

## weather report

79°  
at noon



### Today

• Sunset, 6:07 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:00 a.m.  
• Sunset, 6:05 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 49 degrees  
• Humidity 17 percent  
• Sky sunny  
• Winds southwest 6  
• Barometer 30.01 inches  
and falling  
• Record High 96° (1926)  
• Record Low 18° (1948)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 70°  
Low 29°  
Precipitation none

### Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, breezy, low 40s, wind southeast 5-15. Tomorrow: partly sunny, high 60s, low 30-35, wind north 10-20.

### Extended Forecast

Friday and Saturday: sunny, high 60s, low 30s.

(National Weather Service)

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

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$2.61 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.50  
Corn — \$1.98 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.75  
Loan deficiency payment — 24¢  
Milo — \$1.70 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$3.69 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.67  
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.25  
Millet — \$3.75 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$7.25 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.49  
Confection current — \$13/\$6 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$19 (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.

## Anthrax sends House home

WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders ordered an unprecedented shutdown of the House today after more than two dozen people in Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle's office tested positive for exposure to a highly concentrated form of anthrax.

"We will not let this stop the work of the Senate," Daschle said at a news conference outside the Capitol. He said 31 people have had "positive nasal swabs," including two Capitol police officers. Despite the vow to remain open, Daschle said senators "will excuse our staff" so that three Senate office buildings can be tested.

"To ensure safety we thought it best to do a complete sweep, an environmental sweep," he said, adding that House members and staff would be sent home at day's end, until at least Tuesday.

# A thing of Beauty



Members of the Providential Players acting group, who are performing "A Thing of Beauty," this weekend at First United Methodist Church, include, left to right, Carol Moore Ramey, ArfArf (Arfie) Mann, Dean Graber, Gordon Pettibone and his son Michael, Barb Graber and Ron Asbury. The star of the play is a piece of drift wood.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

## Wood star of meaningful play

By Rachel Miscall  
The Goodland Daily News

A piece of gray, gnarled drift wood is the star of a play the Providential Players acting group is putting on this weekend at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 12th and Sherman.

Like its star, the play is basic, with only one setting, and plain, with a handful of cast members, but it holds a powerful message. A message cast member Carol Moore Ramey, pastor at United Methodist, said is important to share as the nation is facing war and terrorism.

"I think it's a message we need to hear now," she said, "of what true beauty is and having the eyes to recognize it when we see it."

This is the second year the acting group, made up of United Methodist members, has put on a play to raise money for the church. Sharon Gre-

gory, the director, said this year's proceeds will go for a new air conditioner the church recently bought.

"A Thing of Beauty," was written in 1964 by Maurice Berger, but Gregory said the play is timeless.

The gist, she said, is that the most beautiful things in life are simple, but people can't recognize that because their complicated lives and societal pressures distort their perception.

The drift wood is the "thing of beauty," and although its look and form don't change throughout the play, the way each of the six characters perceive it does. Gregory said the characters' lives and experiences shape how they view the simple object.

"In life we tend to determine what is beautiful through experiences or what society says is beautiful," she said, "instead of relying on our inner instincts to tell us what is beautiful."

Gregory said the play, which ends with an ironic twist, is about 45 minutes long, and there will be musical entertainment before the performances on Saturday and Sunday. She said the cast has spent the past month practicing three times a week, and will put on a good show.

Dean Graber, a cast member, said he hopes the audience will have a good time while learning a little.

"I hope they just have a good, relaxing evening," he said, "and learn to see the beauty in things."

The Providential Players will perform a dinner theater at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday and a dessert matinee at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Saturday's tickets will cost \$17 for adults and \$10 for children, and Sunday's tickets will be \$12 for adults and \$8 for children.

Call United Methodist at (785) 899-3631 for information.

# K-27 to open if work done

## Dirt work, striping remain

By Tom Betz  
The Goodland Daily News

Plans are to open the new section of K-27 from the intersection at Business U.S. 24 north to the Sherman County line on Friday, but that depends on getting the finishing touches done, said Donna Binning, area engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation from Atwood.

"If all the work is done," Binning said, the road will open. "There is some work to finish, but we are hoping for Friday. If the work is not done, it may be Saturday or might have to wait until Monday."

She said there is dirt work to finish, some seeding, striping, signs to put up and some areas of pavement that need to be smoothed out.

Ritchey Paving, the project contractor from Wichita, is anxious to get the work completed because every day earlier than Oct. 31 is worth a bonus to the company, and if they get done by Friday that would be 11 days of bonus.

"They are in the bonus period," Binning said, "and if they don't finish by Oct. 31, they begin paying a penalty for every day beyond that. The contractor wanted to have it open last Friday, but we kept finding things that needed to be done and then the weather caught them

and delayed the work for a few days."

