

# The Goodland Star-News

**WEEKEND**  
Friday, August 17  
2007

**\$1**

Volume 75, Number 66

Fourteen Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

## weather report

**81°**

noon  
Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 7:41 p.m.
- Sunrise, 6:02 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:40 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 85 degrees
- Humidity 82 percent
- Sky clear and sunny
- Winds light and variable
- Barometer 30.15 inches and steady

- Record High today 105° (1983)
- Record Low today 45° (1897)

### Last 24 Hours\*

- High Wednesday 93°
- Low Thursday 61°
- Precipitation .10 inch
- This month 1.91
- Year to date 10.43
- Normal -4.84 of an inch

### The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s. South winds 10 to 15 m.p.h. Tonight: Partly cloudy with the lows in the mid 60s.

### Extended Forecast

Saturday: Mostly sunny with highs, partly cloudy in the evening with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. High in the mid 90s and low in the mid 60s. Sunday to Tuesday: High in upper 90s. Low in mid 60s. Sunday evening a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.



Kids stayed cool in a new pool (above) purchased by volunteers and a water slide (left) from the Rho Beta sorority at the annual Kanorado Day celebration on Saturday.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

## Kanorado kids cool off

By Tom Betz

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So it was hot. Kids cooled off in a swimming pool and on a water slide during Saturday's Kanorado Day.

People gathered in the city park on the northwest corner of Kanorado for a day of fun, including a cake walk, horse-shoe tournament and the boarder town's third annual Car and Bike Show.

Sally Pettibone, a member of the Kanorado Day Volunteer Committee, said the car show drew 38 entries. The Citizen Choice Award went to Rick Windell, who also won Best of Show, she said.

The top 10 car winners included Pete Jensen, Mike Vance, LeRoy Kraft, Jim Bowker, Dusty Parsons, Bonnie Morgan, Steven Schoen, Collin Koop and Lindsay Paige.

Karen Hooker, another volunteer, was keeping watch on a new swimming pool full of kids that the committee bought. Next to the pool was a blow-up water slide that Hooker said was from the Rho Beta music sorority. She was

taking donations for the sorority's Tuning up Tomorrow program to raise money and used instruments to help fifth graders join the school band.

The Kanorado Museum raffled off a quilt handmade by Janice Hooker of Kanorado. Mona McGinley of Goodland won.

When the chicken made a deposit in Chicken Chit Checkers, Olivia Pena of Kanorado had bought the lucky square.

The horseshoe tournament had 17 teams. First place went to Dave Cooper of Burlington and Ed Zuege of Nebraska, second to Jeff Hartman of Burlington and Mike Marzolf of Seibert, Colo., and third to Roger and Chris McQuigg of St. Francis.

Pettibone said there were lots of winners for the Cake Walk where people take a chance and walk around a circle until the music stops and that number is declared a winner.

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## Man arrested in drug bust

By Sharon Corcoran

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Officers from six law enforcement agencies descended on a farm north of Kanorado about 7 p.m. Wednesday, arresting a man and seizing what they say was an indoor hydroponic marijuana growing operation in a quonset.

The Sherman County Sheriff's Department had help from Wallace, Logan and Thomas county sheriffs (all members of the Quad-County Drug Task Force) and from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation in executing a search warrant at a farm, owned by Jack Thrasher, 50, formerly of Colorado Springs.

Thrasher bought the property on County Road 5 north of Old U.S. 24 in November, said Sheriff Kevin Butts, and the department had been investigating the man for about two months. Officers seized over 105 marijuana plants of various sizes, the sheriff said, along with "a large amount" of processed marijuana, cash and firearms.

An indoor hydroponic system grows plants using nutrient-enriched water and artificial lighting to shorten and enhance the growing process, Butts said. The system itself is not illegal, he said, since it can be used to grow tomatoes and vegetables, but using it to grow marijuana is.

Marijuana grown hydroponically generally yields larger amounts and better grades of the drug, he added.

Officers dismantled the operation, he said, and are storing the items as evidence. The sheriff's department is aggressive against drugs, Butts said, but it would be impossible to do such an investigation and arrest without help from the task force.

All the agencies work together and share resources, he said, and it works well. One agency could not do this alone, the sheriff said, but all the agencies sharing manpower and equipment through the task force helps all northwest Kansas.

