

The Goodland Daily News

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Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

50¢

weather report

54°

at noon



Today

Sunset, 5:51 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 6:00 a.m.

Sunset, 5:52 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 39 degrees

• Humidity 39 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds east 14 m.p.h.

• Barometer 29.72 inches

and falling

• Record High 76° (1945)

• Record Low -1° (1958)

Last 24 Hours*

High 70°

Low 34°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: cloudy with areas of drizzle and fog, low mid 30s, winds east 10-20 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly cloudy with drizzle and fog in morning, high 40s, low 20s, winds north 15-25.

Extended Forecast

Friday: mostly sunny, high upper 40s. Saturday: partly cloudy, high mid 50s, low upper 20s. Sunday: high low 50s, low upper 20s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.57 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.47

Corn — \$1.87 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.90

Loan deficiency payment — 9¢

Milo — \$1.60 bushel

Soybeans — \$3.98 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.94

Loan deficiency payment — 98¢

Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$9.40 cwt.

NuSun — \$9.55 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 30¢

Confection current — \$16/\$8 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$26

(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.

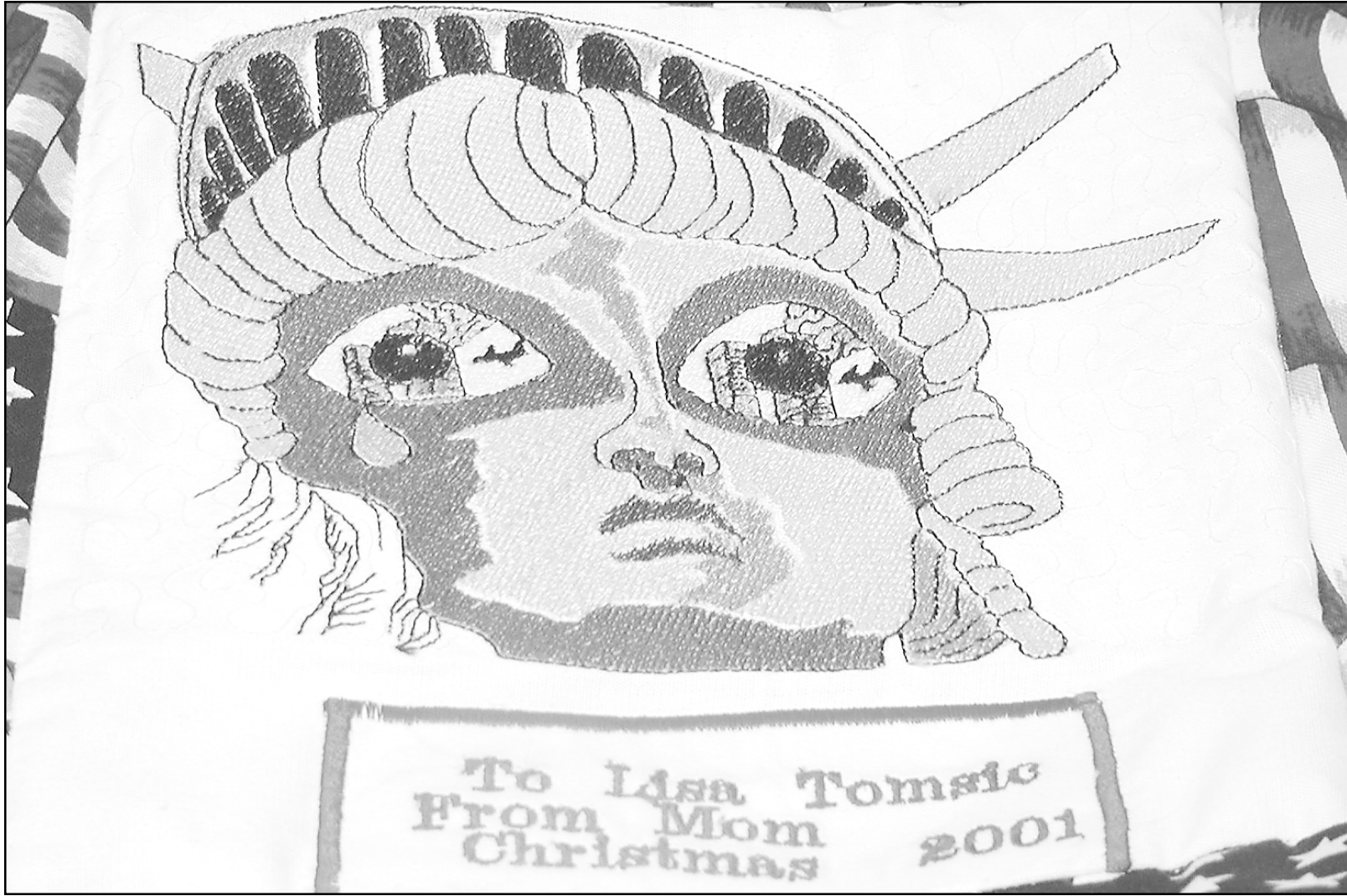
Troops seize entire valley

SHAH-E-KOT, Afghanistan — U.S. and Afghan troops searched for the remnants of al-Qaida forces today after seizing control of the Shah-e-Kot valley after a 12-day battle in which coalition troops claimed that hundreds of enemy fighters died.

Afghan forces led by Gul Haider and Zia Lodin overran three villages and a strategic ridge dubbed "the whale" after intense bombing by U.S. jets, coalition officers said today.

U.S. special forces troops and bearded Afghan fighters, riding today through the area in green jeeps mounted with 30-caliber machine guns, combed the missile-shattered mud villages and rock caves. Canadian commandos were deployed in the high mountains which overlook the valley.

Overhead, Apache and other U.S. attack helicopters prowled.



A tearful Statue of Liberty adorns a quilt made by Carol Tupper as a gift for her daughter from pictures she downloaded from the internet with her embroidery software. She embroidered the squares for the quilt

with her sewing machine. The quilt was on the lecturn as Macia Graves told her son's story of his Sept. 11 escape at the Butterfly Cafe. Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

Bad day saved her son's life

Woman tells 9-11 story

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

On Sept. 10, Mike Graves' flight was late, his cab driver got lost, he got to the hotel at 2 a.m. and overslept, missing an important business meeting the next day.

But he is glad for that off day, since missing the meeting at the twin towers of the World Trade Center saved his life.

