

weather
report

31°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 4:40 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:21 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:39 p.m.

Middy Conditions

• Soil Temperature 50 degrees

• Humidity 66 percent

• Sky mostly cloudy

• Winds northwest 25-30 mph

• Barometer 29.64 inches

and falling

• Record High 84° (1980)

• Record Low 10° (1959)

Last 24 Hours*

High 62°

Low 33°

Precipitation 0.07 inch

Snow 0.02

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 20 percent chance of snow, low 20, northwest winds 15-25 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 30, low 15-20, north winds 20-30 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: dry, high 35-40, low 15-20. Thursday: chance for snow or rain, high mid 40s, low 25-30. Friday: dry, high mid 40s, low 20-25.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.83 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.68

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$1.96 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.80

Loan deficiency pmt. — 19¢

Milo — \$3.12 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.24 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.05

Loan deficiency payment — 85¢

Millet — no posted price; ask.

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.45 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.49

Confection current — \$15/\$6 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$15

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, 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.

Candidates
neck and neck

ORLANDO, Fla. — With the presidential contest still neck and neck a day before the nation votes, Al Gore and George W. Bush made their final sustained pushes Monday through battleground states.

Republican Bush promised “a sprint to the finish,” while Gore told audiences it’s time “to move your feet.” Both candidates emphasized get-out-the-vote drives, hoping to energize their core supporters and reach still-undecided voters.

Leaving Florida for the last time before the election, Bush told reporters, “We’ve laid the groundwork for victory, now it’s up (to us) to get people to the polls.”

While both had full schedules, Gore went a step further, campaigning around the clock and appearing with wife Tipper on all three networks’ morning shows.

Center
planning
projects

Nursing home may
install an elevator

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

The best long-term plan for expanding Goodland’s Good Samaritan Center is to expand use of new technology, Administrator Paul Rainbolt told the Sherman County commissioners Tuesday in an update on plans for the nursing home.

Rainbolt was accompanied by Randy Fitzgerald, regional supervisor for the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, which operates the five Good Samaritan centers in north-west Kansas and others across the country.

In the short term, Rainbolt said, they plan to install an elevator as part of an American With Disabilities project at a cost of \$118,000. He said they would be using \$40,000 from the county and \$78,000 in company money.

The elevator will give them access to the basement for training and other purposes, but will not allow any expansion of skilled care beds.

He said the hospital and the center are looking for ways to consolidate their laundry service, but that it was not possible at this time. He said an alternative would be to buy a place downtown and start a combined hospital and nursing center laundry to handle the special needs of both.

Another project coming in 2002 is the requirement to install fire sprinklers throughout the building.

Expansion would be nice, Rainbolt said, but the estimate to add 24 beds to the county-owned home was \$2.5 million, and he thought that would require a bond issue.

Commissioners asked what effect the new Wheatridge Acres Assisted Living apartments have had on the waiting list.

“They came over and evaluated a couple of our residents to see if they could be moved, but they did not meet the requirements,” Rainbolt said. “When people come to us, they are usually in need of the full time care of a skilled nursing center.”

While the waiting list remains full, he said many of the people who are on it

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Finishing
touches

Cameron Cross alternated on Saturday between touching up his 24-by-32 foot copy of a Vincent van Gogh painting and assessing the work from a cherry-picker crane high above the cement floor at the Sherman County Fairgrounds’ agriculture building. The Canadian artist has been working on the tourist attraction for a month. It will be moved to a site at the junction of Business U.S. 24 and Cherry St. on Wednesday.

Photos by Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

Late-season tornado strongest of the year

One of 10 funnels on Halloween destroyed abandoned farm buildings, snapped trees

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

A tornado that struck southwest of Goodland on Tuesday was the strongest to hit the tri-state area this year, leaving behind a path of damage 12 miles in length and 250 yards wide.

The tornado, one of 10 that hit on Halloween, touched down 20 miles southwest of Goodland at the Wallace and Sherman county line at 2:32 p.m.

“We were amazed by what it did,” said Kevin Lynott, warning coordinator and meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Goodland.

Lynott described the fury of the tornado, saying that snapped trees were found a mile from where they originally stood.

He said the funnel destroyed farm buildings and debris was caught in tree branches and on wires around the area. The extent of the damage led the service to give this tornado an F2 rating on the Fujita Scale rating system.

Lynott explained tornadoes aren’t rated by how big or how strong they are but how much they damage what they hit. If there isn’t anything in a tornado’s path, he said, it is hard to rate it.

If it hits something, meteorologists

have a better idea of where it stands on the scale.

The rating scale runs from F0 to F5 with F5 being the strongest, said Lynott. An F2 causes considerable damage, he said, with winds reaching as high as 113 to 157 miles-per-hour.

