Godland Daily News



Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

Charges filed on two for burglaries

Today Sunset, 4:45 p.m. Tomorrow • Sunrise, 6:17 a.m.

weather

report

49°

at noon

• Sunset, 4:44 p.m.

Midday Conditions

Soil Temperature 47 degrees

- Humidity 18 percent
- Sky sunny

• Winds southwest at 12 mph • Barometer 30.07 inches

and falling • Record High 81° (1931) • Record Low -4° (1951)

Last 24 Hours* High 54° Low 15°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: clear, low near 25, south winds 10 to 20 mph. Wednesday: sunny, high near 65, southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: dry, low near 30, high near 70.

Friday: dry, low near 30, high near 65.

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



Noon Wheat — \$2.12 bushel Posted county price — \$2.05 Loan deficiency payment — 40¢ Corn — \$1.51 bushel



Sheriff Doug Whitson (left, behind van door), Police Chief Ray Smee (center) and Officer John Bookstaver searched the van allegedly used in the burglary Saturday at Western Distributing Inc. The van may have belonged to a girlfriend of one of the suspects, and had plates from another vehicle on it, Smee said.

Photo by Charlie Baker / The Goodland Daily News

By Charlie Baker

The Goodland Daily News Two 18-year-olds, one the son of a sheriff's deputy, have been charged with one count each of burglary in a most of the stolen articles, but that there series of 10-12 messy, expensive break ins in Kansas and Colorado.

A juvenile was being held at the detention center in WaKeeney, and was to be brought to Goodland today for a court appearance. The county attorney's office would not reveal the name of the youth or his age. Police did say he was from Goodland.

Being held in the Sherman County Bastille were Justin Lamb, 18, of Goodland, and Jamie Meyer, 18, of Bethune, Colo. Lamb is the son of sheriff's Deputy Robert Lamb

Police Chief Ray Smee said his department has been able to clear 11 burglary cases in Sherman County, as well as one in Colorado.

One of the suspects admitted break ing into Kentucky Fried Chicken sometime in the first part of October, the chief said. They then burglarized Dr. David Schnee's office on Business U.S. 24 Oct. 18 and Bowladium Lanes on Sunday, Oct. 24.

The group broke into W-R Equipment and Yost Farm Supply on Wednesday, then into Dependable Glass downtown on Friday.

The group burglarized a farm sometime during the two weeks, but a date has not been confirmed, the chief said.

On Friday night, the three broke into M&M Sales and Frontier Equity Co-op at U.S. 24 and K-27. Then, on Saturday, friend."

the three were arrested leaving Western Distributing Inc. near the airport with a van load of stolen beer.

TUESDAY

November 2

1999

Smee said officers have recovered was an extensive amount of cash taken that has not been recovered.

He said there was also quite a bit of damage at many of the burglaries.

"If there was anything locked," he said, "they broke into it."

Smee said that he was proud of his officers' work in catching the suspects. Both the police and sheriff's departments had put on extra patrols, hoping to catch the burglars.

"I told them just do your job, and you'll fall into something," the chief said. "They were in the right place at the right time, and things worked out."

Sheriff Doug Whitson said he had interviewed one of the suspects earlier today, and had been told about two other burglaries. One was a rural home and one was a storage shed in Goodland.

"I have a deputy checking them out right now," he said.

Whitson said the fact that one of the suspects is a son of one of his deputies has made the investigation tough.

"I just send him to work in other parts of the county so he doesn't have to deal with some of it," he said. "It bothers me because it makes him (the deputy) look guilty.

"I feel bad for him, not just because he is a deputy, but because he is my

Explorer Post suggested by city police chief

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News Police Chief Raymond Smee asked the City Commission Monday to support his effort to develop a Boy Scout the city. Smee said the insurance for the Explorer Post which would allow teens 14-19 to learn about law enforcement as a possible career.

Smee said the idea is in a preliminary question. stage, but wanted to discuss the project The program, affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, would be open to high school men and women.

said, "and they can not be out unless there are at least two officers on duty."

The main question from the commissioners was about possible liability to young people would be handled through the Boy Scouts, and that he had talked to the city attorney about the liability

"I would like to have a letter on file with the commission before moving. about liability," said Commissioner Curtis Hurd.

meeting about two months ago asking about the same issue, and Commis- it. sioner Mull asked if he had met with City Manager Ron Pickman after that meeting.

Pickman, but did not like the plan he was coming off 19th.

"I want to come off Cherry," he said.

Bennett had been to a commission \$12,000 to the city library in return for read a proclamation from the Goodland the city allowing county residents to use

• Approved an ordinance changing the zoning of a vacant lot on the northeast corner of 12th Street and Broadway Bennett said he had met with from commercial to multi-family residential. The property is owned by John shown, and that he has not accepted Bateman, who is seeking to put a modular duplex on the it.

• Approved the city's share of a grant applicants. He said there has been less from the Kansas Department of Transportation to replace the current senior citizen van, about \$8,000. A city representative will be attending a meeting Thursday in Topeka to discuss the options. The city will be getting a wheelchair-equipped 13-passenger van, and after it is delivered, the city will probably sell a 1987 12-passenger van.

Elks Lodge declaring November as Veterans Remembrance Month.

• Approved by consensus transferring funds from the special electrical meter update fund to the dead tree removal fund to allow the city to continue that project. Public Works Director Ed Wolak said the city has paid out \$9,287 for tree removal so far, and has more interest the electrical meter program. Heard an update on the water-line renewal project and other city projects. Wolak said the Eighth Street project, where they are replacing the pavement, should be completed Tuesday. The next city meeting will be 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 15, in the commission room upstairs in the City Administration

Posted county price — \$1.58 Loan deficiency pmt. — 41¢ Milo — \$2.20 hundredweight Soybeans — \$3.94 bushel Posted county price — \$3.86 Loan deficiency payment — 1.03¢ Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight Sunflowers Oil current crop — \$5.75 cwt. Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.85 Oil new crop — \$5.75 cwt.

