

## weather report

63°  
at noon



### Today

- Sunset, 6:51 p.m.
- Tomorrow
- Sunrise, 6:32 a.m.
- Sunset, 6:49 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 65 degrees
- Humidity 34 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds north 24-30 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.93 inches and rising
- Record High 99° (1935)
- Record Low 32° (1971)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High	71°
Low	34°
Precipitation	trace

### Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low lower 40s, wind northwest 10-20 m.p.h.  
Tomorrow: mostly sunny, high upper 70s, low mid 40s winds west 5-15 m.p.h.

### Extended Forecast

Saturday: partly sunny, high mid 70s, low lower 40s. Sunday: partly cloudy, high lower 70s. Monday: partly cloudy with slight chance of thunderstorms, high near 70.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets

**Noon**  
Wheat — \$4.46 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.44  
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢  
Corn — \$2.64 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.47  
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢  
Milo — \$2.34 bushel  
Soybeans — \$4.95 bushel  
Posted county price — \$5.16  
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢  
Millet — \$13.00 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$10.60 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Confection current — \$17/\$7 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$25  
(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.  
**Bush wants to use force**

WASHINGTON — President Bush asked Congress today for authority to use "all means he determines to be appropriate, including force" to disarm and overthrow Iraq's Saddam Hussein, saying the United States will take action on its own if the U.N. Security Council balks.  
The president sent to Capitol Hill his proposed wording for a resolution that would give him such broad war-making authority. He told reporters in the Oval Office that the power to use force was all-important. "If you want to keep the peace, you've got to have the authorization to use force," he said.  
The president immediately began trying to build support for the proposed resolution that he wants Congress to approve before lawmakers go home to campaign for the Nov. 5 elections.

# Handgun found in old parking lot

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

A rusted handgun was found buried in concrete at the southwest corner of 13th Street and Main, the future site of People's State Bank.

A construction crew was digging up concrete when they unearthed the revolver. They took it to the Sherman County Sheriff, Doug Whitson, on Friday.

The .32-caliber revolver is covered in rust and is missing pieces, including the cylinder and the grip. Whitson said he isn't even sure of the make and model, but he thinks it might be a Herrington and Richards six-shot.

The sheriff said he is working with Ray Smee, the Goodland Police Chief, to find out when the concrete was originally poured, and they will then check to see if any crimes involving a gun happened around that time.

If there was a crime from that era, the gun will be sent to a lab to find out all they can about it. Whitson said the most the lab would probably be able to find would be the serial number, and maybe

not even that.

"It's is pretty sorry condition," Whitson said. "It's been in concrete for awhile."

Right now, the sheriff said he is just going to hang on to it and find out all he can. He said it is a pretty unusual situation.

"There's only one reason I can think of to bury a gun in concrete," he said, "and that's to hide it."

Information from the Sherman County Historical Society says the building at 1302 Main started out as a filling station in 1926, but was remodeled after an explosion in 1946 and was torn down and rebuilt in 1959 after a semi-trailer rig crashed into the building.

Jerry Nemecek, city building inspector, said he is checking to see if old records show if concrete was laid in 1959.

Whitson said he may never find out where the gun came from, but there is always a chance.

"We're taking this seriously," he said. "We'll do our best to find out where it came from."



The Sherman County Sheriff's Department provided a picture of a gun it is trying to find information about. It was found Friday buried in concrete at 1302 Main.

## Hospital cuts costs on computer system

The Goodland Regional Medical Center board negotiated a deal with the provider of a new information system at a special meeting at noon Tuesday in the board room at the hospital.

Hospital Administrator Jay Jolly said the board approved the system at the last meeting, but a special meeting was needed to hammer out the details with the company.

The cost of some of the hardware was knocked down, Jolly said, along with some training and installation fees.

The board had chosen the \$1 million computer information system, the Siemens Medical System 4, in August, although some board members were concerned about the cost.

The hospital has \$245,000 in tax credits and \$100,000 from the county

and some money saved, but so far only has \$450,000 total for the system

Jolly told the board the system would save the hospital money over the long term. It will help with avoiding billing errors and duplicating records, he said, as well as help abide by the new Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPA) Act. The law, passed to crack down on fraud in healthcare, considers repeated billing errors as possible fraud, Jolly said.

The administrator said he is glad the deal is moving along.

"We are pleased we are able to move ahead and improve hospital patient care in our community," Jolly said.

The board will hold a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday in the hospital's board room.

## Cattletrail Avenue opens; width change questioned

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

With Cattletrail Avenue having opened Tuesday, three years of state highway construction is finished, and while the city manager is happy the roads are open, he has some questions about how the final street was laid.

Cattletrail from 16th to 19th streets is four feet narrower across than the plans stated, City Manager Ron Pickman said. Two feet is missing from each side of the street, he said.

Measurements by The

Goodland Daily News staff show Cattletrail north of 16th Street is about 24 feet across. Between 15th and 16th, which was not replaced, the street is a little more than 20 feet across.

The street is still wide enough for traffic, Pickman said, his concern is that the plans were changed without checking with the city. The project was split between the city and the state, Pickman said, and Goodland's share was \$175,000.

The Kansas Department of Transportation was in charge of the project, and Ritchie Paving was the prime contractor.

Pickman said he has sent a letter to the state engineers asking why the road is narrower than planned.

"Our biggest problem is that it was changed and they never asked us about it," Pickman said. "The road works the way it is and most people would never know the difference, but we helped with the design plans, so we know."

The city also has questions about some curbs along the street.

