

# Prisoner escapes from Decatur County Jail

An 18-year-old prisoner dropped out of the Decatur County Jail on the fourth floor of the courthouse in Oberlin early Tuesday, cutting out a security screen, kicking out a window and climbing down strips of sheets tied together.

Though he went to a lot of trouble, it was all for naught. The Norcat-ur-area youth cut himself while fleeing, friends turned him in when he called asking for a ride, and by midday, he was back in jail, awaiting a trip to the penitentiary — and possibly facing a few more felony charges.

It was a classic escape, scaling down the courthouse walls on a rope made of knotted sheets, but then the prisoner's plans started to go awry. He wound up in Colby, staying just one jump ahead of a posse of city and county cops who finally tracked him down near the grade and middle schools.

Students had been locked down because police feared the escapee

might be armed, but no one was hurt in the incident.

Dustin Dean Rhodig, also known as Dustin Cole, was being held in the fourth-floor jail after pleading guilty to two counts of felony theft. He was waiting for sentencing.

Rhodig pleaded guilty to stealing a car and breaking into Pizza Hut in Oberlin. He also took a car in Norton County and had been charged and sentenced to prison in that case.

Decatur County Sheriff Ken Badsky said Rhodig apparently escaped sometime between 2 and 4 a.m.

The dispatcher on duty checked about 2 a.m., the sheriff said, and he was in his cell. Sheriff Badsky said it is the only cell in the jail that doesn't have a camera in it, but that will change.

He said Rhodig detached a piece of metal from the inside of the window. He used it to cut out a small box-shaped part of the security

screen over his window. Rhodig then apparently kicked out the upper panel of the window with his feet, leaving some jagged edges.

He said the prisoner ripped his two sheets into strips and tied them together. He tossed the rope out the window and climbed down.

Around 4 a.m., the sheriff said, the dispatcher received a call from a woman in Nebraska that Rhodig had called her from inside the Decatur Community High School and said he was out of jail.

Sheriff Badsky said Rhodig was looking for a ride.

Officers from both the Oberlin Police and the sheriff's department were called out and sent to the high school. Sheriff Badsky said a door at the school apparently had not been closed. Rhodig entered the school and found the teachers' work room unlocked. Using a phone there, the young man made several calls.

Sheriff's officers checked the in-

side of the school while the police officers watched the doors outside. Sheriff Badsky said he thought the officers had just missed the escapee.

He said they checked with the phone company and found out where Rhodig had called. Some calls were placed to Colby, and the police department there was notified.

Although Rhodig had tried to arrange for someone to pick him up, George Ruzicka's Toyota pick up turned up missing. Ruzicka lives 2 1/2 miles east of Oberlin and a mile south.

Colby officials were alerted at 6:30 a.m. that Rhodig might be headed their way. Almost three hours later, Colby Police Officer Kevin Dierks found the pickup abandoned on the east side of town. Dierks told other officers that an open box of ammunition was found in the pickup.

Soon after that, officers from the police department and Thomas

County Sheriff's office went to 170 Thompson Ave. based on telephone calls. They searched the home and spoke with a woman who told them she took Rhodig to 620 N. Grant Ave.

"Since officers got no response from the Grant Avenue residence," said Gary Shull, police investigator, "an emergency search warrant was obtained so that officers could search the residence."

While conducting the search, officers located one of the renters who led them to 225 W. 2nd St. That house appeared to be vacant, Shull said.

Again, an emergency search warrant was issued, but Rhodig was not there. Shull said officers found information that led them to two homes a block from the Colby school campus.

Shull said he called Principal Terrel Harrison at 10:45 a.m. requesting a lockdown just in case Rhodig was armed and might be

looking for a place to hide.

Almost 30 minutes later, the two houses were cleared. Then at 11:28 a.m., Alan Wade, school transportation director, said one of his drivers radioed that a man matching the description was walking between the administration building and Colby Middle School on Third Street.

Officers moved in at 11:31 a.m. and arrested Rhodig. Later that afternoon, he was taken back to Oberlin, where the sheriff said he may be charged with escape from custody and criminal damage.

He also may be looking at theft and burglary charges for taking the truck.

"Once Rhodig completes his court hearing in Decatur County," Shull said, "he will be returned to Thomas County to face charges of aggravated indecent liberties with a 15-year-old child ... last year on Aug. 13."

