

weather report

79°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 8:14 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 5:32 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:14 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 74 degrees
- Humidity 59 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds east 7 mph
- Barometer 30.24 inches and falling
- Record High 108° (1934)
- Record Low 43° (1990)

Last 24 Hours*

- High 93°
- Low 63°
- Precipitation 1.73 inches

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, low 60-65, southeast wind 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, high mid 80s, low 60-65, south wind 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: chance of thunderstorms, high 80s. Monday and Tuesday: 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 — \$2.77 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.60
 - Corn — \$2.13 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.06
 - Milo — \$3.45 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$4.84 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.69
 - Loan deficiency payment — 23¢
 - Millet — \$5.00 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$8.75 cwt.
 - Oil new crop — \$7.45
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.56
 - Confection current — no bid
 - 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.

Septuplets in D.C. critical

WASHINGTON — Weighing little more than two pounds each, America's first septuplets since 1997 lay in critical condition today, attended by teams of doctors and nurses watching their every breath and movement.

The five boys and two girls — known for now as Baby A to Baby G — were born 12 weeks prematurely to a woman who had taken hormones to treat infertility. Six were on ventilators to help them breathe. The smallest, a girl, breathed on her own.

The babies weighed between 2.002 and 2.422 pounds each — a critically low weight that carries high risk — and each measured 13 to 14 inches long.

They were delivered by Caesarean section in a three-minute period that began at 9:25 p.m. MDT Thursday at Georgetown University Hospital.

Closed roads may hinder access

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

It may be a lot harder to get into downtown Goodland for the next few weeks, with the intersection of 19th and Cherry closed for construction on the south and K-27 closed from Business U.S. 24 to Eighth Street on the west.

K-27 from Business U.S. 24 to Eighth will close Monday for work on the railroad viaduct and will remain closed for three to four weeks, said Donna Binning, Kansas Department of Transportation construction engineer in Atwood.

K-27 will be open up to Cattletail Avenue, she said, and traffic will be

able to cross K-27 at Eighth and 16th streets, but there will be no traffic allowed on K-27 between Cattletail and Eighth.

"This means," said Binning, "that in Goodland, all the access streets onto K-27 will be closed. Basically, Cattletail will be the only side street accessible to K-27."

Wes Moore, assistant district engineer for the department in Norton, said crews will be installing approach slabs next to the viaduct, sections of concrete intended to transfer traffic from the road to the viaduct. These will extend about 20 feet out from the edge of the viaduct.

The viaduct is supported by pilings, steel beams shaped like an 'H' and driven into the ground, while the road is supported only by dirt, said Moore. The dirt under the road compacts over time, he said, causing the pavement to sink and creating a rough joint. The approach slabs are designed to prevent this and reduce the maintenance needed on the road, he said.

On the south side of Goodland, a new section is being added to Cherry Street from U.S. 24 to 18th Street, giving the street more direct access to downtown Goodland. When the new section is

See ROADS, Page 7

Delays continue on K-27

The heater scarification, a process of melting and raking asphalt also known as hot recycling, has been completed on K-27 south of Goodland, said Donna Binning, construction engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation in Atwood.

The road will be under pilot car for two more weeks while a layer of asphalt is applied to the highway, she said.

This project is routine maintenance

that the department schedules every summer, said Binning. The road south of Goodland will be rebuilt in the next four to five years, and the overlay is expected to hold the surface until then.

Binning said travelers need to be cautious when driving through the work zone. The fines for traffic violations in Kansas have tripled, so work zone violations are now six times the old fine amounts.

Battery charge added

Man accused of hitting law officer

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

A Pittsburg man arrested for allegedly molesting a Hays woman and having what may be a meth lab, a gun and drugs has been accused of hitting a law officer, adding a misdemeanor to 10 charges he's facing.

Court records say Stephen Diehm, 50, has been charged with battery against a law officer for hitting detention officer William Knitig on the left and right arms, badly bruising and scraping them, during the booking process at the Sherman County Bastille.

A state trooper arrested Diehm and two companions on June 10, after a woman said Diehm had touched her without her permission while she was giving him a ride to Goodland. Later, officers said, they found drugs and a gun in the broken-down car he had left behind on I-70.

After picking up Diehm, who was hitchhiking about 13 miles east of town, the woman dropped him off at Edson, driving to Brewster to call the Sherman County Sheriff's Department.

Officers found what appeared to be a meth lab, methamphetamine, marijuana, drug paraphernalia and a stolen gun in the 1996 Ford Taurus that Diehm, Danny Sammons and Thomas Harrell were driving in.

Diehm, also known as Steve Ray Baker, is charged with seven felonies and four misdemeanors. Sammons, 30, Walnut, five felonies and two misdemeanors, while Harrell, 30, Pittsburg, has six felonies and one misdemeanor.

Sheriff Doug Whitson said they have all been released on bond, set at \$75,000 each. Their preliminary hearings were scheduled for late June, but have been moved to Tuesday, Aug. 14.

Along with the battery charge, Diehm is facing charges of illegally possessing pseudoephedrine tablets, possessing anhydrous ammonia, possessing drug paraphernalia, possession of a narcotic drug, possession of a hallucinogenic drug with intent to sell, criminal possession of a firearm, no drug tax stamp, misdemeanor possession of a hallucinogenic drug, misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia and sexual battery.

Harrell and Sammons are both facing charges of illegally possessing anhydrous ammonia, possessing drug paraphernalia, possessing pseudoephedrine tablets, possessing a hallucinogenic drug with the intent to sell, no drug tax stamp and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia.