Pickman said they are not cut correctly. It is like a piece is missing at the back, he said, and the city is worried



A sport utility vehicle crossed over the railroad track on Cattletrail. The road was opened Tuesday. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

water might flow into people's yards instead of moving along the gutter.

"That isn't the way we do things here," Pickman told the city commissioners Monday.

The department of transportation hasn't answered Pickman's letter yet, he said.

He said the city isn't angry with the work, they just want to know why the plans were changed.

"I'm sure there was a very good reason," he said. "We'd just like to know what it was."

Pouring concrete on Cattletrail was the final step of a three years of construction, including repaving K-27 north to the Sherman County line, and replacing the concrete at the intersection at U.S. 24 and K-27. Separate projects included putting in a new addition to Wyoming at U.S. Business 24 and paving part of 19th Street, and removing the old "we" on Cherry Avenue.

Pickman said even though he has some concerns about Cattletrail, he is glad the road is open.

"It's nice to have all our streets again," he said.

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Phillip Samuelson, director of Good Samaritan Center, asked the Sherman County Commissioners for assistance in improving the floors at the center to meet the state health department requirements.

Samuelson said the center was recently resurveyed by a state health inspector, and there were three points that they were knocked down for. He said the state is unhappy with the condition of some of the windows, the carpet is not up to standard and the flooring in the kitchen has burn marks and the seams are coming up.

He said the person from the state was a new environmental inspector. He said the inspector said he would be back in about three weeks to see what was being done on these items, but that until they are satisfied the center cannot admit any new residents. Currently there are 55 residents, and the vacancies can be filled as soon as the state approves the plans for solving the three problems they have cited the center for.

Samuelson said he has been in consultation with his corporate office and they are proposing to do a combination of tile and carpet in the hallways, wood laminate flooring in the activity area and tile in the kitchen.

The carpet would be purchased through the corporate office, but the tile and wood flooring would be done through local bids, Samuelson told the commissioners.

He estimated the cost of the carpet at \$20,000 and the tile and wood flooring at \$15,000. These probably do not include installation he said, and estimated the total cost of the project at \$45,000.

Samuelson said the window project would probably have to wait until spring, and there were some things they could do to keep them clean and satisfy the state's objections until the windows can be replaced next year.

The commissioners asked County Clerk Janet Rumpel how much money has been set aside for the center maintenance. She said there are three funds with money earmarked for the center with a total of about \$54,650. She said

\$16,000 of that has been set aside as a carryover for next year so the amount available for the various projects is about \$38,000.

The commissioners told Samuelson they would take his request under advisement and let him know how much they could contribute to the flooring project keeping the window project in mind for next year.

Commissioner Chuck Frankel asked Samuelson if the center had been having any concerns about overnight staffing. Samuelson said there are times when there are a few as two people on duty between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

"We plan to have one nurse and two certified nurses aides on duty during that time, but if one calls in late we can be left with only two," he admitted. "We are working to keep ahead of this better, and are calling in pool people when possible."

After Samuelson left the commissioners decided to approve \$15,000 toward the flooring project based on the idea they will be using local vendors where possible.

## Dome statue on display Saturday

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

The statue of the Kansa Indian to be put on the state capitol dome, "Ad Astra," will be on display in Goodland from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday at 1121 Main.

Richard Bergen from Salina is the sculptor of the statue. His daughter, Lori Bergen, called the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Center on Wednesday to let them know the statue was coming through, and to ask where it might be displayed.

The 20-foot, 6,000-pound bronze statue is on its way to Topeka. The artist is bringing it from Loveland, Colo., where it was completed. Bergen will stay the night in Goodland. His daughter said she thought it would be fitting for the people in the first county seat in Kansas to be the first to see the statue.

Donna Price of the convention center agreed.

"This is wonderful," she said. "We are going to be the first. This is a great opportunity to see the statue close up."

Former State Sen. Ben Vidricksen from Salina plans to be in Goodland to welcome the statue to the state. Lori Bergen said she hopes the display draws a big crowd.

"My dad is really giddy. He's acting like a new father," she said. "It's been a labor of love for 14 years, and he's proud of what he's done."

In 1984 the Kansas legislature passed a bill to begin choosing a subject and artist for the sculpture. Bergen won the commission in 1988. He got the idea for a Native American subject in general through drawings by school children, and for a Kansa Indian specifically when he found out the Kansa, or Kaw, tribe used to live around Topeka.

The name of the sculpture is derived from the state



Ad Astra, a statue of a Kansa Indian to be placed on the Capitol building in Topeka, will be in Goodland on Saturday.

motto, "Ad Astra per Aspera," which is Latin for "To the stars through difficulties."

The Kansa's arrow is pointed at the north star, which Bergen has said in interviews indicates the state's goals of good government. The sculpture represents all the people in Kansas, he said, because he is aiming high and shooting for the best.

The state capitol was originally designed in the 1860s and was meant to have a statue on top. The first designs called for a sculpture of a Greek Goddess, but that plan was scrapped in the early 1900s. There have been recent battles in the legislature whether the sculpture should be put up, but Gov. Bill Graves, a long-time supporter of the idea, pushed the plan through.

Bergen is still trying to raise money for the costs of constructing the statue, his daughter said. They will be selling \$125 personalized bricks at a plaza at the capital, she said, and there are other ways people can support the project. About \$1 million was needed to cast the main statue, modify the cupola atop the dome, reinforce the structure to handle the weight of the statue and lift it into place for mounting. All the money raised for the statue so far has come through private donations, she said.

Price said this is a unique opportunity for people to see the statue. Although there will be a 6-foot replica on the grounds, on Saturday people can see the 20-footer close up.

"It will be on top of the capitol," she said. "Never again will people be able to get as close to it as on Saturday."