

# The Goodland Daily News

Volume 68, Number 112

Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

## weather report

97°  
at noon



### Today

• Sunset, 8:11 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.  
• Sunset, 8:11 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 68 degrees  
• Humidity 16 percent  
• Sky clear  
• Winds south 17-25  
• Barometer 29.97 inches and falling  
• Record High 97° (1988)  
• Record Low 40° (1954)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 93°  
Low 53°  
Precipitation none

### Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, low 60, winds southwest 15-25. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, high 90s, low 65-70, winds south 15-25.

### Extended Forecast

Friday: dry, high 90s, low 65-70. Saturday: chance for thunderstorms, high 90-95, low 60s. Sunday: dry, high, 85-90, low 60-65.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$2.26 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.21  
Loan deficiency payment — 24¢  
Corn — \$1.82 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.85  
Loan deficiency payment — 14¢  
Milo — \$2.67 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.43 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.61  
Loan deficiency payment — 29¢  
Millet — \$3.60 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$5.80 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.05  
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.

## 'Slavemaster' may be killer

HARRISONVILLE, Mo. — A man who solicited sadomasochistic sex over the Internet using the name "slavemaster" is considered the prime suspect in the deaths of five women whose bodies were found stuffed in barrels in Kansas and Missouri, authorities said.

Investigators also are looking into a disappearance dating back to 1985.

Last week's arrest of John Edward Robinson Sr., 56, led police to two bodies Saturday on his property in La Cygne, across the state line in Kansas. Three more bodies in 55-gallon drums were discovered Monday at a storage locker rented by Robinson about 30 miles away, in Raymore, Mo. All the towns are in rural areas just south of Kansas City.

Autopsies showed the victims died of blunt trauma to the head, authorities said.

# Old clinic sells for \$140,000

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

The old Medical Arts clinic was sold to WWB, LLC during Tuesday morning's Sherman County commissioners' meeting.

Commissioner Kenny Davis asked Darwin McClung, a member of the corporation, what his bid was for the clinic.

McClung said \$140,000. Davis then moved to accept the bid of \$140,000 from WWB, LLC and it carried.

Andy Laue, chief financial officer for the Goodland Regional Medical Center, and Administrator Jim Chaddic met with the commissioners to give the hospital's 1999 audit report.

Laue said the hospital had a net loss of \$124,000 for the year. He said they have seen a decline in the number of patients admitted to the hospital, which is a trend in rural hospitals these days.

Davis asked about the high depreciation charges, which increase the loss even though they are not paid out in cash. Laue said since 1996 there has been a real increase.

"Why was 1996 so high?" asked Davis, and Chaddic said it was because of the addition of the outpatient clinic.

Davis asked if the depreciation would go down. Laue said he didn't expect it to go down in 2000, but after that it should, depending on how much equipment the hospital buys.

"Do you think our depreciation will stay level after 2000?" asked Davis.

"Yes," Laue replied.

Davis asked where the \$140,000 from the sale of the clinic would show up in next year's budget.

Laue said the book value for the

building was higher, so even though the hospital gets the cash, it would show up as a loss. He said he had booked a \$70,000 loss in 1999 and thought it looked like it would be another \$20,000 or \$30,000 in 2000.

The discussion turned to patient load at the hospital. Chaddic said the new doctors are trained to keep patients out of the hospital and that Medicare has started to push them to do everything on an outpatient basis and now they are trying to cut them on the outpatient side. He said on July 1, Medicare will begin to pay a pre-determined rate based on diagnosis, rather than pay 80 percent of the charges submitted.

Laue said the government put out two studies to see how this would affect them.

"I do think we will see an adverse affect," he said. "I just can't believe they are going to make it any better."

Lori Hertel from Colby, who is with Court Appointed Special Advocates of Northwest Kansas, along with Brenda McCants and Elaine Ellison, met with the commissioners to give an update on the program and ask for money.

The program trains volunteers to work with children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned and have an open case pending in court.

Hertel said the program had disbanded and the board members had resigned. She is in the process of rebuilding the agency, but is trying to find a director. She said the children in the area need it. They will start interviews on Monday and possibly start up the program by July 1.

