

weather report

93°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 8:12 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 5:35 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:11 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 71 degrees
- Humidity 27 percent
- Sky partly sunny
- Winds north 13 mph
- Barometer 29.97 inches and falling
- Record High 106° (1936)
- Record Low 52° (1927)

Last 24 Hours*

- High 92°
- Low 66°
- Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 65, southwest wind 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms later, high 95-100, low 65, southwest wind 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday and Friday: chance of thunderstorms, high 95, low 65. Saturday: dry, high 90-95, low 60-65.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.76 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.53
 - Corn — \$2.08 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.88
 - Loan deficiency payment — 11¢
 - Milo — \$3.35 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$4.87 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.52
 - Loan deficiency payment — 40¢
 - Millet — \$5.00 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$8.75 cwt.
 - Oil new crop — \$7.45 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency prnt. — \$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.

Officials may replace plane

WASHINGTON — They made no guarantees, but top-ranking Pentagon officials offered reassurance Monday that another Air Force plane would replace the B-1 bomber at Wichita's McConnell Air Force Base.

More than 1,300 Kansas jobs are at stake in the Bush administration plan to cut the B-1 bomber fleet by one-third and eliminate those now operated at Air National Guard bases in Kansas and Georgia.

During a hearing of the Appropriations Committee's defense spending panel, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Air Force Secretary James G. Roche told Rep. Todd Tiahrt, R-Kan., that the Pentagon would try to find a new mission for McConnell employees.

"Their full intention is to see, to the extent possible, that any loss of jobs is mitigated," Rumsfeld said.

Officials may improve city together

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

The city and county commissioners discussed the possibility of setting aside money to improve the economy in Goodland at a joint budget workshop held Monday.

The officials met after the city's regular meeting.

The commissioners discussed setting up a city/county joint account and forming a committee to decide how the money will be spent with members from the city and county commissions and some members-at-large.

The purpose of the account would be to promote new businesses in Goodland and to try to

retain the old businesses.

"This would create more jobs," said Mayor Tom Rohr, "which would in turn bring more people in, and we would collect more taxes. What goes around, comes around."

Officials talked about imposing a county-wide tax to raise money for the economic development account.

A county-wide tax was suggested because the effort would affect the city residents and rural residents equally, and development of the city would benefit the county as well.

"You live in the country; I live in the city; but we're all part of Sherman County," said City Commissioner Curtis Hurd. "Sometimes we tend to

forget that."

In other business, the commissioners discussed:

- Establishing a city/county agreement for funding of recreational activities to replace the agreement which expired in 2000.
- Rewriting the city/county agreement for prisoner care which has not been reviewed since 1993. Sheriff Doug Whitson wants to increase the fee charged to the city for city prisoners from \$30 to \$40 per prisoner per day. The increase would also affect other communities whose prisoners are jailed in the Sherman County Jail.
- Having Sherman County pay \$4,000 of the budget increase for the library, increasing the county's share of the library's budget from

\$14,000 to \$18,000.

• The possibility of having the ambulance service bill people for use of the jaws-of-life when the equipment are used to rescue accident victims outside the city limits.

• The county's plan to charge a \$30 per ton tipping fee for solid waste beginning next year. The county said the tipping fee would be on those collecting solid waste, and the money is needed to offset the cost of operating the new landfill. The city would need to collect about \$120,000 per year for the cost of disposing of solid waste.

• A possible increase of sales tax to pay for road repair. The county's quarter-cent sales tax for this purpose will stop at the end of this year.

A sure sign



A sure sign the fair is coming is window signs painted by Jared Doke (above), 14, and Abbey Murray (not pictured), 14, who are members of the 4-H Country Clubbers. They were out over the weekend painting the 50 window signs for Goodland merchants. The Northwest Kansas District Free Fair will run from August 6-11.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

Abortion protest begins

WICHITA (AP) — Protesters marched peacefully outside an abortion clinic Tuesday, their right to do so cleared by a federal judge after the city denied a parade permit.

Prior to the start of the first marches tensions had been growing outside the clinic of Dr. George Tiller, one of the few clinics in the nation where late-term abortions are performed.

Countless small confrontations ended peacefully as activists on both sides of the abortion issue jockeyed for choice spots along the street near the clinic or bullied their way through crowded sidewalks. But the initial slow-moving march proceeded without incident.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Marten ruled Monday that the city's denial of a parade permit sought by the anti-abortion protesters violated their First Amendment rights. The judge said they could march for an hour in the morning and another in the afternoon.

As the first march began, Troy Newman of the Los Angeles-based Operation Rescue West called out, "Wichita walk."

Asked what that meant, he said, "To slowly progress, like the gospel of Christ."

Police erected barricades to keep the marchers on the side of the street farthest from the Tiller clinic, and officers were stationed along the barricades.

City waives utility fees for new day care to fill need

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland City Commission on Monday approved a \$350 grant in the form of waived start-up fees for Topside Tots Daycare, a business that planners hope will fill a need in Goodland.

The Goodland Regional Medical Center board originally proposed a

community day care because they were losing employees as a result of the lack of daycare facilities in the community. Members from the hospital's board were appointed to a committee to develop a non-profit corporation to run the daycare.

Mary Ann Elliott, president of the corporation developed, approached the city commission at the regular meeting

to ask for a grant to help the day care get started. She said the day care has received a grant from Social and Rehabilitation Services in the amount of \$43,268, but they will need that money for blankets, cribs and other supplies. The school board has agreed to let the day care buy lunches from the district.