"It would be naive to think it's only in Colby or only in Goodland," Butts said of the drug problem.

The Goodland Police Department was not involved in the raid, Butts said, since the city commission cut their budget to be part of the task force.

He said they'd have to ask the KBI to help estimate the street value of the drugs seized.

## Senator schedules meetings, dinner

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts plans a fund-raising dinner in Goodland on Monday night, part of a swing through the western quarter of the state.

Roberts will stop in Goodland for a fund raiser at 5 p.m. at the Goodland Veterans of Foreign Wars for the Pat Roberts for Senate Campaign. Tickets are \$35 a person. Call (785) 354-4728.

The senator began his August tour Wednesday, with stops planned in more than 30 towns in far western Kansas.

He will begin his second week of "town hall" meetings at 7:30 a.m. (Mountain Time) at the Gray County Courthouse in Cimaron. He will travel north on K-27 with stops in Syracuse at 10:30 a.m. at the Hamilton County Courthouse, Tribune at 1 p.m. at the town hall and Sharon Springs at 2:45 p.m. at the Wallace County Courthouse.

Tuesday, Sen. Roberts begins the morning in St. Francis at 9:30 a.m. (Mountain Time) at the Cheyenne County Courthouse. He will make stops in Atwood at noon at the Rawlins County Courthouse, Oberlin at 1:45 p.m. at the Bee Center and Hoxie at 3:30 p.m. at the Indian Café.

Wednesday, he will begin the day at 8:30 a.m. at the Thomas County Courthouse in Colby. He will be in Oakley at 10 a.m. at the Logan County Courthouse, 12:30 p.m. at the Gove County Offices in Gove and 2:15 p.m. at the Lane County Courthouse in Dighton.

Sen. Roberts will finish on Saturday with a stop in Norton at 1:30 p.m. at the Town and Country Kitchen.



Members of the crew run by Ignition Inc. cheered runner Laura Furtado, a member of the green team for the Blue Planet Run, Wednesday evening as she approached the place to switch runners four miles east of Goodland.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

## Runners support clean water

By Sharon Corcoran

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Water is life.

That's the message delivered by runners from two international teams sweating across Sherman County on Wednesday.

The runners are with the Blue Planet Run, a project sponsored by the Dow Chemical Co., and have been running in relays around the world, starting June 1 at the United Nations in New York.

The athletes come from 13 countries, said Dot Helling, a runner from Montpelier, Vt.; working in five teams with four groups running each day and one having the day off. The runners trade places every 10 miles, she said.

Other members of Helling's team, which ran across the county Wednesday, are Simon Isaacs, 26, from Boston, now living in Kigali, Rwanda; Jason Loutitt, 32, from Saskatchewan, Canada; and Laura Furtado, 43, of Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil, who lives in Ketchum, Idaho.

Runners range in age from 23 to 60, Helling said, and she is the second oldest at 57. They split the day into four

components, Isaacs said, with, for example, the blue team running 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the green team from 3 to 9 p.m., the silver team from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. and the yellow team from 3 to 9 a.m. with the orange team taking the day off.

It rotates, he said, so all the teams get a day off and so no one is stuck with the night shift all the time.

The runners and their message are backed by a crew with trucks, vans, a video crew, a stage and sound. The crew, run by Ignition Inc., keeps the runners safe, Isaacs said; it's the group that puts on the Olympic torch relay.

"They provide drivers, trucks and logistics," he said, "and allow us to be global messengers and ambassadors."

Helling said they give out shirts, stickers and stuff. The idea is to get the word out, she said, to get people to go to the Blue Planet web site and to donate money to help people to have clean drinking water.

Half of the hospital beds in the world are taken up by people with water-related illnesses, Isaacs said, yet it only costs \$30 to provide one person clean water for life. The relay raises money and awareness, he said, and thanks to

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## local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$5.82 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.97
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$3.22 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.03
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$2.87 bushel
- Soybeans — \$7.06 bushel
- Posted county price — \$7.23
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- NuSun crop — \$17.90
- Confection — Call
- Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)

(Markets by Scouler Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Ag Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

## inside today

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## Sprint cars race Saturday

The United Rebel Sprint Series will highlight the 15th Annual Bill Gray Memorial race bill Saturday night as the winged cars visit Sherman County Speedway for the second year. See story, photo on Page 10a.