

weather report

39°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:47 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:05 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:48 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 37 degrees
- Humidity 37 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds northwest 13 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.06 inches and falling
- Record High 64° (2000)
- Record Low -15° (1979)

Last 24 Hours*

High 51°
Low 32°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low 10-15, winds light and variable. Tomorrow: partly sunny, high 35-40, low 10s, winds south 5-10 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: mostly clear, 20 percent chance of snow, high 30s. Thursday: partly cloudy, low 10-15, high 30-35. Friday: mostly cloudy, slight chance of snow, low 10-15, high mid 30s.

(National Weather Service)

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

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.71 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.62
- Corn — \$1.97 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.87
- Loan deficiency payment — 12¢
- Milo — \$1.69 bushel
- Soybeans — \$3.89 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.84
- Loan deficiency payment — \$1.08
- Millet — \$3.50 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$8.65 cwt.
- Loan deficiency prmt. — 67¢
- Confection current — inquire
- Pinto beans — \$23 (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.

Doctors don't follow guides

CHICAGO — Doctors may be inflating the costs of treating urinary tract infections by ignoring treatment guidelines, according to a new study.

The study, published in today's Archives of Internal Medicine, suggests doctors are driven by drug company promotions to use newer, more expensive drugs.

"If every drug can work and one drug is promoted more heavily, doctors tend to prescribe the one they've heard more about," said co-author Dr. Elbert Huang, of the University of Chicago.

Researchers from the University of Chicago and Stanford University studied 1,478 cases nationwide from 1989 to 1998.

Huang said some of the drugs being prescribed are many times more expensive than the recommended medications.

Autopsy doesn't close shooting story

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

An autopsy on Mark Palmer, the Indiana man killed on I-70 after leading officers on a wild chase and allegedly trying to steal a state trooper's gun, shows he tested negative for drugs.

The Sherman County attorney says that may not tell the whole story.

The 19-year-old, described as crazed by witnesses, was dressed in pajama pants and a cut shirt and apparently was wearing no shoes when he was shot. The report said he looked healthy and showed no signs of disease in his organs. He had four gunshot wounds in his body and a graze wound to his left pelvis.

On Oct. 26, Palmer rolled his car on I-70 in Burlington, running from the scene and stealing a white pickup from a farmer when officers approached him. After stealing three vehicles —

including a Kansas Highway Patrol cruiser — wrecking seven and injuring two deputies, a trooper shot him to death west of the east freeway exit at Goodland.

Officers reported he was shot once while he was driving away in the stolen cruiser and three more times after he tried to steal another cruiser while the trooper was still in the driver's seat.

Palmer, a former Colorado State University student, was apparently driving from Fort Collins, Colo., to his home in Carmel, Ind. He died from the four bullet wounds on the way to the hospital in Goodland.

The autopsy was done by Dr. Erik Mitchell, the Shawnee County coroner. The results were filed at the courthouse in Sherman County late last month.

The toxicological examination section shows Palmer's blood and urine were screened for 35 drugs, including

LSD; tetrahydrocannabinol, found in marijuana; amphetamines; methamphetamine; cocaine; and barbituates. No traces of drugs were found.

The tests were conducted at the St. Louis University Medical Examiner's Toxicology Laboratory.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said that the autopsy results don't agree with early drug testing done by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, which found traces of THC in Palmer's system. She said the bureau is doing more testing, but those results are not available yet.

"I'm hoping the subsequent tests will be more enlightening," she said.

She said she called the KBI when she received the autopsy results because she thought the report conflicted with the earlier findings.

People who saw Palmer during the 30-minute chase said the young man looked crazed and intoxicated.

A neighbor who has lived near Palmer's family for more than 10 years said he heard the young man was admitted to the hospital for dehydration shortly before the incident, but checked himself out against doctor's orders. The Poudre County Hospital confirmed Palmer was in the hospital, but wouldn't say why.

Selby said Kit Carson County officers found a residue in Palmer's car, which the Colorado Bureau of Investigation is testing. She said those results aren't available, either.

A roommate of Palmer's in Fort Collins, who wouldn't give his name, said the young man was tall but skinny and should have been easily restrained by officers. He questioned whether officers needed to shoot him.

After reviewing investigation results, Selby determined the officers been justified to protect the public and

other officers.

The autopsy results confirmed that Palmer died from the gunshots. It said the examination was done at a funeral home in Goodland on Oct. 27.

Palmer was described as having six-inch-long brown hair and self-inflicted scars on his left upper arm of a triangle and a circle around an "8." It said he also had a scar on his right thigh that looked like the inscription of a word.

