

weather report

46°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 7:55 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 5:30 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:56 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 63 degrees
- Humidity 73 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds north 25-35 mph
- Barometer 30.13 inches and rising
- Record High 95° (1934)
- Record Low 29° (1930)

Last 24 Hours*

- High 85°
- Low 48°
- Precipitation .05 inches

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, patchy fog, low mid 30s, winds north 10-20 mph.
Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, chance of thunderstorms, high 65-70, low 40s, winds south 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: chance of thunderstorms, high upper 70s to lower 80s, low 50s. Sunday: chance of rain, high 75-85, low 40s. Monday: chance of rain, high 70s, low 40s.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.25 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.20
 - Loan deficiency payment — 25¢
 - Corn — \$1.88 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.91
 - Loan deficiency payment — 8¢
 - Milo — \$2.82 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$4.68 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.62
 - Loan deficiency payment — 27¢
 - Millet — \$3.60 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$5.85 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.57
 - Confection current — \$13/\$7 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$12 (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.

Firefighters gain ground

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. — It's up to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to explain to burned-out residents how a fire ordered by the National Park Service roared out of control and left hundreds homeless.

With cooler weather and favorable winds forecast for firefighters battling the monster blaze, Babbitt faced a firestorm as he prepared to release a preliminary report today. "If I think about it, I get very angry. It's ludicrous. There's no reason any of us should have lost our homes under these circumstances," said Tory Temple, 24, whose parents lost their home.

The May 4 controlled burn at Bandelier National Monument was supposed to clear 968 acres of brush. But high winds quickly whipped it into a wildfire that rolled over the town of Los Alamos, burning scores of homes and charring more than 47,000 acres.

Townsend may be out for six months

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Commissioner Gary Townsend informed the other commissioners, Kenny Davis and Chuck Frankenfeld, and others present at Tuesday's Sherman County commissioners' meeting that it would be his last for some time. He will be going to Denver soon for a bone marrow transplant.

Townsend said he had visited with Judy Moler, attorney for the Kansas Association of Counties, as to how to handle matters while he was gone. He said he will take a fax machine and communicate by phone to let Davis and Frankenfeld know how he wants to vote on matters.

Davis said they could have phone conferences during the commissioners' meetings for more important issues. Townsend said his doctor told him that in the worst case scenario he could be gone for as long as six months.

The commissioners passed a resolution for the re-appointment of Mary Jo Downey from Stratton, Colo., and Norman Nelson from Norton County, as members at-large on the Mid States Port Authority board. The port authority owns the former Rock Island Railroad tracks, which Kyle Railroad now leases and operates. The tracks start around Limon, Colo., and run into eastern Kansas.

Townsend made a motion to let Mary Messamore, county dispatch supervisor, coordinate a software update with Cheyenne County, which the commissioners approved. Messamore was not

present.

Commissioner Kenny Davis said he had received a call from Road and Bridge Director Curt Way on Monday telling him that the tractor for the landfill had come in. So Davis went to W-R Equipment to look at it. He said except for the paint being faded, the tractor looked good. He said the tires looked almost new and that Tom Rohr of W-R Equipment was pleased over all with the tractor.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby met with the commissioners to discuss some property owned by the Goodland Regional Medical Center. She said the property is in Edson, rather than across from the courthouse, and is a residence. Selby said the reason for the discussion is that the hospital cannot own property—it needs to belong to the county.

The property was deeded to the hospital for payment of services. Another problem is that the individual only had a one-third interest in the property. Selby suggested that perhaps the county would be interested in buying the other two-thirds out and renting the property. However, no decision was made and Selby said the county is far from purchasing the property.

Road and Bridge Director Curt Way came in to have the commissioners sign the letter of acceptance on the completion of the Caruso bridge. They approved the matter and the letter was signed.

The commissioners will meet again at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, May 31, in the commissioner's room on the first floor of the courthouse.

High plains weather study begins Monday

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

It's not "the Bermuda triangle," but meteorologists and scientists are gathering in Goodland and Burlington this summer to study a triangular area where severe storms develop and where there is a high percentage of positive lightning strikes.

The project begins Monday, and there will be experts studying the weather in a triangle area between Goodland, Burlington and Idalia, Colo., and runs until July 17.

There will be an information meeting 4:30 p.m. Sunday at the Burlington High School auditorium for those interested in learning more about this project.

Kevin Lynott of the National Weather Service in Goodland said as many as 100 scientists, instructors, meteorologists, graduate and undergraduate students will be in the Goodland and Burlington area to assist in the Severe thunderstorm Electrification and Precipitation Study 2000 (STEPS2).

The High Plains of eastern Colorado and western Kansas is one of the best areas to study or chase severe storms during the late spring and summer Lynott said. Reasons for this include the

wide open terrain, unrestricted visibility, sufficient moisture, an unstable airmass and the seasonal dry line.

The dry line is a boundary separating moist air coming from the Gulf of Mexico and dry air descending from the Rocky Mountains said Llyle Barker of the National Weather Service in Goodland. The dry line frequently is positioned near the Colorado-Kansas border and is where thunderstorms develop and become potentially severe when they move east into the deeper Gulf of Mexico moisture.