Elliott said the group is still seeking a grant to pay for the purchase of the

former Victory Baptist Church at 1019 W. 13th Street. For now, she said, they are making payments on the loan.

Elliott requested the city of Goodland approve a grant in the amount of \$356.28 in the form of waived fees. The fees waived include the electric deposit and hookup fee, water deposit and hookup fee and the application and permit fees for the conditional use permit.

Elliott told the commission Topside Tots would benefit the whole community, providing a stable day care environment for working parents to take their children. She added that this would encourage people to move into the community to accept jobs.

She said she anticipates having a full day care in the first week of operation and has only eight months to start it.

Businesses see consequence of state closing section of road

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

The state has closed a high-traffic section of Cherry Avenue, making it harder to get to downtown Goodland and seven businesses along the road, cutting profits and irritating business owners, operators, employees and customers.

City officials say the street, which many drivers use to get to downtown or businesses on Cherry and Business U.S. 24, may open in late August or September, but could be closed until October — deadline for completion of a new section of Cherry that will create a new city entrance.

That's bad news to business owners who say they are watching profits drop and are already suffering because construction on K-27 is blocking traffic into Goodland from the north.

Less than a week ago, the Kansas Department of Transportation closed Cherry just south of 19th Street, shutting down one main entrance to Goodland and making it harder to access businesses.

For a few days, customers were able to use the rail yard access road or get to Cherry from the north, but the state told city workers to block off those entrances to Cherry on Monday for safety purposes. People can still use Caldwell Avenue and 19th Street to access businesses on Cherry (one new business is almost completely blocked off) but owners and operators say there aren't

enough detour signs and the detours are too out-of-the-way.

Ed Wolak, Goodland's public works director, said the state required the city to close the section because large construction machines and the flow of traffic made it unsafe for people to be driving in the area.

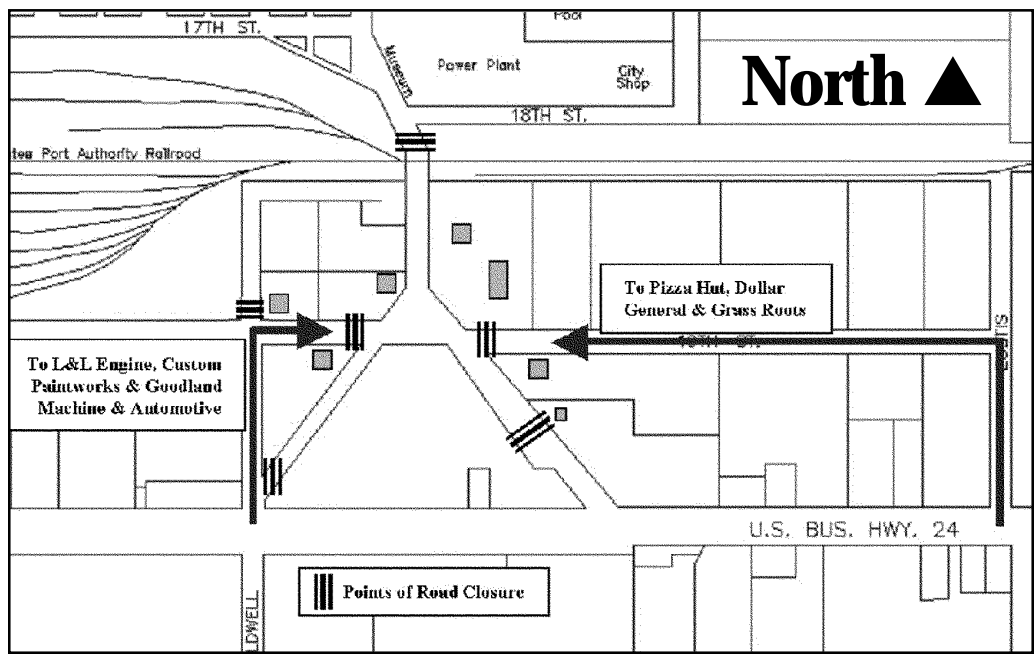
He said the street will remain closed until the project, which includes a new road connecting Cherry and Business U.S. 24 and a storm water detention pond, is finished. Wolak said that could be anytime between mid-August and October, when the contract says the work should be done. "Anytime before October is a blessing," Wolak said, noting that because the state is paying for the project the city must follow its rules.

"We must abide by state regulations," he said. "If they require it to be closed, there's not much we can do about it."

Wolak said the city will post signs at the north end of Cherry and on Business U.S. 24, instructing drivers on how to get to businesses on Cherry. It's harder and longer, but people can get to businesses on the east and west side of Cherry by turning off Business U.S. 24 onto Caldwell or Eustis and driving down 19th Street.

That, however, doesn't make business owners and operators any less angry.

"I'm very, very upset over it," said Dean Terry, manager of the Dollar General Store, on Cherry between 18th and 19th streets.



Drivers who can no longer get to Pizza Hut, Dollar General, Grass Roots Lawn Service, L&L Engine Service, Custom Paintworks and Goodland Machine and Supply off Cherry Avenue because of construction can use Caldwell or Eustis Avenues and 19th Street.

Map provided by EBH & Associates Engineers

He said there aren't enough detour signs and the detour is on a back road that is hardly ever used. Terry estimated sales have dropped 60 to 70 percent since the section closed and said the company

may take legal action against the city. Rich Miller, co-owner of Grass Roots Lawn