"We've had children at the hospital

See County, Page 4

## Hoping for a smooth landing...



The play equipment at the baseball complex was a popular spot with kids on Tuesday night. T.J. Scollard jumped out of a swing, while a friend watched him.  
Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

# Work on Cherry Street delayed until spring

## Workers are still rebuilding K-27

Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

Work on Cherry Street from the railroad tracks to Business U.S. 24 will be delayed until spring, state officials say, with the contract to be put out for bids this fall.

Approval of the plans by the Kansas Department of Transportation has been delayed until October, said City Manager Ron Pickman.

Once final approval comes through, it will be 30 days before they can get bids, and by then it will be November and will be past the construction season.

Larry Emig, of the Department of Transportation's Division of Engineering and Design in Topeka, said that the delay had come up because the city and its engineering consultant have failed to get final plans to the state.

Because it is a joint project, the city is responsible for engineering work, but the state must approve the plans.

Pickman says that in the process of getting the project approved, the plans must be submitted to the state for corrections.

The plans are then returned to the city so that the suggested changes can be made.



On Tuesday, road workers began filling in the holes that they had dug in the median on K-27, which will be paved over during the summer's construction project. Today, they planned to start milling the south part of the

highway. The pavement is being rebuilt south of Business U.S. 24 in a joint city-state project.

Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

"The department kept the original plans for three months," he said, adding that the engineer only had a week to make corrections before the April date for approval.

Emig said that he still shows no record of receiving the final plans and the new deadline is the first part of July.

"Every time we ask about it, it gets moved back," Pickman told the City Commission at its meeting Monday.

Pickman said that the delay will not cause a delay in the work on the railroad crossing. The crossing will still be replaced with concrete rather than the current wood sometime this year.

This creates another problem, he added, since the road will now have to be closed twice rather than just closing it once and doing all the work as the city had originally planned.

Pickman said he doubted if the work on the railroad would start until after wheat harvest but should be done be-

fore the fall harvest.

Work also continues on the joint city-state project rebuilding K-27 south of U.S. 24.

Today, workers are filling in the holes and milling the south part of the road. Pickman didn't have any predictions as to when the job will be done.

# Two writers move to town to fill jobs at newspaper

## Paper has full staff for first time in year

Two news people have joined The Goodland Daily News, bringing the staff up to full strength for the first time in a year.

Rachel Miscall of Oberlin is the new managing editor, while Dana Sulsberger of Grand Lake, Colo., will be the general assignment reporter. Both are Colorado natives and journalism graduates of Western State College in Gunnison, Colo.

At the same time, Tom Betz, who has been acting editor of the paper, will become editor of the editorial page. Betz also is director of Internet ser-

vices for [nwkansas.com](http://nwkansas.com), the Internet service affiliated with the paper. He will have more time to help Internet customers, as well as expanding the paper's editorial page.

Steve Haynes, president of Nor'West Newspapers, said the new staff members will take over functions he and Betz have been performing and help improve services and coverage of the paper.

"The Daily was named as the sec-

ond-best paper in its size class last year in Kansas," he said, "but we want to be better than that. We're excited about the potential of our new staff members."

Haynes said that Miscall, who has been managing editor of The Oberlin Herald for a year and a half, won several awards for photography and writing while there and has had several stories picked up by the Associated Press. Before coming to Oberlin, Miscall was editor of the col-

lege newspaper at Western State.

All her belongings have been in Goodland for two weeks, but Miscall said she was too busy to start her new job until today. She's been making the 90-mile trip between Oberlin and Goodland almost everyday, training her replacement and cleaning out her old office and apartment.

"It's been a hectic two weeks," the 23-year-old Denver native said, "but I am glad to finally start getting settled into my new job here."

Though her title won't change, Miscall said she'll have more responsibilities in Goodland.

In Oberlin, a town of about 2,000, she really only managed herself.

In Goodland, she will be working

with three other reporters, including Sulsberger, Janet Craft and Betz.

Sulsberger, who started work last Thursday, will be covering local events, meetings and sports.

She was news editor for the college paper in Gunnison and completed an internship last summer with the Sky-Hi News in Granby, Colo.

The 21-year-old said she was raised in a small town and came here because she likes the small-town environment. She says she enjoys working for a small town paper because of how friendly the people are.

The new reporter said she has ambitions about being a creative writer and spends most of her spare time writing short stories.



Miscall



Sulsberger