

Greeting the holiday season



Donna Swager and her daughter Melissa ooded and aahed over gel candles on display Saturday at the 5th annual "We Did It" craft fair at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall. Deneyce Bahe, owner of Deneyce's Creations, made the scented candles.

Two big craft fairs draw shoppers

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didn't make any promises, just handed out another candy cane.

No matter what, most kids left Main Street Saturday night with a candy cane hanging out of their mouth. After participating in the annual Holiday Spice Celebration parade, Santa and Mrs. Claus helped Goodland usher in the holiday season by visiting with children at the old Schneider's building.

Jo Simmons, office manager of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce, termed the event a success, with hundreds of people showing up to watch the parade and dozens of children lining up to see the couple from the North Pole.

She said the Goodland Ambassadors, a Chamber group that promotes the city, passed out each one of the 220 pieces of cake they had brought and drained the containers filled with hot chocolate and apple cider.

"We had a really good turnout," she said. "Better than some years."

The parade — which featured the Goodland High School vocal department and band — may have attracted some shoppers drawn out by the craft fairs in town this weekend. The 23rd annual Nu Phi Mu Arts and Craft fair was at the Max Jones Field House and the 5th annual "We Did It" craft fair went on at the Veteran's of Foreign Wars Hall on Main.

While 20 to 25 vendors met on Main

Street, 68 set up shop at the fieldhouse on Saturday.

As crafters and artists traveled to Goodland from across the area, shoppers had their choice of products ranging from paintings to hand-made wooden chairs.

Jeris McCombs, treasurer of the Goodland Chapter of Nu Phi Mu Sorority and this year's organizer, said the sorority's fair made over \$2,000, which will be donated to local charities.

She said she had feared cold weather would stop people from coming, but crafters said the fair was a success.

"Some crafters said it was the best fair they've been to all year," McCombs said, "as far as sales."

Weekend is filled with shopping, singing, snowmen and Santa



Waiting for a visit with Santa, Tracy Skipper held up her own little Santa, Benjamin, 3 1/2, on Saturday.



Craft fairs this weekend offered shoppers a variety of products, including these wooden snowmen who wear boots and carry birdhouses at the "We Did It" event.



Members of the Goodland High School Drill Team participated in the Holiday Spice Celebration 2000 parade Saturday. Sitting in a car driven by Dr. Natalie Griego, the team, (from left, back to front) Ivy WasseMiller, Alissa Shields, Jocelyn Lucas, Tracey Stephens and Lauren Grey, smiled and waved. High school band students (below) played old favorites down Main.



Photos by Rachel Miscall