Palmer was said to have the appearance of someone in good health at the time of death. He was wearing a cut shirt, pajama bottoms, boxer shorts and a sock on his right foot. There was a loose sock found, and the autopsy said a "bandanna is behind the legs."

Palmer had a bullet wounds in his chin, right chest, left chest and abdomen and left pelvis and a graze wound to the left pelvis. The autopsy showed no signs of disease or injury to Palmer's organs.

Carnegie Art Center needs grant to do repairs

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

The Carnegie Art Center has seen better days, but a proposed grant might put a little life back into the building.

A three-foot patch of paint and plaster is falling off the wall inside the old library, the plaster is cracked from water damage, the roof is leaking, and the foundations of the two entryway columns outside are crumbling.

There is no money to pay for the repairs, said Director Tina Goodwin. With dwindling support from the Kansas Arts Commission, she said, the budget is pretty tight.

The City of Goodland leases the building to the center, and the city hasn't budgeted for the repairs, either.

City commissioners are applying for a grant from the Heritage Trust Fund of the Kansas Historical Society to pay for the repairs, estimated around \$47,500. If the grant is approved, the city's share will be about \$9,800.

The proposed grant would cover fixing the tile roof, gutters and the columns. The big spot on the wall has been deteriorating for the past couple of years due to a leaking roof, said Goodwin, and has gotten worse in the last few months.

Goodwin says she approached the city, looking for a cheap and easy solution to the wall, but nothing is cheap or easy when it comes to historic landmarks.

Because it is on the National Register of Historic Places, any repairs or modifications to the building must be



The bases of the columns at the Carnegie Art Center are crumbling and plaster is falling off of an inside wall. The City of Goodland is applying for a grant to fix the building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

approved by a state architect. He approves any projects and describes how they must be done.

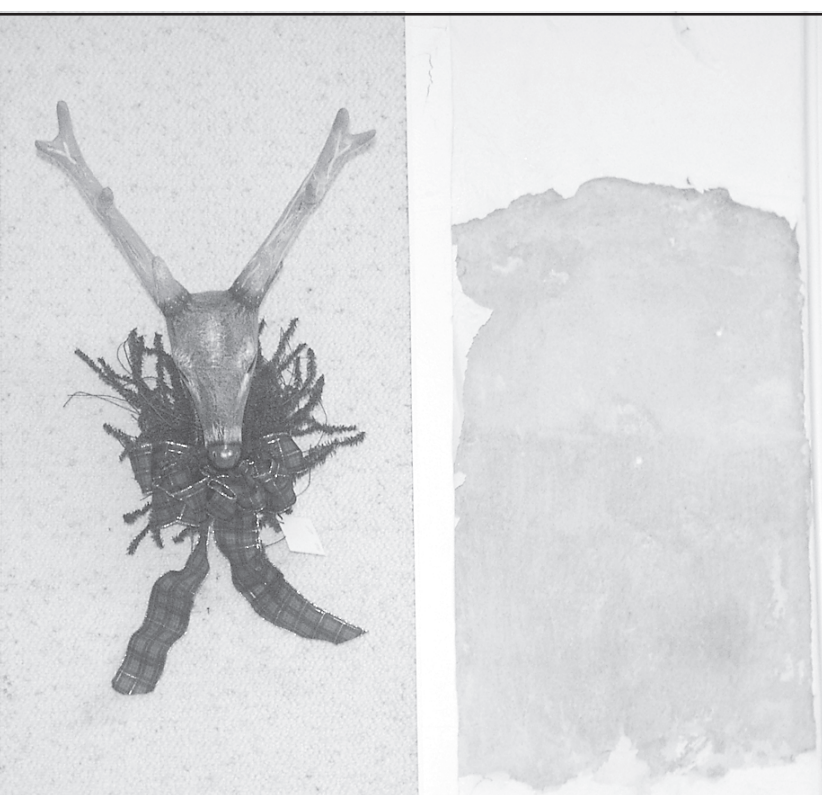
The architect approved the wall plastering project, and the city had solicited bids from Goodland contractors, but decided put the project away for awhile.

Commissioner Curtis Hurd said, it would be, "putting the cart before the

horse," if the wall was fixed before the roof. The commissioners will try to add the project to the grant.

If the grant is approved, Goodwin said the city will be getting a good deal, being able to fix the building for \$9,800.

"There's not a lot of historical buildings in the area", she said. "The center adds a lot of character to the city."



The next program at the center will be the elementary school art show. Goodwin said the center will need every inch of wall space it has to display artwork from every Goodland student in kindergarten to sixth grade.

