

The Goodland Daily News

THURSDAY

January 10
2002

50¢

Volume 70, Number 7

Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather report

46°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 4:43 p.m.
- Sunrise, 7:06 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:44 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 35 degrees
- Humidity 55 percent
- Sky mostly clear
- Winds north 10 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.24 inches and falling
- Record High 74° (1990)
- Record Low -14° (1962)

Last 24 Hours*

High	55°
Low	31°
Precipitation	.02

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, low upper 20s, wind northwest 10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly sunny, high lower 50s, low mid 20s, wind northwest 10-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: partly sunny, high upper 40s, low 30s, 30 percent chance of snow or rain late. Sunday: partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of snow or rain till 6 p.m., high 50s, low 20s. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.65 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.59
- Corn — \$1.94 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.84
- Loan deficiency payment — 15¢
- Milo — \$1.66 bushel
- Soybeans — \$3.73 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.79
- Loan deficiency payment — \$1.13
- Millet — \$3.50 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$8.80 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 78¢
- Confection current — inquire
- Pinto beans — \$20 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Rocky terrain stops recovery

WASHINGTON — Steep, rocky terrain hindered efforts today to recover the bodies of seven Marines killed when their tanker plane crashed into a mountain in Pakistan, defense officials said. It was the worst U.S. casualty toll of the Afghanistan campaign, and included the first woman killed since U.S.-led Afghan bombing began in early October. Residents in the region reported seeing helicopters flying over the site early today. At the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld expressed condolences to the victims' families and said he was not sure whether any of the seven bodies had been recovered. "My understanding is there is no evidence it was anything other than an aircraft crash," he said, indicating it was not believed to have involved hostile fire.

County leader remains

Officials reorganize at first session of year

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County commissioners surprised their leader Tuesday, giving him another year as their chairman. Commissioners reorganized, naming a chairman, vice-chairman, bank depositories and official newspaper in their first meeting for the year. Once the meeting had been called to order by Chairman Chuck Frankenfeld, the floor was open for nomination of a new chairman.

In a traditional rotation, the commissioner who has been vice-chairman usually moves up to chairman and the third commissioner becomes the vice-chairman.

"I am satisfied as it is," said Commissioner Mitch Tiede. "I would like to see you (Frankenfeld) stay as chairman if you are willing."

"I think you have done a good job," Commissioner Kevin Rasure said. "I would move that Chuck Frankenfeld be elected chairman."

"I'll second that," Tiede said. "I am willing to stay for another year," Frankenfeld said, "but you will have to handle this sometime."

The vote was unanimous and Rasure was named vice-chairman.

The commissioners approved two resolutions as their first actions of the year, the first naming the First National Bank of Goodland, Western State Bank and Bankwest as depositories for county money. The second was to name *The Goodland Daily News* as the official newspaper for legal notices.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby told the commissioners she had reviewed the bill from Spencer and Spencer of Oakley with Judge Jack Burr, and his best advice was to pay the bill. "This is a case that got out of control," Selby said. "The best we can do is to pay this, and the judge says he will be more alert in the future."

The commissioners approved payment of the \$6,200 bill to Spencer for legal services.

The commissioners held a 15-minute closed session with the county attorney to review the evaluations of her two employees.

Jack Eklund of Eklund's First Insurance, met with the commissioners to discuss their decision to join the state insurance pool. He had several questions for the commissioners about the pool and what could wind up costing the county money.

"As a part of this pool, are you self insured?" Eklund asked.

"I would say we were, since we are part owners of the whole pool," said Rasure.

"I understand you called some counties to ask if they were satisfied with the service," Eklund said. "Were these hand-picked counties? Did you call any of the counties who have dropped out?" "We called a variety of counties,"

See COUNTY, Page 7

2001 in mirror

Car chase, roads and easel on list

A bizarre car chase ended with an Indiana teen-ager shot dead on I-70 in Sherman County. Road construction tangled traffic and angered business owners but resulted in strong, smooth highways. A giant sunflower rose over Goodland's south side.

Staff at *The Goodland Daily News* reviewed 2001 newspapers, picking the top 10 stories of the year according to the impact they had on people here. Employees chose the October shooting, the numerous highway projects and the placing of the huge van Gogh replica as number 5, 6 and 7.

The rest of the list will be reviewed on Friday.

5 In one of the most violent and bizarre incidents of the year, state troopers shot a 19-year-old Indiana man to death on Friday, Oct. 26, after he stole two trucks and a highway patrol cruiser, wrecked six vehicles and a boat, injured a sheriff's deputy and allegedly tried to take a trooper's gun.

About 2:30 p.m., Mark Christopher Palmer rolled his car on I-70 in Burlington, Colo., running from the scene and from Kit Carson County officers who approached him on a gravel road. Palmer escaped by stealing a farmer's pickup and ramming it into the undersheriff's car — narrowly missing the undersheriff — while speeding away.

In a matter of 30 minutes, Palmer, who fled east on I-70, stole three cars, including Trooper Dave Alber's cruiser, and wrecked seven. One of the pickups he stole was hauling a repossessed boat, which flew off at the Ruleton exit as Palmer careened off of I-70 and sped towards Goodland.