# Tourist suggested new exhibit for museum entry

By Sharon Corcoran

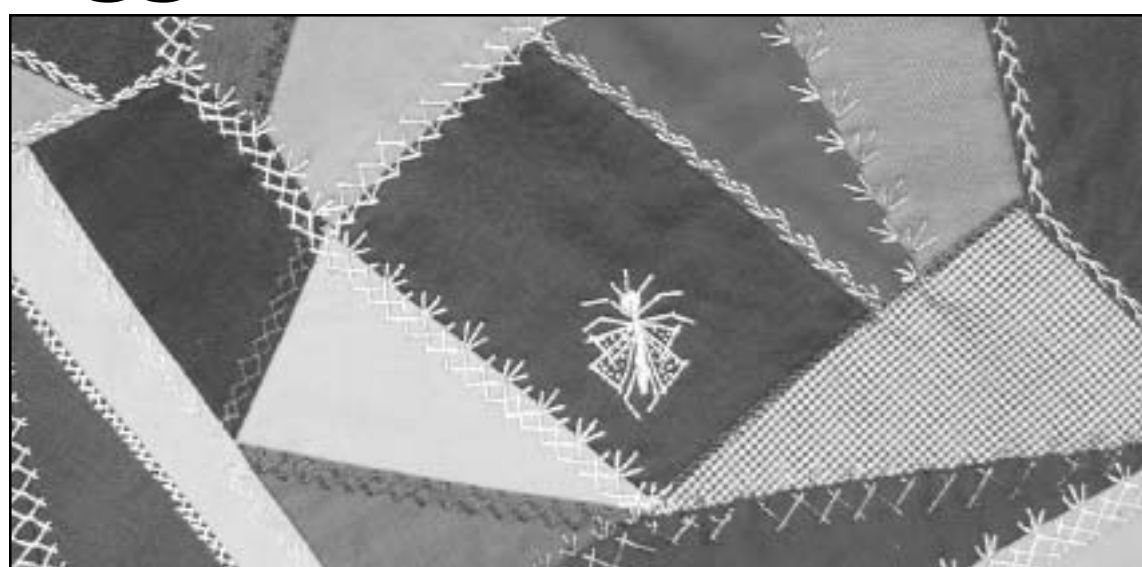
The Goodland Star-News Quilts.

You never know where a great idea will come from.

The idea for the High Plains Museum's latest exhibit came from a conversation between a tourist and Rosie Lindsten, a greeter at the museum, said Director Linda Holton. Lindsten mentioned the idea to her, and then when David Branda and Lloyd Holbrook were at the museum to take down the Kansas Humanities Council's World War II exhibit, she mentioned it to them.

Branda and Holbrook offered to bring their quilts and hang them, she said, for the exhibit, "Kansas Quilts of Old." And the museum had a new show.

Holton said the tourist told Lindsten that people would enjoy seeing quilts hanging on the panels along the right wall as you enter the museum, and Lindsten said, "You know, I think that would be a good



idea."

The quilts, which include a crazy quilt, two "trip around the world" quilts, a Dresden plate, two six-point stars, an Irish chain, a Star of Bethlehem and a double wedding ring, will be on display for a month and a half, Holton said. She said she

would like to make quilts a regular feature, and she invites people to bring in quilts for future exhibits.

The present exhibit includes quilts from the Union School from 1946-47 and the Voltaire Center School from 1921, owned by the Sherman County Historical Soci-

ety.

There are several quilts owned by Branda, made by his great-grandmother, Emma Jewell. Among them are a crazy quilt from 1898, "trip around the world" quilts from 1937 and the '40s, an "Irish Chain" from 1937, a "Rainbow Tile" from

1934-40, "Sunshine and Shadow" from 1935-37 and "Fan," "Star of Bethlehem," a six-point star, and "Double Wedding Ring", all from the 1930s.

Also owned by Branda is a jacquard coverlet of cotton, linen and wool made in the 1850s by M. Fennel for Mary Beighley.

Quilts owned by Holbrook include a six-point star from the '50s with some chicken-feed sack fabric, made by Ina Holbrook; a "Maple Leaf," made by Anna Holbrook Dixon; and an unknown floral appliqué from the '30s, made by Ina Fisher.

## matters of record

### Goodland Police

The following crimes have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:

**May 16** — Connie Carson reported an estimated \$40 in criminal damage at 910 W. 17th St. to a tire.

**May 17** — The theft of two movies, valued at \$100, rented and not returned was reported by Sight & Sound Entertainment, 1224 Main Ave.

A burglary was reported at the Northwest Kansas Technical College, 1209 Harrison Ave. Computer parts valued at \$6,133 were missing and there was an estimated \$150 in damage to a window and door window.

**May 18** — Ronald Callies reported the theft of 10 watches, valued at \$1,000, taken from 109 E. 17th St. He also reported an estimated \$7 in criminal damage to a latch and padlock.

Harold W. Johnson reported an assault and disorderly conduct at 317 Broadway Ave. John O. Corcoran was arrested and charged in municipal court.

Helen N. Dobbs reported the theft of a bundle of fence pickets, a fence post, a water cooler and a push mower, valued at \$1,431.50, from 302 W. 10th St.

**May 20** — Jackie E. Finley reported a burglary at 426 Washington Ave. and the theft of items taken from a residence, valued at \$1,100.

Angel Corke reported an estimated \$100 in criminal damage at Main Ave. and 16th St. to a side mirror on a vehicle.

Joseph C. Lindsley reported an estimated \$900 in criminal damage at 1001 Caldwell Ave. to the paint on a 1991 Chevrolet pickup and a tire. Marco R. Ault, Jr. was arrested. Charges are pending in district court.