This area is also historically known to have a high percentage of positive charged cloud-to-ground lightning strikes within thunderstorms Lynott said.

Lightning data gathered by Colorado State University over the past 10 years by Dr. Larry Carey shows the area northwest of Goodland has one of the highest percentages of positive lightning flashes in the country.

Lynott says the vast majority of lightning strikes are of a negative electrical charge, but he also says the positive strikes are potentially more dangerous because they carry more charge and last longer than the negative variety. Stud-

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Traffic rerouted on K-27



Paul Medrano, Goodland, (above left) and Ismael Ortega, Garden City, put down strips of yellow tape to mark the lanes on K-27 for one lane traffic which began south from the intersection with Business US 24 Wednesday. Today work began on the removal of the center islands which are to become a turn lane which is a part of the re-design of the section of K-27 south to Commercial Road. Smith Sand and Gravel of Garden City is the contractor on the project.

Photos by Janet Craft and Doug Jackson / The Goodland Daily News



Pangs of conscience lead to arrests

By Jerry Schwartz

AP National Writer

Nearly four decades ago, Americans asked: How could anyone protect the people who did this? How could they shield the racists who bombed an Alabama church, murdering four little girls in white dresses?

The answer, a long time coming, is that they couldn't—or at least, they couldn't do it forever.

All of 10,494 days passed between the carnage at Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and Wednesday's arrests of Thomas Blanton Jr. and Bobby Cherry. The facts of the case never changed in that time.

"It's not that more evidence has been discovered, or that there is more prosecutorial motivation that there was 30, 35 years ago," says David J. Garrow, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "Bearing the Cross: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference."

Instead, he says, "Family members are

no longer willing to cover for people. ... I think it is the moral, ethical burden of living with that guilt and guilty conscience."

If Blanton and Cherry are convicted, they will join others who have been controlled by conscience—and not their own. Apparently, a telltale heart beats within the hearing of long-reluctant witnesses, if not within earshot of the murderers themselves.

"I think it is happening all across the South. ... You have people saying, 'I'm not going to my grave with this on my conscience,'" says Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., a leader of the civil rights movement.

Six witnesses came forward in 1991 to help convict Byron De La Beckwith in the 1963 murder of civil rights leader Medgar Evers; one said he'd heard him boast, "Killing that nigger didn't cause me any more discomfort than our wives have when they have a baby."

Newly willing witnesses convicted Samuel S. Bowers in 1998 for ordering the 1966 firebombing murder of Vernon

Dahmer; one overheard him talking about the crime in a restaurant.

And others have already helped put away one defendant in the Birmingham bombing case—Robert Edward Chambliss, convicted in 1977. He died in prison eight years later.

"There have been a number of important civil rights era cases, but the fact is this really might be the most important of all," says Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

The bombing on Sept. 15, 1963, represented "the watershed moment of the civil rights movement in the United States," Potok says.

To some, Garrow says, the deaths of Denise McNair, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson and Addie Mae Collins remain a tragedy that is even greater than the murder of Martin Luther King Jr.

Both Garrow and Potok compare the crime with those committed by Nazi concentration camp guards who lived quietly in this country for decades after World War II. Ultimately, they say, justice must be served.

"This is so ultimately horrific ... the moral stain of this is so huge," that any secret knowledge of who was responsible had to weigh heavily on those witnesses, Garrow says.

Over the past year, estranged relatives of Cherry have said publicly that he talked of helping plant the dynamite. His son, Thomas Frank Cherry, appeared before a grand jury on Tuesday.

The years in which these witnesses failed to come forward could hurt the case—memories fade, evidence is harder to marshal. But in some ways, the time elapsed might help the prosecution.

"It is almost inconceivable that this could have been brought in a state court successfully" in 1963, Potok says. Juries in civil rights cases often acquitted in minutes, and "any witnesses who testified against a Klansman in the 1960s were taking their lives in their hands."

But Alabama has changed, he says, and Blanton and Cherry will be tried under today's rules, not yesterday's.

There are other unpunished racial crimes, of course.

"Very likely, there will be other cases," Potok says. But none like the Birmingham bombing case.

Brewster names top students for class of 2000



Valedictorian
Cody Rush



Salutatorian
Barbara Gilley



Salutatorian
Amanda Robben



Salutatorian
Michelle Horney

It is the high school graduation season and Sunday 11 students will receive diplomas from Brewster High School. Baccalaureate will be at 3 p.m. at the Lutheran Church, and the graduation ceremony will be at 8 p.m. at the high school. Guest speaker will be Dan Cheatham and the Senior speaker will be Eric Brown. Valedictorian of the class of 2000 is Cody Rush, and three of the class were selected as Tri-Salutatorians Michelle Horney, Barbara Gilley and Amanda Robben.

Included in today's Goodland Daily News is the Graduation 2000 edition featuring both the Goodland High School and Brewster High School graduates. At the time the edition was printed the information received from the Brewster school was that Robben was the sole salutatorian, but the final decision was not made until Monday when it was determined there would be three salutatorians.