The chase ended on I-70 just west of the east Goodland exit. Officers caught up to Palmer after he side-swiped a truck while driving the wrong way on I-70. During a struggle, the man was able to steal Trooper Alber's cruiser. He was shot while driving away and zig-zagged across the freeway until Trooper Brian Horney rammed the vehicle in the median.

Already shot, Palmer, who witnesses described as looking "crazed," tried to steal Trooper Horney's cruiser while he was still in the driver's seat. The troopers wrestled Palmer out of the vehicle, and after he allegedly grabbed for Horney's gun, Albers shot and killed him.

The former Colorado State University student, who was apparently driving from Fort Collins, Colo., to his home in Carmel, Ind., died from four gunshot wounds on the way to the hospital. Deputy Robert Lamb, who Palmer hit with the state cruiser, and



The Kansas Department of Transportation closed I-70 through Goodland for a few hours in October after a 19-year-old was killed after a wild car chase. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News



A giant replica of a Vincent van Gogh sunflower painting went up in Goodland in June after a group spent almost two years working to get it here. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Undersheriff Kevin Butts also went to the hospital for injuries.

Kansas Bureau of Investigation agents spent more than a month investigating the incident, and after reviewing their findings, County Attorney

Bonnie Selby ruled the troopers were justified in shooting the youth to protect the public and other officers.

Friends, neighbors and former teachers described Palmer, who grew up in an upper-class suburban neigh-

borhood, as funny, popular and sensitive and said they couldn't understand what possessed him to act so crazy.

"He didn't come from the ghettos, slums or a bad family," said Dan McQuiston, a professor at Butler University in Indianapolis, who has lived across the street from the Palmers since 1990. "He was not a bum. He was not a druggie. He was not a real mature kid, but he was nice. He was sort of your typical all-American kid."

Palmer did have a police record in Carmel for vandalizing a school and underage drinking.

6 Several construction projects re-routed traffic around Goodland and cut the flow of customers to businesses around town, but left smooth roadways to be enjoyed in coming years.

K-27 north to the Cheyenne County line was closed from mid-March through mid-October.

The official state detour required traffic from Goodland to go through Colby and Atwood to get to St. Francis, but many people used the county roads north of Goodland to make their trip shorter.

The highway was rebuilt and repaved and the bridges were repaired, but Goodland businesses suffered from the loss of customers from the north during the construction.

Wal-mart reported a decline in both customers and dollars. Presto Convenience store suffered as a result of the loss of truck traffic, Manager Edith Blume said.

Pizza Hut, Dollar General, Grass Roots, Ag Marketing Concepts and Custom Paintworks experienced a decline in customers while Cherry Ave. was closed for construction from mid-July until the end of August.

With the street closed in front of their businesses, access required a detour from Business U.S. 24 on Eustis, an inconvenience that angered many people, especially business

See YEAR, Page 7

Author to focus on need for water here

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

Following up on her literary success with "One Degree West," Wyoming author Julene Bair says she is writing another book about the Goodland area.

While it won't be as personal as her first book, she said in an interview this week, it will be inspired by her childhood in Sherman County.

The book, she said, will be about people's dependence on well water, and early settlers' experiences with and by water sources. She said she came to realize everything which happened in early Sherman County history had to be near a water source, because it is only near water that humans survive.

She says that Goodland and the surrounding area inspire her to write. At

one time she lived in a little rock house in the middle of the Mojave Desert, she says, and she tried to draw inspiration from the landscape her writing, but she found herself writing about Kansas.

She was born in Goodland, and grew up on a farm and ranch 20 miles northwest of the town. She graduated from Goodland High School in 1967, and her mother still

lives here. She says her passion for the area was re-ignited when she lived in Goodland for a brief time with her son.

She currently lives in Laramie with her son, but has never completely left



Julene Bair

Goodland. She calls herself a "plainsdaughter" and can't seem to stop waxing poetically about the seasons and hues and skies of the plains in Kansas.

"I am attuned to and enjoy the subtle colors of the prairie and sky in all the seasons," she writes. "I loved the serenity of the buffalo grass prairies and the dramatic nature of the sky over the plains."

She says that she has had many teachers in her life who have inspired her, and mentions Mr. Hill, her sophomore English teacher in Goodland.

"He made us read lots of books," she

said, "and was well enough read himself that he could steer us toward books he knew would interest us."

Bair says she has practiced many occupations, from secretarial and ranch work to teaching, but describes writing as her true vocation.

"Writing and life are so intertwined for me," she said, "that I can hardly imagine the one without the other."

She said she will soon be searching the papers of F.M. Lockard, a local historian, for her new book.

She would appreciate any material on the early history of our county, particularly diaries or stories about the Beaver Creek, Sappa Creek, or Smoky Hill watersheds.

She asks that anyone with information about early settlers call the *Goodland Daily News* at 899-2338 to get in touch with her.

Kansas may give no raises

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Wayne Weibel doesn't know if he or any of his thousands of state government co-workers will get pay raises this year.

Weibel is a 14-year employee of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, and his pay is set by the Legislature — which will confront budget headaches as soon as the 2002 session opens on Monday.

Neither the budget that Gov. Bill Graves plans to submit nor an alterna-

See COSTS, Page 7