# Writer sang praises of St. Louis World's Fair

By Evelyn Ward

Sherman County Historical Society

**May 25, 1904:** The St. Louis World's Fair — The writer has just returned from the world's fair at St. Louis.

Our party from Goodland consisted of Mr. and Mrs. B.F. Brown and son Frank and Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Stewart, all going with the Kansas Editorial Association special from Kansas City to St. Louis over the Frisco railroad. Two trains were required to carry the 450 Kansas delegates.

The service on the Frisco was first class. These specials arrived in St. Louis May 15, and the whole delegation was taken at once on electric cars to the fair grounds. There was not a single hitch in the transportation program.

At the grounds, similar delegations from all parts of the United States were met, besides the National Editorial Association delegates, and about one hundred newspaper representatives from foreign newspapers — 4,000 in all — were congregated and domiciled at the Inside Inn.

The immense hotel is one of the wonders of the fair. It has 6,000 rooms for guests and nine miles of hallways. It covers about four acres of ground, is three stories on the front and four stories on the rear, as it stands on sloping ground.

The whole building is lighted with electricity; every hall has fire hydrant and hose and every window a fire escape. The structure is frame, and every window opens into courts or facing the various fronts.

The service is good and the rates as reasonable as most first class hotels. Breakfast and noon lun-

## today in history

cheon cost 50 cents each and the 6 o'clock dinner 75 cents. Rooms \$1 and up per day.

The world's fair is unquestionably the largest and finest universal exposition the world has ever seen. The grounds cover 1,240 acres. Besides the area, the hilly and wooded slopes of what was Forest Park make possible scenic effect and ornamental grounds not possible at Chicago and other fairs, where the grounds were level or nearly so.

To get a good view of the grounds from within, you can take an automobile ride over the interior boulevards for 50 cents or take a gondola around the figure-eight-shaped lagoon for about the same fare.

To get a good outside view, you pay 10 cents on the Inter-mural railroad, an electric car line, which takes you to all parts of the grounds, with stations at all important and convenient points.

Then you get a guide book containing information, with a map and full description of the fair grounds and all important exhibits. To attempt a description of the St. Louis fair would be quite impossible in a brief newspaper article. One must see to comprehend.

A few figures are given to illustrate — the agricultural building

covers 20 acres of ground and has four miles of aisles.

The Philippine reservation covers 47 acres on which the insular government has expended \$800,000 and the exposition company \$200,000, one million dollars in all.

The exposition company has expended ten million of dollars, the United States government four million, and it is estimated that state and foreign exhibits would swell the whole sum to 60 million. Here, every nationality is found and every great industry and handicraft of man represented.

As a Kansan, we must say we returned from the fair prouder than ever of the Sunflower state.

The Kansas building, though not near as costly as some of the state buildings, is elegant, commodious and cheery.

Kansas' agricultural and horticultural exhibits are a wonder. But what was more surprising than all is the mineral exhibit.

Few people have any idea that Kansas cuts any considerable figure as a mineral producer, being first as a salt producer.

To a person having the time and means to take in the great fair thoroughly and systematically, it is a liberal education.

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**Goodland Activities Center**

**Seamhead Sports Baseball Camp**

Camp instruction by Former Fort Hays State Tigers

Steve Jimenez and Devlin Mull

Camp on June 2 and 4 (two sessions)

Registration deadline: Friday, May 28th at 5 p.m.

Goodland Activities Center  
808 Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735  
785-890-0300, Contact Steve Jimenez

## student of the week



**Name:** Deanna Thompson  
**Guardian:** Mable Goalden  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Age:** 18

**We've nominated this student because:** Deanna is an excellent student in class, on-the-job (KLOE/KKCI/KWGB) and in DECA club activities. Deanna is a double national qualifier for the International DECA Career Development Conference. Deanna was a state champion in the Free Enterprise Event and a third place finisher in then retail merchandising competition for DECA.

**Student Comment:** I have finally learned to balance school, friends, family and fun. When I think of Goodland High School, I will never forget the memories with my friends and softball, or my most embarrassing moment during the 2003 Asset test. My

favorite subjects in school are my marketing classes! After graduation, I will always remember the fun times I had in my marketing classes and DECA club!

**Activities involved in at school:** DECA as reporter, varsity softball, Kansas State DECA Career Development Competition and International DECA Career Development Conference Competitions.

**My choice of movies, books, and games:** My choice of movies include the all famous chick flicks including Legally Blonde and Clueless. When it comes to music, I love Rock and Roll. My choice of books include children's books because I love to read to my little brother.

**After I leave Goodland High School I intend to:** Move to Dallas, Texas to enjoy the summer and then attend College of Court Reporting Institute of Dallas.

**And 10 years from now, I think I'll be:** Pursuing a career as a Court Reporter, enjoying life's little gifts and maybe settling down with my Prince Charming.

**Favorite Quote:** "What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the Master calls a Butterfly!"

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