVE (AP) — Even the most creative efforts are failing in the effort to beat the heat.

Pat Fisher has been spraying her patio with water, but that isn't helping anymore.

"It just steamed. There was no breeze whatsoever," she said Thursday, after suffering through another night of sweltering heat.

During a conversation at the Saddlerock Cafe, Mrs. Fisher said spraying the cement patio in the evening had been creating a buffer between her and the heat.

Her husband, Bill, said his answer to the con-

ditions is simply staying inside and doing as little as possible.

"We're coping with it damn poorly," Fisher, a retired engineer, said.

The Fishers are like many Kansans trying to cope as summer temperatures hit 100 or higher with no relief expected until next week. State health officials say two Kansans have died from heat-related causes.

At the local Fair Grounds Park Pool, Becky Evans, sister of the pool manager, said mothers are not taking toddlers to the pool because of the intense heat.

Plane: No sign of fire or break-up

WASHINGTON (AP) — The wreckage of John F. Kennedy Jr.'s plane showed no signs of in-flight breakup or fire, and the engine appeared to have been working when the aircraft plunged into the ocean, a federal safety panel said today.

The National Transportation Safety Board, releasing its first update in a week on its investigation of the July 16 crash that killed Kennedy, his wife and her sister, also said that Kennedy had received a weather forecast via the Internet for his flight from Fairfield, N.J., to Martha's Vineyard, Mass. The report, issued at 6:30 p.m., or about two hours before takeoff, was for good visual-flight-rules conditions, with six to eight miles visibility.

No weather warnings were issued to pilots flying Kennedy's route, which took him over the Long Island Sound along the southern coast of Connecticut.

"However, pilots who had flown over Long Island Sound that evening reported after the accident that the in-flight visibility over the water was significantly reduced," the safety board's statement said. "Interviews of those pilots will continue."

Kennedy, the 38-year-old son of President Kennedy, his wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, 33, and her 34-year-old sister Lauren Bessette, were flying in Kennedy's single-engine Piper Saratoga when it crashed about 7 1/2 miles southwest of the Vineyard.

The couple had intended to drop off Miss Bessette on the island before flying to nearby Hyannis, Mass., for the wedding of Kennedy's cousin Rory, youngest child of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

After a five-day search, the bodies of the three victims were located in 116 feet of water, still strapped into their seats.

The safety board, which is investigating the accident, said the USS Grasp recovered about 75 percent of the plane. Among the items were

a primitive recording device, which was destroyed by the impact with the water.

The wreckage was handed over to investigators in Newport, R.I., earlier this week and subsequently taken to a secure hangar at the Coast Guard Air Station on the grounds of the former Otis Air Force Base.

The wreckage included about 80 percent of the left wing, 60 percent of the right wing, the engine and the propeller, as well as the cockpit instrument panel.

The propeller "indicated the presence of rotational damage," which would indicate it was still spinning when the plane crashed. Radar tapes show the plane plummeted into the water at a descent rate of perhaps greater than 5,000 feet per minute at about 9:40 p.m.

The engine was sent to Williamsport, Pa., for examination by its manufacturer, Textron Lycoming, while the propeller was transferred to a facility near Dayton, Ohio, for examination by Hartzell Propeller. Both inspections were conducted under supervision of the safety board, as is standard practice. The parts have since been returned to Cape Cod.

"No evidence was found during the examinations of conditions that would have prevented either the engine or the propeller from operating," the statement said.

The board said the aircraft's Global Positioning System unit and selected cockpit instruments will be sent to its lab in Washington for examination. The radios, meanwhile, have been hand-carried to their manufacturer, Allied Signal, in Kansas.

The statement said investigators have learned that Kennedy had about 300 hours of flying experience, not including his time in the Saratoga, which he bought in April. Kennedy received his pilot's license in April 1988.

The NTSB has said it hopes to complete its investigation in six to nine months.

