

## weather report

52°

noon Monday

### Today

• Sunset, 4:45 p.m.

### Tuesday

• Sunrise, 7:06 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:46 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 35 degrees
- Humidity 33 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds south 15 mph
- Barometer 30.27 inches and rising
- Record High today 75° (1953)
- Record Low today -19° (1963)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Sunday 58°  
 Low Sunday 19°  
 Precipitation none

### The Topside Forecast

Today: partly cloudy, high around 56, low around 20, winds south southwest 8 mph. Tuesday: mostly sunny, high near 60, low near 22, winds west southwest 5-7 mph.

### Extended Forecast

Wednesday: partly cloudy, high around 53, low around 20, winds northwest 6-28 mph. Thursday: partly cloudy, high near 54, low around 21. Friday: mostly cloudy, high around 40, low near 19. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$3.77 bushel  
 New crop — \$3.60  
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
 Corn — \$2.54 bushel  
 Posted county price — \$2.27  
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
 Milo — \$2.38 bushel  
 Soybeans — \$7.55 bushel  
 Posted county price — \$7.35  
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
 Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight  
 Sunflowers  
 Oil current crop — \$11.70 cwt.  
 NuSun — \$11.95 cwt.  
 Confection — \$19/\$6 cwt.  
 Pinto beans — Withdrawn  
 (Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

## inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



## Raymer fun story of 2003

Principal Steve Raymer promised to spend a night on the school roof if the kids at North elementary collected 5,000 boxtops. That was one of the fun stories of the year. See story and photo on Page 3.

# Man remembers finding body

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Two brothers were exploring a grove of trees about two miles south and a mile east of Goodland nearly 42 years ago when they found a body lying face down.

Dave Schields, 8 at the time, at his brother Brad, 5 at the time, had gone with their mother to take lunch to their father on a warm July day in 1962.

"Brad and I were exploring the grove of trees," Dave Schields said. "There were lots of weeds and then we saw a body lying there. We ran back and told mom and dad there was somebody back there."

"At first dad said we couldn't have seen anything, but then I started shaking and my mom said 'they must have seen something as white as they look and how they are shaking.'

"Dad went back and found the body and mom called the sheriff. That's about all I remember."

The body the two boys found was that of Roy Russell, Jr., 38, from Council Grove. He had apparently been murdered and his body dumped in the trees a day or two before.

Undersheriff Gene Kear, Coroner

Lester Sage and County Attorney Selby Soward were called to the scene, and later called in the KBI when it appeared murder was a possibility.

The autopsy done by Sage revealed Russell died of a broken neck.

The investigation led officers to believe Russell had been involved in a fight, and his body was dumped in the grove. The body was found at a point about 100 feet back from the road, with car tracks in the grass leading to a point about 75 feet from the road. There were no signs of struggle, indicating the man was dead when placed in the grove.

Cigarette butts at the scene indicated that those who left the body had waited for some time before leaving. Sage said he believed more than one person was involved in the murder.

The officials said they believed the murder took place on Saturday night. Russell had checked in at the Watters Hotel at 1:55 p.m. on Saturday, June 30, 1962.

A later story said the KBI was following up on a lead from two boys who had ridden by the Goodland

## One murderer remains in prison

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Today there is only one man in custody who has been convicted of a murder in Sherman County, and two others have been released after serving their sentences.

Checking up on one of the Sherman County murderers who were convicted in the past William Frank Schlicher, 52, is in prison at the medium security Norton Correctional Facility. He will have another parole hearing in May, and could be released in June at the earliest. Schlicher has been turned down for parole every time since 1995.

Schlicher was convicted in 1980 of shooting Wallace Patton to death in a field after taking him at gun point from the gas station near I-70 where he worked and forcing him to kneel in the back seat of a car for hours.

Gregorio Gomez, Jr., 38, who was convicted of second degree murder for the beating death of Jesus Saavedra, 89, in June 1982, was released on parole from the Kansas prison system in March, and is liv-



Schlicher

Gomez

Kernal

ing in Colorado.

Gomez, 17 at the time, and Ronald C. Kernal, 18 at the time, and a 13-year old Goodland boy were charged with beating Saavedra and stealing \$1,400. Kernal plead guilty to second degree murder and testified against Gomez.

Kernal was sentenced to 7 to 20 years. He was released in 1992, but violated his parole and was returned to the Kansas Department of Corrections to complete his sentence. Kernal, 39, was released in June 2002.

roadside park on horseback about 4:30 p.m. on Saturday and saw three men in the grove of trees. They said one was wearing a white T-shirt and

washing blood from face, with another man helping him. A third man was sitting a bench nearby. The three were apparently driving a dark-col-

ored car, parked nearby. Nothing else is known about the case which is one of four unsolved cases in the county.

# 35 people were arrested on drug charges

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Thirteen people were arrested last year in Sherman County on charges relating to the manufacture of methamphetamine, 19 others were charged with possession of drugs and three juveniles were arrested on drug related charges.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said Friday that her office dealt with 33 drug cases last year, and that many of those cases have been completed and the people have been sentenced.

Of the seven people arrested last January — as part of an investigation by the Quad County Drug Task Force, the Goodland police and the county sheriff into meth labs in the county — all seven have been sentenced Selby said.

