

weather  
report

62°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:48 a.m.  
• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 41 degrees  
• Humidity 32 percent  
• Sky partly cloudy  
• Winds calm  
• Barometer 30.17 inches  
and falling

• Record High 73° (1970)

• Record Low -3° (1985)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 41°  
Low 30°  
Precipitation trace  
month .14; year 20.02 (+2.25)

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy; low 35;  
winds southwest 10. Tomorrow:  
Mostly cloudy; high 65-70; winds  
breezy from south 15-25.

Extended Forecast

Thursday through Saturday.  
Chance of rain and snow Thursday;  
high 45; low 30-35. Friday chance of  
snow; high 40-45; low 30-35. Light  
snow on Saturday; high 40; low 30.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.00 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.96  
Loan deficiency payment — 49¢  
Corn — \$1.50 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.58  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 41¢  
Milo — \$2.04 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.01 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.97  
Loan deficiency payment — 92¢  
Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$5.90 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.87  
Confection current — \$11/\$7 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.)

afternoon  
wire

Late news  
from the  
Associated  
Press

1 p.m.

Police use gas  
on protestors

SEATTLE — Police fired tear  
gas today as thousands of protest-  
ers took to the streets in an effort  
to disrupt a meeting of the World  
Trade Organization.

Tear-gas rounds were fired into  
groups of demonstrators who had  
chained themselves together and  
were lying in the streets in an at-  
tempt to prevent the delegates  
from 135 countries from making  
it to the opening sessions.

Organization officials said the  
opening ceremonies were delayed  
because U.N. Secretary-General  
Kofi Annan was unable to get to  
the ornate downtown theater  
where the sessions were held.

Secretary of State Madeleine  
Albright and trade Director Gen-  
eral Mike Moore were also sched-  
uled to talk at the opening cere-  
monies. Police used gas on several  
hundred protesters after warning  
them they were breaking the law.

# U.S., Mexican police dig for bodies

By Michelle Koidin

Associated Press Writer

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico — More than 100 people, including 22 Americans, are believed to have been killed by a Mexican drug cartel and buried on two ranches near this border city, Mexican authorities said today.

U.S. and Mexican agents returned today to re-sume the search for people Attorney General Jorge Madrazo said were believed killed by the Juarez drug cartel, the dominant Mexican drug-traffic- ing organization in the mid-1990s.

“The list is of more than 100 persons who hy- pothetically could be buried in those points,” Madrazo told the Televisa network here. Twenty-

two of them, he said, were believed to be U.S. citizens.

“In the last four years, and possibly over more time, citizens of both nationalities have disap- peared without leaving any trace,” a statement from Madrazo’s office said.

Assistant FBI Director Thomas Pickard said to- day in Washington that agents at the scene has recovered part of one body this morning.

“We believe these people were killed for their knowledge or for being witnesses to drug traffick- ing endeavors,” Pickard said. “Most of the infor- mation we have shows these individuals were buried there at least two to three years ago, so it’s not a recent situation.”

Pickard said digging only started late yester- day and that 68 FBI agents and forensic experts and other U.S. personnel were escorted to the sites this morning by Mexican authorities.

“We’ve been discussing this for a period of time with the Mexicans,” Pickard said, describing a process he said has taken several months. “We developed some information and provided them with information, and they went and developed their own information.”

He said “it’s a pretty good assumption” that Americans are among those buried at the ranches, given the proximity to the border.

Authorities were led to the two ranches by an informant who first approached the FBI early this

year, a federal law enforcement official said in Washington today. The informant said there might be as many as 100 bodies there, including some people who had been providing information to U.S. drug agents.

The official said investigators checked the informant’s veracity, including giving the infor- mant a lie detector test, before beginning the dig.

Monday night, dozens of armed soldiers, some wearing black ski masks, surrounded one of the ranches in a desolate area 10 miles south of Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso. White iron gates towered in front of the ranch. A concrete block wall covered with graffiti surrounded the property, across the street from a junkyard.

## Hospital shows ‘surprising’ profit for year to date

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

An unexpected profit of \$2,900 for the year to date was reported by Treas- urer Randy Schoenthaler at the Good- land Regional Medical Center board meeting Monday night.