Her voice quivering at times, his mother, Macia Graves of Castle Rock, Colo., told the story of his escape to the After-5 Club on Monday at the Butterfly Cafe.

Mike Graves, 34, is an executive for an Internet company, she said, and he had to go to New York for a meeting. He stayed on the 44th floor of the Marriott at the World Trade Center, and was in the shower when the first plane hit.

He told her later that he heard a thud, and the building bounced twice. He had lived in from California and was familiar with earthquakes, she said, and wondered, "an earthquake here?"

Mike ran to the window, Macia said, and saw big chunks falling, all on fire. He backed away from the window moments before it exploded, put on his jeans, grabbed his shirt and key card and ran from the room.

"I interrupted him at this point," she said. "I said, 'You didn't have any underwear on!' because these are things mothers worry about."

"He said, 'Oh, Mom!'"



Macia Graves told the story of her son Mike's escape from the Marriott at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11 at an After-5 Club meeting Monday.

He said he threw his shirt on as he ran down the stairs, and by the time he got to the lobby, FBI agents were already there directing people across

Liberty Street.

He crossed the street with four other people, she said, and just as he got across, the woman behind him was hit

by a girder and slashed in half.

"I say this not to be gory," she added, "but to explain what horrifying things he saw that day."

Just after he got across the street, she said, he saw the second plane hit and it rained fire and tremendous chunks out of the sky. He ran to Battery Park in a panic.

"He was incredulous at this point," she said, "and was thinking, 'I'm living in a Tom Clancy novel.'"

By the time he got to the park, she said, there were already about 100,000 people in that area chanting, "God bless America!" The wave of patriotism started right there, she said.

At 9:30 a.m. in New York, he was able to call his wife, who then called her to tell her he was OK. There were hundreds of people waiting to use the phone, he told her, but everyone was polite.

He saw people jumping from the towers, she said, and saw the fire and knew his key card would do him no good. He would never be able to return to the motel to retrieve his things.

He dived under a dump truck in the street to keep from being hit by fiery debris, and saw the ambulance behind the dump truck get hit and incinerated. He escaped without being run over by the dump truck.

He then had to cover his mouth to keep from choking on the smoke, ash and other debris in the air. The sky was black, he told her, not brown like on television. When he got to Trinity Place, though, he could see blue sky ahead.

He saw a man on a bicycle trying to save someone's life, she said, when his

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Grocery to lease building

Steering committee looking for investors

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Fleming Foods has agreed to lease the old Safeway building downtown to a committee working to open a community-owned grocery in Goodland and the group hopes to have enough money to open the co-operative store this summer.