Those arrested were Curtis Wiley and his wife Leslie, Justin Kibel, Jacque Bowling, James McClelland, Elaine McClelland and Mark Struckoff. All were sentenced for unlawful manufacture of a controlled substance and intent to sell within 1,000 feet of a school.

Bowling was sentenced in April, Kibel was sentenced in July; Elaine McClelland was sentenced in October; Leslie Wiley, James McClelland and Struckoff were sentenced in November; and Curtis Wiley was sentenced in December. All of these were transferred to community corrections.

Last February three men were arrested with another meth lab, and two of those have been sentenced with the third expected to be completed at the end of this month.

Thomas Alvis, 21, Heath Paxson, 19, and John Rushstrom, 23, were arrested Feb. 18 when it was discovered they had a meth lab at Paxson's home at 512 W. 14th.

## Meth cases emphasized in county

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

In the past year 35 people were arrested on drug related charges, and the county attorney feels the emphasis is on busting meth labs in the county.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby, in an interview Friday, updated the status of the drug cases filed in the last year, and said she feels the law enforcement people are doing a good job of cracking down on drugs and especially in finding meth labs.

The Sherman County Sheriff's department and City of Goodland police are an active part of the Quad County Drug Task Force and in the past year have located at least half a dozen meth labs in Sherman County and 13 people were arrested in relation to these illegal operations.

"The increased emphasis on the meth labs is not necessarily because there is an increase in the number of them in the county," Selby said, "but probably more because the law enforcement people have gotten training in dealing with this area."

"Meth is the poor man's co-

caine since that has gotten so expensive. And the chemicals to make meth are readily available in this area. There have been meth labs here for years I expect, but until the law enforcement people were trained in what to look for they may have come across chemicals that were part of a lab without knowing what the significance was.

"That is not to say there is not any cocaine here. I am sure there are people in Sherman County who know where to go to buy it, but it has gotten to expensive for many and that is why they turn to meth."

"I feel there is a higher use of cocaine in the Hispanic community, but we find meth in a wider circle."

Selby became county attorney four years ago, and said the one area she is pleased with is that there has been a drop in juvenile drug cases since she took office.

"When I took office there were at least 10 cases a year of juveniles with drugs," she said. "This past year they has dropped to three, and none of those had any connection to meth or cocaine."

"I think we had a few years

where there were kids who headed down the wrong path and then there were the ones who wanted to be in a gang. It seems like that may have changed for the better, and we have not seen any gang activity for a while."

Drug cases are not easy to prosecute, but Selby believes the experience level of the law enforcement people has made her job better because they bring her good evidence to take to the court.

In many of the drug cases this year they did not go to trial, but rather settled the cases and the defendants were convicted and turned over to the Community Corrections system and a few actually went to the department of corrections.

"I feel it is a good deal for the county and the citizens if I can get a conviction on a Level II drug case which is intent to sell within 1,000 feet of a school," she said. "This is less expensive than the Level I, and we can still send them to prison."

"There are only a few places in the city that are not within 1,000 feet of a school building, and I am not telling where those are."

Kanorado. Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson said a meth lab was found in the basement.

Scott Baumfalk, 36, owner of the business, was found in Cheyenne County by KBI agents and Doug Murphy, investigator for the drug task force.

On the same weekend, Baumfalk's wife, Crystal, 29, was arrested and charged with manufacturing methamphetamine.

The drug charges on the Baumfalk's were dismissed and refiled in November, and Scott will have a new first appearance on Feb. 4.

Crystal had a first appearance after the charge were refiled and she waived the preliminary hearing. The two are being tried separately.

Selby said the reason the cases against Baumfalk had to be refiled was a technicality dealing with an amendment to the charges, and that the state prosecutor who was going to handle the case has to turn it back to Selby's office.

"I believe we have a strong case," Selby said, "and that it will go forward with the fresh start."

The other pending meth case is Jennifer Wagoner, 23, who was arrested in November after Sheriff Whitson, the Goodland Police and an agent for the Quad County Task Force searched a home at 104 Arcade and found a meth lab in a shed in the backyard. A hearing on the case is scheduled for February.

Of the 19 arrested for possession four were dismissed, one was placed on diversion, five were sentenced and the other cases are pending.

Anthony Garza was arrested Jan. 8 last year and sentenced on May 12 for possession of marijuana within 1,000 feet of a school, possession of a narcotic drug with intent to sell and aggravated escape.

Isabel Salinas-Perez was arrested on March 10 for possession of a narcotic and sentenced on Aug. 19.

Michael Williams was arrested on April 9, and sentenced on June 14, for possession of marijuana with intent to sell within 1,000 feet of a school.

Matthew Breininger was arrested July 6, and sentenced on July 15, for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Rodney Johnson, 30, (Steven Jones) of Pensacola, Fla., was ar-

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# Last large piece of equipment arrives from California



Chuck Lutters (above), Goodland plant manager for Aircraft Seal and Gasket, operated one of three forklifts used Friday morning to lift the latest piece of heavy equipment from California of the truck. The piece (right), a silicon mixer weighing about 55,000 pounds, was maneuvered into position about 30 minutes later inside the plant. Lutters said experience moving other large pieces into the plant last month helped speed up the process this time.

Photos by Greg Stover/ The Goodland Star-News