"Last year, we were hanging art from the ceiling," she said.

She said she would have liked for the wall to be fixed before the show, but a "scrape and paint" fix-up job is out of the question when it comes to historical landmarks.

Goodwin is philosophical about it. "As anyone who has lived in an old house knows, there are always repairs to be done," she said. "This is an old house."

Legislators convene amid jockeying to avoid blame

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Paul Felecciano was indignant. The Democratic senator from Wichita had been hearing the buzz about a Senate Republican plan to solve the state's budget problems without a tax increase.

He'd concluded Republicans had pinned the blame for those problems on what happened in the economy since Sept. 11. Upon finding a reporter, he said, "Horse manure."

He was only a few minutes behind Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, who'd made exactly the same

point. The two Democrats even used some of the same phrases to argue that the responsibility lay entirely with Gov. Bill Graves and other Republicans who had been in charge.

Later, Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer offered the GOP reply: "Did they all go to stupid school to get ready for the session?"

Such was the tone in the days preceding today's opening of the 2002 Legislature, which must close a projected \$426 million gap in the state budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

Democrats and the GOP's feuding moderate and conservative wings are worrying about what voters think because a new governor will be elected and all 125 House seats will be filled in November. Graves faces questions about his legacy and whether he is leaving the state in worse condition than he found it when he entered office in January 1995.

"I don't think you can gloss over that it is a mess," said House Minority Leader Jim Garner, D-Coffeyville.

Moderate Republicans probably have the most to lose politically, starting with the governor's office.

House Speaker Kent Glasscock, R-Manhattan, is running for lieutenant governor with Attorney General Carla Stovall, the moderate candidate for governor. Senate President Dave Kerr, R-Hutchinson, might run for governor himself.

Kerr has a plan for balancing the budget without increasing taxes, though it relies heavily on spending cuts. Graves, not facing re-election, insists tax increases are the best option.

While moderates concede policy

See BUDGET, Page 4

Rail America newest Kyle owner

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

Rail America became the fourth owner of the Kyle Railroad serving Goodland and Sherman County at the first of the year.

Kyle has a lease-purchase agreement on the rail line from the Midstates Port Authority, a public agency set up in the 1980s to save the old Rock Island main line across Kansas and Colorado. John Golden of Goodland, a member of the port authority board, said the agency owns the line from Limon, Colo., to Belleville, Kan., and Hallam, Neb.

The authority was created by 12 Kansas counties served by the Rock Island Railroad, Golden said, and purchased 467.7 miles of railroad from the bankruptcy trustee when Rock Island went belly-up in 1984.

Rail America purchased States Rail, the third owner of Kyle, Golden said, in a deal that took at least three months to negotiate. The merger should be a positive change for the railroad, he said, as Rail America is a larger company and should provide financial stability. The merger will not change operations in Goodland, he said.

States Rail had four lines, Golden said, which now belong to Rail



A Kyle Railroad engine was stopped on the tracks in Goodland this morning. Kyle is now under its fourth owner, Rail America.

Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

America, giving them 50 different lines around the country. Kyle is a short line, he said, which feeds into major railroads such as the Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Union Pacific. Rail America is the largest short line operator in the country.

The port authority was formed to preserve rail transportation in this area, Golden said, as the railroad is needed

to transport agricultural commodities and other products to central markets. The Northern Sun plant west of Goodland and the the Agrigrow Liquid Fertilizer plant are among it's biggest customers in this area, along with grain elevators.

The previous owners of Kyle, Golden said, were Willis Kyle, Lynn Cecil and States Rail.

County to look at bids on vehicles, weed mowing

The Sherman County commissioners meeting Tuesday will feature bids on a vehicle for the sheriff's department, a water conditioner for the Bastille and licensing of the county computer system.

Crystal Linsner, county computer person, will discuss the need for a new laser printer and the licensing of the county's main computer.

Sheriff Doug Whitson will present bids on a new vehicle and the water conditioner.

Jeff Krall and Jay Jolly of the Goodland Regional Medical Center will discuss the ambulance service with the commissioners.

Darrell Schrader is to talk to the commissioners about renewing the road

mowing contract for the next season.

Curt Way, public work director; Janet Rumpel, county clerk; and Mary Messamore, communications director; will each meet with the commissioners in closed sessions to discuss their employee evaluations.

The commissioners will review for approval a resolution establishing the solid waste tipping fees at the landfill. John Peptis of High Plains Mental Health is to meet with the commissioners about his program, which serves the county and gets money from the commissioners.

The commissioners meet at 8 a.m. in the commission room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse, 813 Broadway Avenue.