

weather report

94°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:16 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:28 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:16p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 82 degrees
- Humidity 20 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds south 29-32
- Barometer 29.98 inches and falling
- Record High 105° (1959)
- Record Low 45° (1952)

Last 24 Hours*

High 101°
Low 64°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Clear, low mid 60s, winds south 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, high 95-100, low 60s, winds south 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday through Tuesday: slight chance for thunderstorms, high 90s, low 60s.

(National Weather Service)

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

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.46 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.30
- Loan deficiency payment — 15¢
- Corn — \$1.71 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.52
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 47¢
- Milo — \$2.16 hundredweight
- Soybeans — \$3.85 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.13
- Loan deficiency payment — 77¢
- Millet — \$4.25 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$5.65 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.99
- 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.

Erving's son may be dead

SANFORD, Fla. — The car of Cory Erving has been pulled out of a pond with a body inside that appears to be that of the troubled son of basketball great Julius Erving, authorities said Friday.

"The body does fit the description of Cory Erving, including clothing," Sheriff Don Eslinger said, saying an autopsy was planned to make a positive identification. No foul play was suspected. "The family has been notified," Eslinger said. "They're devastated."

Erving, 19, disappeared May 28 after a trip to a store for bread for a Memorial Day family picnic. He may have died within yards of his family's home near Orlando.

The car was found by authorities and volunteers Thursday afternoon. It was 20 yards from shore in an 8-foot-deep retention pond at the end of a dirt path.

Law protects troopers from drivers

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Trooper Dean Goodheart was killed in the line of duty five years ago while inspecting a semitrailer alongside I-70 near Oakley.

It wasn't a drug-crazed lunatic with a gun who killed the Highway Patrol Master Trooper. It wasn't a fugitive with a knife. It was a sleepy college student behind the wheel of a one-ton weapon.

As the Colby-based officer stood on the right shoulder waiting for the truck driver to find some papers, the young woman, who was on her way to college in Colby, accidentally hit him with her car.

"Had she been in the habit of moving over to the left lane, I feel my husband would be alive today," said Marilyn Goodheart, the officer's widow who moved to Salina two and a half years ago. "Drivers need to give them some room to do their jobs."

She said a new state law designed to make it safer for troopers and other law enforcement and emergency personnel to ticket or help motorists alongside busy highways won't bring her husband back. But it could prevent other deaths or injuries.

"I feel that it is going to make people more aware," said Goodheart, who testified before the Kansas House of Representatives on behalf of the so-called "Left Lane Law."

The law is modeled after one already existing in Indiana and went into effect on July 1. Now, people driving in Kansas can be ticketed for not giving officers or emergency vehicles parked at roadside a little room. Ohio has a similar law.

The law says drivers on four-lane highways must move to the left lane when approaching any emergency or law enforcement vehicle that is stopped on the right shoulder with its lights flashing, said Lt. Kelly McGuire, commander of troop D, which patrols the 18 counties of northwest Kansas.

If the vehicle is on the left shoulder, he said, traffic must move to the right lane.

On two-lane highways, motorists must slow down when approaching the emergency vehicle and proceed with caution.

They can't pass another driver within 100 feet of the vehicle.

McGuire, who works at Highway Patrol Headquarters in Hays, said officers will only issue warning tickets for the first year the law is effect, but after that fines and court costs could exceed \$100.

He said the Highway Patrol, which urged legislators to pass the law, will send the media public service announcements and run advertisements to let people know about the new law.

"Finally the Legislature has seen fit to try and protect us," McGuire said.

In 20 years with the Highway Patrol, McGuire said he's been clipped three times by a car while he was standing on the roadside doing his job.

Luckily, he said, he was never seriously injured.



A truck blew by Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Rich Hageman as he was making a traffic stop Thursday afternoon along I-70 near Goodland. A new state law requires drivers to move over one lane when approach-

ing any emergency vehicle parked roadside with its lights flashing. For now, troopers will only issue warnings, but drivers who don't move over will get tickets next year. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

But others have been.

Of the 10 troopers killed in the line of duty since the patrol's inception in 1937, four were killed by gunfire and six were involved in fatal traffic accidents. McGuire said two troopers were struck on a roadside.

"We don't get in many gunfights," he said, "but we do get run over by cars."

One of the troopers killed was Goodheart in 1995, the other was John B. McMurray in 1964.

After working an accident, McMurray was putting his camera into the trunk of his cruiser. A motorist ran into the back of the patrol car, smashing the trooper's legs.

"Many times people are looking at the flashing lights," McGuire said, "and they just go where they are looking."

He said no trooper was seriously injured or killed last year from being hit by a passing motorist, but 18 Highway Patrol cruisers were struck while either stopped along a roadside or working a traffic accident with emergency lights flashing.