Gas prices climbing again

By Tom Dreiling and Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Gas prices at the pumps took another jump during the night Wednesday in Colby, and apparently that's the pattern in several other communities in this area.

Unleaded regular had been selling for \$1.17, but Thursday morning signs were beginning to reflect the change to \$1.23.

Mum seems to be the word at some of the outlets checked by the *Free Press*. A shrug of the head and shoulder is the only reaction received when quizzed as to the reason for the price hike.

Unleaded regular has jumped 14-16 cents this month alone.

A peek around the area Thursday morning shows gas prices climbing, maybe not as high as Colby, but climbing nonetheless.

The price at Russell is \$1.19; the same at Ellis.

This morning, Hays reflected a new price of \$1.12, up from \$1.09. A dealer there said, "I don't understand it." He said the \$1.12 is the town price. "Along Interstate-70 here you will be paying \$1.19," he added.

Over at Goodland, one station quoted its price by phone. Located off I-70, it was \$1.20 this morning. Along interstate, the price was generally in the \$1.17 to \$1.20 range, figures the *Free Press* managed to squeeze out of a contact who said, "I can't give you that information over the phone" but each time the *Free Press* mentioned a figure she would respond, "You're pretty close."

Another spokesperson at a Goodland service station said, "We have a gas price war going." That statement was disputed by still another station employee, who said, "Not at these prices it's not a war. This is the first mention of a gas price war I've heard."

Heading West toward Denver the average price for unleaded is around the \$1.17 range but one person said they did find a station with gas at \$1.12. "You can be sure I pulled in

Building sale gets county approval

By Charlie Baker

The Goodland Daily News

The negotiations for the sale of the former Medical Arts building appear to be about over. If the contract is approved by the county attorney, then, the school district will have to wait to see if there are any objections by voters, and if not, it will be a done deal.

After Commissioner Gary Townsend called the regular meeting of the commissioners to order, Terry Richardson, who is brokering the sale of the building, presented a contract from the school district to lease-purchase the building.

The contract provides for the school district to pay \$20,000 a year for the next 10 years, for a total of \$200,000. The district plans to use the building for early childhood classrooms and offices.

Commissioner Kenneth Davis said that it had been the intention of the commissioners that the Goodland Regional Medical Center board be the ones to work out the financial details of the sale of the building, since the hospital will receive the funds from the sale. He said he was concerned about the communication break down between the boards.

Richardson said he thought the offer the school board made to the commissioners should have been kept quiet. "I had listed the building for \$250,000," he said. "When it came out in the paper that the school board had offered \$200,000, the value of that building dropped \$50,000."

The contract that Richardson presented made provision for the deed to be held in escrow while the district makes payments, so that the hospital does not have to pay the interest in the interim.

The commissioners decided to send the contract to county attorney Bonnie Selby, and if she approved it, they would sign it.

Richardson said that the hospital board was a little reluctant because they had paid over \$270,000 for the building, and that the \$70,000 would show up on their bottom line.

"The bottom line," said commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld, "is that the community benefits."



Goodland prices

These are the local gas prices, as of 10 a.m. on Friday.

Amoco — Lead Free Regular 1.159, Lead Free Silver 1.259, Lead Free Premium 1.359

Phillips 66 (Presto) — Regular Unleaded 1.159, Plus Unleaded 1.229, Super Unleaded 1.299

Conoco — Unleaded Regular 1.159, Unleaded Plus 1.209, Unleaded Super 1.259

Total — Unleaded Regular 1.159, Unleaded Plus 1.259, Unleaded Premium 1.359

Texaco (New Trail) — Regular Unleaded 1.159, Power Plus 1.259, Super Unleaded 1.359

Coastal — Regular Unleaded 1.159, Super Unleaded 1.209, Premium Unleaded 1.259

Conoco (McB's Corner) — Unleaded 1.209, Super Unleaded 1.329

Frontier Equity — Unleaded 1.159, Gasohol 1.159

quickly," the person said.

"I never pay attention to the price," another driver said, "my gas always costs the same \$5."