Schoenthaler said that the hospital had expected to be \$80,500 in the hole under last year’s budget. He added that October showed a net income of \$15,300 for the month.

Dr. Jed McKee made an appearance to introduce himself to the board mem- bers. He said that although his practice has been slower than he thought it would be, things are going well.

He explained how his practice of in- ternal medicine differs from family practice. He said he usually sees pa- tients 16 years and up, plus allows more time for seeing patients. Dr. Greg Bongers said he has enjoyed having McKee on staff to bounce ideas off of.

Hospital Administrator Jim Chaddic took the group on a tour of room 105, which has been remodeled into a “com- fort room” with a home type atmo- sphere.

The walls and cabinets were painted, new countertops installed, a wallpaper border put up and cornice boards added to the windows. The room was fur- nished with a sofa, a quilt on the bed, a new privacy curtain, a larger television, a microwave oven and a coffee maker.

Schoenthaler asked what criteria had to be met for a patient to use the room. Dr. Bongers said any patient could use it, but it probably would be used for a

stroke or cancer patient, who might be there longer than usual, or a patient who was waiting to get into a nursing home. The idea is to make both the patient and their family more comfortable in an extended stay.

Chaddic said the estimated cost of redoing the room was under \$4,000. He said the hospital would like to redo a room down both B and C wings in the future. Board member Larry McCants said he liked the room.

“People like to see where their money is going,” he said.

Board Chairman Doug Irvin intro- duced Dr. Brian Tschumper of Denver, a radiologist with Diversified Radiol- ogy of Colorado, who said he comes to the Goodland hospital Monday through Friday every other week to read X-rays. He said he has been coming here for a year and a half, but this is his first time to attend a board meeting.

Dr. Bongers asked him if he thought the hospital needs a helical computer- ized tomography scan machine. Tsch- umper said it would have an advantage over other forms of imaging in locating kidney stones, appendicitis, pulmonary embolisms and cancer studies.

For the administrator’s report, Chaddic talked about meeting with the Sherman County commissioners Tues- day to discuss the cost of autopsies.

He asked whether he could attend a three-day meeting of administrators from the top 100 hospitals in the nation in Florida this February. The hospital received an award for being one of the top 100 hospitals in the United States



Jim Chaddic, administrator at the Goodland Regional Medical Center, talked to Dr. Greg Bongers and other board members on Monday night, about the changes made to a hospital room to make it into a “comfort room.”

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

in 1996. Both Schoenthaler and McCants felt that he should pass it up and wait for one that had more to offer.

McCants moved that the board ap- prove the 2000 budget as presented, and

the vote was unanimous.

The board went into closed session to discuss personnel from 7:30 p.m. until 8 p.m., when McCants made a motion for an extra 20 minutes. The

meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. with no action or comment on the closed session. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 24, in the hospital board room.

## Response to test in Sherman County mixed

In Sherman County, there was plenty of cooperation at both the city office and the county clerk’s in responding to public record requests.

At the school district, employees were worried about what the infor- mation would be used for, but the coach’s salary document were provided. The only place where a request for infor- mation hit a snag was the sheriff’s office, where Mary Cooper, representing *The Goodland Daily News* was told, “Oh, I don’t know if we can do that. Let me ask,” when she asked to see an offense report.

Cooper was asked to make the records requests since, as an advertis- ing representative, she was not known to officials as a reporter. She described her visits to the offices and the response she received:

I entered the Goodland School Dis- trict office and told the secretary I would like to see and copy their records pertaining to the head football coach’s combined salary for teaching and coaching. She got a panicked look on her face and said, “I’m going to have to ask Pat to help you.”

I sat down and explained to Pat Juhl, clerk of the school board, what I was looking for. She sat there for a long time and just looked at me, and after a while asked my name. I told her and said noth- ing more. She finally said, “I know that by law you are allowed to see this in- formation, but I am a chicken and so I am going to get permission from our superintendent first.”

She then left the office and came back

## Access in area mirrored that across Kansas

Nineteen Kansas newspapers, in- cluding The Goodland Daily News, joined this fall to survey access to pub- lic documents held by cities, counties and school districts. This report is part of the results of that project.