“We think this tornado was on the high end of an F2 rating,” Lynott said. “My guess would be its winds were about 150 miles per hour, but there isn’t any way to verify this.”

All of the buildings the tornado struck were abandoned, he said, but

all of them were torn apart.

“There was nothing left of the structures but the debris,” he said.

The tornado stayed on the ground for 20 minutes, but because it passed mostly through fields and pasture, there were no deaths or injuries. None was reported from any of the storms that afternoon. The Weather Service office surveyed the damage of all 10 tornadoes that struck the area the next day.

After seeing the full extent of the damage, seven received an F0 rating. The tornado that hit a farm five miles south of Ruleton, damaging Eddie and Monica Emig’s farm, got a rating of F1.

Lynott said most of the damage from the tornadoes occurred in Sherman

County, where four of the 10 were recorded.

The thunderstorm which produced the most tornadoes began five miles east of Mingo, in Thomas County. The storm moved quickly northeast, produced a family of tornadoes in central Nebraska and continued to spawn tornadoes as it headed into Broken Bow.

The outbreak of tornadoes was the second latest tornado occurrence across the tri-state area. The weather office found one on Nov. 4, 1922, across northern Yuma County, Colo.

There have never been any reports of tornadoes in the tri-state area in December, January or February, records show.

Lynott said the favorable wind sheer from strong mid level winds and the abundant Gulf moisture in the area that afternoon were perfect conditions for breeding the tornadoes.

“We were watching the storms rotating on the radar,” he said. “The occurrence shows this type of system can produce a tornado any time of year.”

The National Weather Service issued 16 tornado warnings and 13 severe thunderstorm warnings from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m. that afternoon.

Tornadoes were spotted throughout the afternoon, the earliest at 2:26 p.m. and the latest touching-down at 6 p.m.

The storms brought not only the tornadoes, but also large hail across the area. Golfball sized hail was reported across parts of Kit Carson County in Colorado and parts of Sherman and Thomas counties in Kansas.

Board
rejects
budget

Hospital staff asked
to increase revenue

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland Regional Medical Center board rejected a preliminary budget at a meeting Thursday night, asking that the hospital’s half-million dollar loss be completely eliminated.

Board member Dr. Greg Bongers asked if Administrator Jim Chaddic and Andy Laue, chief financial officer, were recommending that they accept this budget as presented. It showed a positive cash flow, but still projected a loss of more than \$200,000 for next year.

“I would say this is a worst case scenario budget,” Chaddic said, adding that the board had asked last month that the budget show a positive cash flow.

After some discussion, Laue said the loss needs to get to zero, because if it doesn’t, he doesn’t know how the hospital is going to pay the bills.

“We have to figure out what we can do to make that net loss go away,” said board member Larry McCants.

He suggested going to the department heads and seeing what could be cut.

“That’s what we did,” Chaddic replied.

“Nobody on this board wants us to slip technologically,” McCants said.

“How do we generate more revenue,” Chairman Doug Irvin asked.

Dr. Sue Jennings said she thought it would be a slow process.

“You can increase revenue without increasing costs,” Laue said.

Dale Schields, human resources and development director, said that’s why the hospital’s capital campaign is so

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Rotary
feeds 150
for cause

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

About 150 people attended a Rotary Hunger Plus soup and sandwich feed Saturday, raising money to help send special dehydrated food to the hungry around the world.

The feed, which raised \$2,865, featured a special dehydrated soup which is the joint project of Rotary International and Breedlove Dehydrated Food of Lubbock, Texas.

Those attending the dinner were served bowls of the soup, which is being produced for shipment all over the world. John Garcia, Goodland Rotary president, said he had learned about the program from J.B. Roberts of Lubbock, national chairman of the Hunger Plus project.

Roberts had been scheduled to speak, but because of bad weather he was unable to get his plane off the ground from Plainview, Texas.

Garcia talked about the importance of the project.

“It gives us a chance to reach beyond the community to touch the other part of the world and to aid those who are less fortunate,” he said. “We don’t face Goliath’s in most of our lives because we are blessed....”

“Six percent of the young people in the world will probably die of hunger in the next year, but this does not affect us directly. Tonight we are here to reach out to those beyond our country who face a Goliath in malnutrition.”

Entertainment was provided by Tammy Mouchette, who sang several songs, and Melissa Fulton who gave a skit about being a wolf.

Rotary District Gov. Dr. Paul Nelson spoke about the Hunger Plus, saying that nutrition is critical to the develop-

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The tornado that hit the Emig ranch as it neared I-70 near Ruleton Tuesday. It disappeared before crossing the highway. More photos on Pg. 4.

Photo by Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News