

weather report

88°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:25 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 68 degrees
- Humidity 32 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds northeast 8 mph
- Barometer 30.18 inches and falling
- Record High 107° (1969)
- Record Low 45° (1924)

Last 24 Hours*

High 90°
Low 66°
Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 50 percent chance of thunderstorms, low 60-65, south wind 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, high 95, low 60-65, southeast wind 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday through Saturday: chance of 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 — \$2.66 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.47
 - Corn — \$1.88 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.68
 - Loan deficiency payment — 31¢
 - Milo — \$2.99 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$4.38 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.27
 - Loan deficiency payment — 65¢
 - Millet — \$5.25 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$7.80 cwt.
 - Oil new crop — \$6.60 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.04
 - Confection current — \$15/\$7cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$16 (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.

Freed hostages say couple OK

MANILA, Philippines — Two Filipinos, freed today by Muslim guerrillas, said a U.S. couple held hostage with them for more than five weeks were OK but a third American disappeared at the time the rebels claimed they beheaded him.

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said Luis Bautista III and Lalaine Chua told military officials they were with Martin and Gracia Burnham of Wichita, Kansas, as recently as three days ago.

Both hostages corroborated statements by captives freed earlier that a third American, Guillermo Sobero of Corona, California, was last seen the night of June 11, when Abu Sayyaf rebels claimed to have beheaded him.

"Mr. Sobero was hogtied at the back and he has not been seen since then," Adan quoted Chua and Bautista as saying.

Businesses say road work hurts

Project costs customers

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

With K-27 closed for construction north of town, some Goodland businesses say they see less traffic.

The construction involves 18 miles of K-27 starting just north of Goodland, including repair and replacement of bridges and the widening of the road. It will be closed for the next four to five months.

Goodland Wal-mart reports a decrease of 5 percent in customer count and sales since the highway closed this spring. While there are gravel roads people can use to get to town, Manager Scott Schroller said he expects to lose even more customers during wheat harvest.

"Customers have already told me they do not want to share a (county) road with a combine," Schroller said. "As a business person, when you have the roads closed, there is nothing you can do. You can't go out and help the road crew to finish the job faster. The road crew is doing their job."

With K-27 closed until November, Schroller said, he is doing what he can to draw in customers from other communities to make up for the loss of customers from St. Francis. To draw more customers from Burlington, Goodland Wal-mart is now accepting the Colorado Quest Card, which has replaced the food stamp program in Colorado.

Schroller said one Colorado newspaper refused to run an ad letting customers know that Goodland Wal-mart is accepting Quest because Burlington businesses might lose customers. A newspaper from west of Burlington ran the ad for free, however, said Schroller.

The manager said he hasn't had to cut any staff. He said he is trying to run flat with last year — if he loses one worker, he hires one replacement.

He said he is just trying to consider what customers want in order for Goodland Wal-mart to do the best it can with the highway closed.

Edith Blume, manager of Presto Convenience Store, said she has noticed the reduced truck traffic as the cattle trucks and others who traveled on K-27 north of Goodland have had to take alternate routes to avoid the detours.

Blume said she has been in Goodland nearly three years and has experienced road construction every summer. She said that three years ago the construction was on Interstate 70, last year the construction was done right in front of her store at 2417 Commerce, and this year the work is on K-27 north of Goodland.



Operator Maurice Mullin (left in above photo) and Laborer Enrique de Leon ran the paving machine on K-27 south of Goodland as another worker

watched Thursday afternoon. A box bridge (below) is being widened on K-27 north of Goodland. Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News



Blume said she is just a little tired of it and hopes the construction is done soon.

Not all businesses have had losses. General Manager Judy Siruta said Comfort Inn has been full nearly every night. She said customers have made reservations without knowing about the construction, and Comfort Inn em-

ployees have pointed out alternate routes for them.

McDonald's Assistant Manager Paul Simons said sales have been about the same month-to-month this year as in 2000. Simons doesn't feel they have been affected by the construction on K-27 and that McDonalds depends more on I-70 than on K-27 for customers.

Construction should create a safer highway

Construction on K-27 north of Goodland has inconvenienced travelers and cost businesses money, but state officials say the work will produce long-term benefits.

Donna Binning, construction engineer at the Kansas Department of Transportation, said the construction will increase safety by having wider shoulders on K-27.

"There will be fewer no-passing zones and increased smoothness of the pavement," she said.

Construction, which began on March 15 and covers 18 miles, is progressing ahead of schedule, said Binning.

Work will be done on three bridges, with one being widened and overlaid, one having only minor repairs, and one being replaced said Chriss McDiffett, district engineer for the department in Norton. He said the whole road would be widened, giving it a 24 foot surface for driving lanes, three feet of paved shoulders, and six feet of grass shoulders on each side. The railroad overpass will also be repaired.

Repairs will also be done on the boxes, said Binning, who called the boxes "little bridges."