By Rachel Miscall

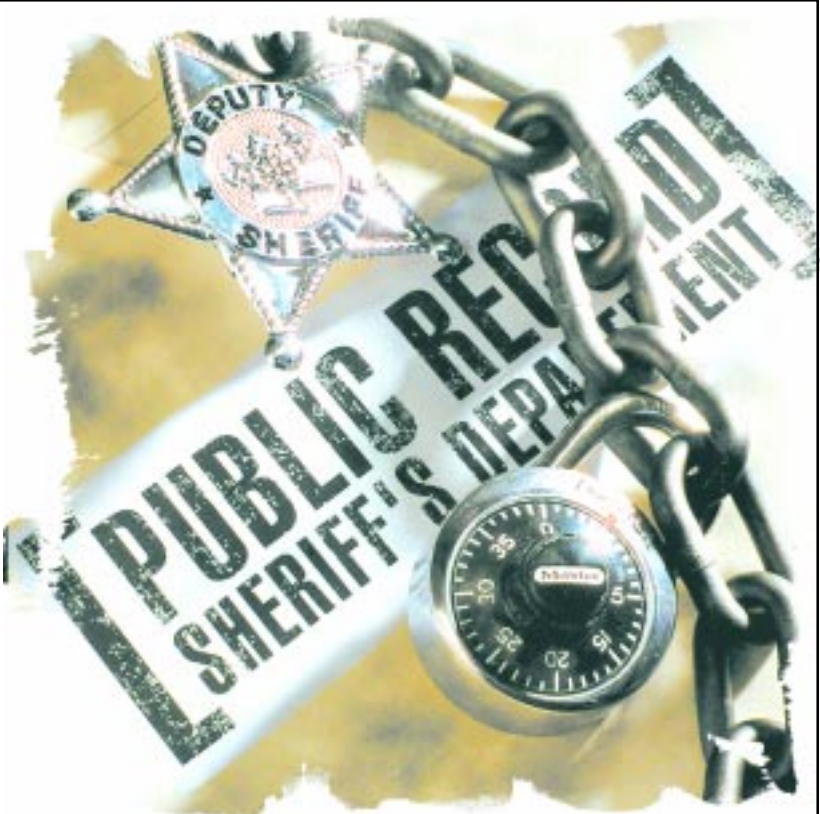
The Oberlin Herald

The Rawlins County Sheriff shook his head back and forth when asked for copies of offense reports from the prior weekend.

“We don’t hand that stuff out to people,” he told a reporter for the *St. Francis Herald*, who had managed to avoid telling the official her occupa- tion or name.

In Rooks County, an officer with the sheriff’s department refused to grant the same request from a *Hays Daily*

with Marvin Selby, the superintendent. He wanted to know my name and who I was with. I told them my name and that I was wanting a copy of the coach’s to- tal salary. He eventually said that I was privy to this information by law and I



News reporter and instead directed the unfamiliar face to the county at- torney, who said he’d look into it, but apparently never did — at least not

within the 72-hour time frame the Kan- sas Open Records Act stipulates.

See ACCESS, Page 6

you understand that we just really want to protect our people.” The copy was free.

At Goodland City Hall, I asked the city clerk for the bills the city paid the previous month. She had me wait at the

front desk while she went and got the computer printouts. Set the book in front of me and asked me if I needed any help finding anything. I asked for Au- gust and she flipped right to them.

I then asked if I could have a copy and she said it wouldn’t be a problem, but I would have to fill out a request form. After I did so, she handed me my cop- ies, which were 25 cents each. She fin- ished by thanking me for my business.

At the county clerk’s office, I asked the secretary for the minutes of the last County Commission meeting. She di- rected me to the deputy county clerk, who got me the information I asked for. Her only question was if it was for per- sonal use or for a newspaper when I asked for copies.

At the sheriff’s office, I had to speak to the officer through a glass pane for security reasons. I asked if I could see their offense reports from last weekend. The officer asked me why I wanted the information. I explained I just wanted to look at them. She looked at me for a minute and said, “Oh, I don’t know if we can do that. Let me ask.”

After a long absence, she told me that there were no reports from last week- end. I asked her if there were any reports from last week and she said that that was what she meant. I then asked if there were any offense reports from the previous weekend and she said no. She then said, “If there is a certain offense you are looking for you can go to the district court.” As they weren’t going to let me in to talk to anyone else, I gave up and left.