Marilyn Goodheart said before her husband was killed by a motorist, he had many close calls.

"There were many times he had to

Officers tell about close calls on roadside

Lt. Kevin Winston said troopers are more afraid of an average citizen driving down a busy highway than an armed felon fleeing the law.

"You don't have an opportunity to stop an armed felon everyday," said Winston, who works for the Highway Patrol in Goodland, "but you get up every morning and face that traffic. The real danger is traffic."

He said after 22 years on the force, he has come to realize dodging passing cars, trucks and semitrailers while trying to issue a speeding ticket or work an accident along the roadside is just part of the job.

Maybe a new state law requiring drivers to move over one lane when they are approaching an emergency vehicle with blue, red or amber emergency lights flashing will help, Winston said.

"I am not sure it hits home as a safety issue," he said, "People don't realize it's pretty tight out there, many times we're talking inches, not feet."

Every trooper has a traffic story. Winston tells about the time a car got close enough to knock a flashlight out of his hand, other troopers tell

about having to dive into a ditch as a vehicle slides across an icy highway.

"I have had lots of close calls," said Trooper Rich Hageman, who is stationed in Goodland. "You always have to be watching."

About 50 percent of motorists failed to switch lanes as Hageman stood alongside I-70 Thursday afternoon with the emergency lights on his cruiser flashing.

Lt. Bob Symms, who is stationed in Hays, said the force of a semitrailer blowing by can pull a trooper into the road.

"Drivers don't realize that," he said.

In the 22 years he has worked for the Highway Patrol, Symms said twice he has had to jump over the hood of a vehicle he had stopped on the roadside to avoid being hit. Once a passing vehicle broke off the rearview mirror on the violator's car and broke the driver's side window.

"It's just common courtesy and common sense to move into the left lane," he said.

When asked why the law needed to be passed if moving to the far lane is common sense, Symms said: "Because some people don't have common sense or common courtesy."

run to the ditch," she said, "to avoid being hit."

The woman who hit her husband was not issued a ticket or legally punished,

Goodheart said, because it was considered an accident.

She said she didn't make a big deal about the young woman not being pun-

ished because it wouldn't bring her husband back.

"Besides," Goodheart said, "she has to live with it for the rest of her life."

Road crew hires girl

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

Sitting in a monstrous motor grader, the first female operator in Sherman County Road and Bridge Department history says she feels right at home.

"I'm not intimidated by the equipment because of the farming work that I have done," said Tina Riley, who has been working for the Road and Bridge Department for two weeks.

Running the machines has been a challenge, she said, because it takes a lot of coordination.

"But I am not afraid of the grader," said Riley.

She has been doing great, said Curtis Way, director of the department.

"On the first day she worked it trained and we couldn't teach her on the grader," he said, "so we had her change the oil in her machine. She got right in there and greased the machine and changed the oil by herself."

Riley has worked on farms and done construction before, as well as office jobs.

"I prefer to be outside," said Riley. Currently, she just runs the motor grader, she said, but is going to get her

Commercial Drivers License so she can work with other equipment.

All of her training has pretty much come from her co-workers.

"All of the guys have been really helpful, but it is a challenging job," she said. "I will never complain about county roads again."

She graduated from Goodland High School in 1986, she said. Her family moved here the year before.

Riley went to college in Phoenix and got a degree in architectural design.

She returned to Goodland a few years ago to be close to her family.

"I just saw an ad for the job and thought I might get it," said Riley, "so I went in and applied."

"She came and applied last Monday," said Way, "I called some of the commissioners that afternoon and told them I thought I was going to hire her."

"I knew her before she applied and I thought she might be a hard worker who was anxious to learn."

"I really like the job so far," said Riley, "everyone has been great to me."

"She is doing a great job," said Way. "She seems to be learning things quickly."



Tina Riley, the only female the County Road and Bridge Department has ever hired, ran the motor grader on County Road 59 Thursday afternoon. Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

Drought, heat hurt corn crop

Air conditioners are cranked up, but the sweltering heat hasn't broken any temperature records yet.

The high temperature yesterday was 101, and the temperature has run between 90 to 100 degrees for the past four days, said Aaron Dorn, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Goodland.

But record temperatures haven't been broken yet, said Dorn.

Power usage is higher, but there have been no problems, like other states are having, with blackouts.

"As the temperatures go up so does the power usage," said Ed Wolak, director of Public Works, "but the usage we have now is normal for this time of year."

The hot, dry temperatures aren't doing the crops any favors. Corn is showing signs of heat stress.

"The leaves are curling, and that isn't good," said Scott Gengler, a fieldman with Collingwood Grain, "but if we get some rain things could be OK."