All of the paving is completed and the bridges are done, she said. Next year, the contractor will put a surface lift on the highway. The highway will not be closed for that, and they will use pilot cars to handle traffic, Binning said.

There may still be some clean up work on the shoulders after K-27 is open, Binning said, but the equipment should not be on the road. It may be something for drivers to watch for as they drive K-27 for a few days.

"I know people are anxious to have the highway open, and that there are some people using it already," Binning said. "Tuesday I caught one with Colorado plates about eight miles into the project. The driver said, 'Is this road closed?'"

Completion of the 17 miles of K-27 is not the end of the project, as Ritchey Paving will be back in March to begin the replacement of the K-27 and Business U.S. 24 intersection with concrete.

That will include building a new intersection and a road east on U.S. 24, which will connect with 19th Street and Cattletrail. The turnoff known as "the hook" which comes off the south side and connects with Cattletrail will be kept, but it will be a one-way exit northbound from K-27 to Cattletrail.

# Fugitives make mess for family

By Patty Decker  
The Colby Free Press

Gus and Patty Ochs of Hoxie were relieved to learn about last week's capture of the couple involved in a high-speed chase through Thomas County in August.

But for the Ochs family, the nightmare isn't quite over.

They were one of many victims who crossed paths with Kristopher Aaron Lambert, 21, and Tina Janice Pearce, 23. The couple allegedly stole their white Jeep Cherokee parked at Hoxie Grain Co., after eluding authorities earlier that day.

At first, the Ochs family thought the Jeep wasn't ever going to show up again, but then they received word from Tremonton, Utah that it had been recovered — with a price tag of more than \$500 for storage and towing.

"We have, for the most part, ended up with the bill," said Gus late last week, noting that the expenses and the deductible on their comprehensive insurance are nearly the same.

The Jeep has been sitting in a storage facility since the end of August and Gus said it's an easy time of the year for his family to just pack up and take a 1,000 mile trip to northern Utah.

So, for now, the Ochs are looking at

options and trying to figure out the best way to handle the situation.

"The one positive thing that Patty and I have talked about with this whole ordeal," he said, "is that we are glad these people just took our vehicle rather than harm anyone else."

"At first," Patty said, "we were both in total disbelief that our Jeep had been stolen and then we were angry that this couple just waltzed into our town and took something without any regard for another's property."

She added that they were both glad the two were caught in Texas.

"My restitution lies in the fact that they were caught and justice has been served — whatever happens from here on out with our Jeep — we will get it back somehow," she said.

As of today, C.D. Hopper, an investigator with the Thomas County Sheriff's office, said that the paperwork is in order to extradite the female accomplice, Pearce, back to Colby.

"If all goes well," he said, "she should be back here by Wednesday night and charged with aggravated burglary, kidnapping, felony theft and misdemeanor theft, along with two counts of misdemeanor criminal damage to

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# Officers reconstruct accident

## Charges won't be filed until officials know how girl was killed

By Rachel Miscall  
The Goodland Daily News

Officials say they are holding off on filing charges in the death of a Bird City girl until an accident reconstruction team pieces together what happened on a county road east of Goodland earlier this month.

Lynnette DaPron, a 17-year-old senior and editor of the yearbook at Cheylin High School, was killed when her car crashed into a semitrailer rig.

It could be more than two weeks, but once law enforcement officers know what happened on Tuesday, Oct. 2, they will make a decision on whether charges should be filed.

The day after the accident, Sheriff Doug Whitson said Brandon Gorr, 20, Goodland, was driving an empty grain

truck east on County Road 72 back to the field where he was helping to harvest corn.

The sheriff said Gorr apparently drove through a yield sign at County Road 28 about 3:45 p.m. and DaPron, driving south on Road 28 towards Goodland, struck the driver's side of the trailer, rolling her car into a field on the northeast corner of the intersection.

The semi rig also ended up in the field, where both vehicles burst into flames and the car and tractor were burned beyond recognition. DaPron's car was laying on its top, with the front end pointing north, while the semitrailer rig was east of the car and its passenger's side was facing west, with a large hole burned in it. Gorr was taken to the hospital with

minor injuries, and the sheriff said an unknown person pulled DaPron's body from her Chevrolet before it caught on fire.

Whitson said fault hadn't been determined and no one had been issued a ticket. He said later that officers hadn't found Gorr had driven through the yield sign and were waiting for reconstruction results before making any legal decisions.

The sheriff said this week that a lawyer called him to say Gorr is being "unfairly tried in the newspaper," and if there was a trial, it might have to be moved to Hays, where people aren't as familiar with the accident. Whitson said Gorr could be ticketed

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A cross has been erected at the intersection of County Roads 72 and 28 in memory of Lynnette DaPron, a Bird City girl who died in a car accident there on Oct. 2.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News