After negotiating for about two months, Fleming, which holds a 13-year lease on the building on Broadway and 11th, agreed to sublease the space for \$2,500 a month.

John Garcia, owner of Garcia's Home Furnishing and Appliance and a member of the grocery committee, said Fleming originally wanted \$5,000 a month for the building. He said the company must have realized it would be better to make money off the building, which last housed a Fleming-owned Jubilee store, than to have it sit empty.

Garcia said when the 17-member committee was working out finances for the grocery, they decided they could pay \$2,500 a month to lease the building and held fast to that figure.

Fleming closed the grocery in September 1999, selling off the equipment, and it has been empty since. Mosburg's IGA shut down before that time, and Wal-Mart Supercenter has been the only food store in town for over two years.

A Chamber of Commerce committee tried to bring in another grocery firm, but found that big and small companies said they couldn't afford to open a store in Goodland.

A study the Chamber and the City of Goodland paid to have done in 2000 showed that this area can support another grocery, and after doing research, the Chamber committee decided that forming a co-operative was the best option.

The group held public meetings in November to test whether 500 families would be willing to invest \$2,000 each in the grocery. The committee wants to raise \$1 million with family investments and another \$200,000 with \$10,000 investments from businesses. If the store makes a profit, so will the investors.

The group had a good response and set out to find a location. Garcia said the committee wanted to have a building before raising more money. Now that they jumped that hurdle, he said, the group is ready to start gathering investments.

Garcia said Gene Zuspann, a lawyer in Goodland and committee member, is working with Fleming to finalize the lease. He said the five-year lease should begin June 1.

Garcia said the committee wants to have the \$1.2 million investment collected by the time the lease starts. He said they have brought in about \$400,000 so far, and have numerous

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Plagiarism stirs parent group

School board members can either apologize, defend or resign

PIPER (AP) — Teachers and parents angry over a plagiarism controversy at Piper High School demanded Tuesday that school board members do something to rectify the situation.

The Piper Teachers Association and a parents group that organized recently implored the board to apologize for its actions, defend the district — or resign.

"Our concern is not dying down," Leona Sigwing, chairwoman of the Piper Teachers Association's steering committee, told the board. "Our high standards are crumbling because of your decision, and still you have taken no action."

The board is alleged to have secretly agreed Dec. 11 to order teacher Christine Pelton to change the failing grades she planned to give 28 students she accused of plagiarism. Superintendent Michael Rooney gave Pelton the order

the next day. Pelton quit rather than change the grades.

High school Principal Mike Adams, who supported Pelton, told staff members in an e-mail Monday he would resign at year's end, Sigwing said. He has declined to comment publicly.

Board President Chris McCord had no comment for about a dozen district residents who addressed the board Tuesday.

Only board member Greg Netzer responded, agreeing with a parent who said it was time to move on.

Piper parent Leroy Stevens urged the board to resign. He said later he was holding a meeting this week to begin a recall petition.

Several residents said they thought the board would be vindicated when all the facts came out, but they were a minority at the meeting.

Piper senior Kevin Dickson said students are worried that many good teachers will leave the school.

"Teachers don't get paid enough to have their knees cut out from under them," Dickson said. "They deserve our respect."

Wyandotte County District Attorney Nick Tomasic has accused the board of violating the state Open Meetings Act by taking binding action in secret. The board met in a closed-door session at the end of its meeting Tuesday to discuss how to respond to that accusation, board attorney Louis Clothier said.

Rooney said the district was working to put together a plagiarism policy. He has said that he supports Pelton. However, in court papers, Tomasic said Rooney suggested to the board that he direct Pelton to change the grading system.

House won't support tax increase proposals

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Two more proposals for raising revenue have flunked test votes in the Kansas House. Some members say they are not likely to support any tax increase to eliminate the state's projected \$679 million budget shortfall.

The House is voting on tax proposals this week so its leaders can gauge support for possible ways to cover the expected gap between state revenue and spending over the next 15 months.

Representatives also expect to debate proposals for increasing the state's 4.9 percent sales taxes and its "sin" taxes on tobacco and alcohol.

They so far have rejected proposals to raise income, estate and property taxes.

Some Republicans say they oppose increasing taxes until legislators attack wasteful spending. Some Democrats won't vote for higher taxes unless they know exactly how the new money will be spent.

Taxation Committee Chairman John Edmonds doesn't expect the House to approve any tax increases this week.

"I'm not particularly interested in increasing taxes in Kansas," Edmonds, R-Great Bend, said Tuesday. "They're too high already."

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