Boxes are box-shaped structures for drainage under roads, she said. When drainage is needed under roads, the options are culverts, boxes, and bridges. Culverts have only a two to three foot opening and are used when little drainage is needed. Boxes, at three to twenty feet in diameter, provide much greater drainage than culverts do and are often more cost-effective, said Binning. When a large drainage area is needed, then a bridge is used.

The entire contract will not be complete until sometime next year, but the highway will re-open in November when the roadway is complete said Binning.

Next spring, a top lift of finer material will be applied to seal the asphalt, said Binning. However, it will not be necessary to close the road for this. The highway will be under a pilot car for two to three weeks, causing delays for travelers up to 15 minutes.

City debates state changes in traffic laws

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland City Commission discussed the wisdom of some of the changes involving teen-agers Monday, but eventually adopted the 2001 version of the state traffic and criminal laws.

Over dissent from Mayor Tom Rohr at a regular meeting, the commission approved ordinances adopting the state "Standard Traffic Ordinances for Kansas Cities" and "Uniform Public Offense Code."

Rohr said he does not approve of

changes in the laws. "They discriminate against young adults," said Rohr, "setting them up to be failures. I think they go too far."

Of the law increasing the penalties for drunk driving, Rohr said, "After taking away their driving privileges, how do they expect them to hold jobs?"

Changes in "The Uniform Public Offense Code" consolidate cereal malt and liquor violations, prohibit anyone under the age of 18 from getting a tattoo or body piercing, and make it illegal to dispense what is commonly known as "the date-rape drug."

"If they can sign up for military service at 16 or 17," Rohr asked, "but can't get a tattoo until 18 or buy alcohol until 21, when are they adults?"

Other commissioners agreed with some of Rohr's thoughts but said they had no option but to approve the ordinances.

"If they are not approved, the city would lose revenue," said City Manager Ron Pickman. "There's your option." The ordinances passed 4 to 1.

In other business, the commission:

- Approved a franchise ordinance with S&T Communications for a cable

television system.

- Re-adopted the old rule for grave markers. No base moldings at ground level will be allowed on grave stones at the city cemetery.

- Approved purchase of 298 acres around the airport for \$236,065. The land will be used to expand the airport.

- Approved purchase of a 2001 four-wheel-drive extended cab pickup from Dan Brenner Ford for \$24,880. The pickup will replace an old one used by the electric department.

- Set 2002 budget workshops for 5 p.m. Monday through next Wednesday.

Holiday halts trash pickup

Because of the Independence Day holiday, there will be no trash pickup in Goodland Wednesday.

Those who normally have trash pickup that day will have their pickup Thursday. Goodland city crews will start early on Thursday morning to complete all pickups.

The Sherman County transfer station will be closed on Wednesday. The Goodland Daily News office also will be closed and there will be no paper.

Accused car thieves face no charges in Goodland

Five Colorado youths accused of stealing three vehicles in Goodland last week and driving one to Limon, Colo., are being charged in Colorado for auto theft and drug possession, but won't be charged with anything here.

Goodland police recovered three stolen vehicles early Friday morning, two taken from Goodland and one from Aurora, Colo. Police Chief Ray

Smee said the steering columns on all of the cars had been damaged. He said the teen-agers likely dumped the car from Aurora here.

That morning, Limon Police Chief Lynn Yowell called the Goodland Police Department to say officers had recovered two stolen vehicles in Limon, one a blue 1992 Plymouth

See THEFT, Page 7

Fast-moving harvest slowed by rain

By Lester Bolen

The Goodland Daily News

Rain Sunday and Monday halted combines for a while in parts of Sherman County, but farmers and grain men say wheat harvest is going along smoothly.

"Prior to the rain delay, things were going good," said Lynn Hoelting, the general manager at Mueller Grain. Areas around Goodland have received between two and three inches of rain in the last few days. The heavy rain wet the ground, making it hard to roll heavy combines onto fields.

The National Weather Service office

in Goodland reported that Sherman County is about two inches above normal for rainfall for the month, but about 1.54 inches below normal for the year.

The best part about the 2001 harvest has been the quality of the wheat, Hoelting said, especially compared to recent years.

"We've had numerous pleasant surprises this year compared to disasters," he said. Wheat that has been brought into the area elevators has averaged test weights of about 60 pounds and 12-15 percent moisture or less.

Before the rain, harvest had been in full swing, with farmers cutting wheat

that ripened early. Some wheat is not yet ripe but will be soon if temperatures continue to reach 100 degrees.

Gay Nell Helweg, manager of the Goodland Harvest Information Office, said harvest was behind last year but the rain last week didn't have much to do with the harvest being later. Helweg said the harvest is better this year but in her mind that's because it couldn't get much worse than last year, when drought and hot winds seared the wheat.

"Harvest was horrible last year," she said. "This year has definitely been an improvement."