Confection current — \$9 cwt. Pinto beans — \$15 (new crop) (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)



HONOLULU — An employee opened fire at a Xerox Corp. office building Tuesday, killing seven people before fleeing, authorities said.

The seven were found dead at the office building on North Nimitz Highway, a few miles from downtown, after the shootings that erupted shortly after 8 a.m. (11 a.m. Mountain Time).

"There are seven fatalities in the building, in various areas of the building," Richard Soo of the city fire department told the cable network MSNBC. Ambulance teams that went into the building found a "grisly" scene, he said.

Witnesses said the shooter fled in a Xerox company van. The van later was found abandoned, according to broadcast reports.

Police identified the suspect as Byron Uesugi, an employee in Xerox's technical services division.

"Under this program," Smee said, "we will be giving the young people a chance to learn about law enforcement in a positive manner, and give them a chance to look into the world of law enforcement as a career choice."

He said the young people would learn about all aspects of the job, and after committed to anything at this stage, but proper training and waivers, they can be trained at the police firing range and allowed to ride along with on-duty officers

Smee said since he has been in Goodland, there have been several requests from young people to ride with officers. These are approved after the student and parents are told the procedure and sign liability waiver forms.

"We never put any of these young people in a dangerous situation," Smee from Cherry to 19th Street.

"This probably has a benefit, but don't feel we have enough information at this time," said Commissioner Jim Mull. "I think it is a positive idea, but would like more information, especially on the liability question."

"There may not be enough interest," Smee said, "but if there is enough, we will then take the next step. We are not just asking to see if the interest is there."

"I think it is a good idea," Commissioner Rick Billinger said. "It would be good to give the young people a different spin on law enforcement."

Don Bennett, 824 E. 6th, asked the commission if the plans had been set for the relocation of Cherry Street south of the railroad. He said he did not like the plans he has seen, which would change the entrance to his commercial property

That's the way my property is and the way it should be.

"You are asking for an entrance to come off Cherry about 50 feet south of 19th and I don't think that is something we can decide without having our engineer present," replied Commissioner Hurd.

Mayor Chuck Lutters said it would be better to delay discussion to the next meeting when it can be on the agenda and both the city engineer and Pickman can be present.

The commissioners also approved a resolution which certifies to the Kansas Department of Transportation that the city has acquired all the rights-of-way, utility easements and any needed property to do the Cherry project.

In other business, the commission: • Approved a library contract between the city, Sherman County and the library board for the next year. The county pays

•Heard Exalted Ruler Don McKenzie Building, 204 W. 11th.



Eric Torres (left) was looking around at what was available at the book fair in the library at West School, while Joel Linin wrote items on his wish list. The boys are both first graders in Janet Davis's class. The fair is being held through Friday at each of the Goodland elementary schools.

Hospital projects more business for 2000

By Charlie Baker

The Goodland Daily News The Goodland Regional Medical Center is projecting a 2.7 percent increase in revenue for next year, and a 28 percent decrease in the net operating loss.

center, presented a proposed 2000 budget to the Medical Center board at its the center's cash reserve. October meeting, which had been put off to Monday.

Laue said that net income has declined this year. The book loss is expected to decline from a projected \$43,755 this year to \$31,150 next year, he said, though the hospital projects a positive cash flow of \$445,162 next year.

"It has been a year with less need for ing medical services," he said, adding that the center expects around a 10 percent party would be on Wednesday, Dec. 15, increase in net in 2000.

Laue said the new doctors on staff are bringing in new patients, and will help build revenue for the center.

Laue said the hospital is having difficulty hiring technical staff, including. nurses. Many are taking jobs in larger cine. cities where they can make consider-

ably more money, he said.

The board has appointed a committee to look at ways to draw staff.

Laue said that the hospital has spent quite a bit in the last several years updating equipment, and that everything is in pretty good shape. He suggested Andy Laue, financial officer for the the hospital step back from updating equipment for a few years to build up

"We need about \$1 million of our own money," he said. "It will take a couple of years to get there."

Hospital Administrator Jim Chaddic told the board he had been invited to attend a 3-day seminar in Orlando, Fla., in February. He said it would be a fairly expensive trip, and the board decided to table discussion until the next meet-

Chaddic said the hospital Christmas at the Elks Club.

He asked that board members come to the hospital on Monday, Dec. 22, to hand out bonus checks to the staff.

Chaddic said that Dr. Jed McKee has passed his board examination, and is X-ray and radiology technicians and now board certified for internal medi-

Member Larry McCants said he has ter.

heard a lot of good comments about the clinic.

"The consumers see the hospital and clinic as one place," he added.

Member Pete Whalen said that he felt the patient advocacy program is working very well.

"I just don't see any negative reports coming in like there have been in the past years," he said.

Member Lynn Hoelting said he, too, has heard nothing but good comments about the center. He said he had talked to Doctors Greigo and McKee, and both had told him that they felt accepted by the community, and also by the other doctors on staff.

The board went into closed session at 9:10 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue. When the board returned at 9:40, they announced that they had approved a contract for Travis Davis, a Goodland medical student who will graduate in 2000. Davis will then have to perform a three-year residency, and expects to arrive in Goodland in July 2003.

The board adjourned at 9:43. The next regular will be at 6:30 on Nov. 29, in the board room of the Medical Cen-