Harrell and Diehm are facing felony charges for allegedly possessing a stolen gun, while Sammons was only charged with misdemeanor possession of stolen property.

Officers found a Ruger Mark II .22-caliber handgun, worth \$265, on the right side of the driver's seat. Court records say the gun was stolen from a pawn shop in Chanute.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said because Harrell and Diehm have a prior conviction, which legally bars them from owning a gun, they are facing a more serious charge.



Blake Saint, Bob Evans, Max Saint and Dennis Saint worked on the roof of the new picnic shelter being built at Smoky Gardens on Thursday. The project is being led by Max Saint, who is building the shelter as part of his Eagle Scout Project.

Photo By Lester Bolen/The Goodland Daily News

Scout seeks badge with shelter

Sherman County residents will benefit from yet another Eagle Scout project from Boy Scout Troop 142.

Max Saint, 17, Goodland, has completed a picnic shelter at Smoky Gardens Memorial Park south of Goodland.

Saint has been a Scout the same amount of time as David Russell, who just finished his work on the Memorial for the Unborn at the Goodland Cemetery. Both life scouts are seeking their Eagle Scout badge.

Saint's project began six months ago as a suggestion from someone on the Smoky Gardens board when he asked if they needed anything.

It was up to Saint to develop the plans, draw them up

and get the materials and labor.

The Smoky Gardens board provided the money and Saint went to work. The plans were drawn, materials gathered and volunteers recruited. Construction began Tuesday on an existing foundation and was complete just two days later.

Saint's dad Dennis is the local Scoutmaster. He said that the Eagle Scout badge is the highest honor in the Boy Scouts and only about 2 percent of all Scouts achieve that rank. Dennis and his wife Linda have been lifelong residents of Goodland. Saint has an older sister, 26, and a younger brother, Blake, 15, who is also in Scouts.

City budget tops meeting agenda

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland City Commission will discuss the 2002 budget during its regular meeting at 5 p.m. Monday.

City Manager Ron Pickman will fill the commissioners in on the City Commission-County Commission workshop on the 2002 budget. Meetings were held Monday-Thursday this week

to discuss the budget.

The city needs more money in the budget to cover rising costs of electricity, natural gas, insurance coverage, salaries, postage, and supplies, Pickman said, and the commissioners discussed the need to pave many streets in the city with regular asphalt.

Goodland's streets are not paved with asphalt, Pickman said, but are covered

by a chip and seal oil process that looks like asphalt but isn't as thick or as strong as asphalt. He recommended doing an inventory of the streets needing repair and identifying those in most urgent need.

The inventory will help the commission determine which blocks will be

See CITY, Page 7

Missouri motorcyclist hits Japanese driver

A Missouri woman was airlifted to a Denver hospital Wednesday after she hit the back of a car holding four Japanese people staying in Goodland as part of Trans-America Walk 2001 with her Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

A report from the state Highway Patrol said at 4:48 p.m. Grace Sharamitaro, 45, St. Louis, was east-

bound on I-70 at the Kansas-Colorado border when she ran her 1994 motorcycle into the back of an eastbound 2001 Toyota driven by Masahiko Sakurai, 35.

Sharamitaro, who was wearing a helmet, slid into the median and was seriously injured. She was taken to the Goodland Regional Medical Center,

where Dale Schields, human resources director, said she was in stable condition before being transferred to the Denver Health Medical Center by air ambulance.

Though there was serious damage to the rear and left side of the Toyota, Stan

See ACCIDENT, Page 7

Weather gets hot and wet

Storm brings rain, large hail to area

Hot weather and wet air combined to make thunderstorms pop up across southeast Colorado and western Kansas Thursday night, with one dropping nearly two inches of rain and ping-pong-sized hail on Goodland.

Vincent Papol, senior forecaster at the National Weather Service office here, said the service issued a severe thunderstorm warning for Sherman County at 6:15 p.m. Mountain time. When it expired at 7:15 p.m., he said, the office issued another storm warning for southern Sherman County and then one for Wallace County as the storm raced south.

He said the storm dropped 1.74 inches of rain at the weather station and more elsewhere, forming small rivers along city streets, and people in Goodland reported hail up to 1.5 inches in diameter. While the wind blew up to 65 mph here, the weather was mild compared to what was going on in other area cities.

Papol said 75 mph wind gusts were reported in Hitchcock County, Neb., and the service issued flash flood warnings in Kit Carson and Cheyenne counties in eastern Colorado.

High daytime temperatures in the mid-90s and abundant low-level moisture, he said, made the atmosphere unstable, causing too many storms to count.

Including Thursday's rainfall, Papol said, Sherman County has had 10.56 inches of rain this year, which is 0.6 inches below normal for the year.

Beijing awarded Olympics

MOSCOW (AP) — Beijing was awarded the 2008 Olympics today, winning the games for the world's most populous country for the first time despite criticism of China's human rights record.

The International Olympic Committee picked China over rival bids from Toronto; Paris; Istanbul, Turkey; and Osaka, Japan. Beijing won on the second round of a secret ballot by receiving 56 votes.

The announcement set off an official celebration of fireworks, songs and flag-waving by thousands of people in the Chinese capital.

Traditional lion dancers and a group of ballerinas began dancing after the announcement as spotlights and green lasers swept the sky.

Toronto got 22 votes, Paris 18 and Istanbul nine on the final round. Osaka was eliminated in the first round of voting, with six votes, when Beijing led with 44.

"I want to express the gratitude of the

See OLYMPICS, Page 7