

weather
report

47°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:45 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 35 degrees
• Humidity 42 percent
• Sky mostly cloudy
• Winds southwest 8 mph
• Barometer 30.04 inches
and falling
• Record High 75° (1949)
• Record Low -10° (1952)

Last 24 Hours*

High 50°
Low 23°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low mid 20s, southwest winds 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high mid 40s, low 15-20, north winds 20-30 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: dry, high 45-50, low 15-20. Thursday: dry, high 55-65, low 20s. Friday: dry, 45-55, low 20s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.85 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.71
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Corn — \$1.92 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.82
Loan deficiency pmt. — 17¢
Milo — \$3.13 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.44 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.28
Loan deficiency payment — 62¢
Millet — no posted price; ask.
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.65 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.11
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.

Bush working
without title

TALLAHASSEE (AP) — George W. Bush took on the work, if not the title, of president-elect on Monday, meeting with a top aide to discuss a transition to the White House. Al Gore challenged his rival's Florida victory in court, arguing that thousands of votes "have never been counted."

The American system depends on "an election where every vote is counted," Gore said on a nationally televised conference call with the Democratic leaders of Congress.

The vice president pressed his fight at the same time Bush was sitting down with advisers in preparation for becoming the nation's 43rd president.

"We may just open our own transition office," said Andy Card, Bush's choice for White House chief of staff.



Lexie David looked over the toy selection at Alco on Sunday during the busiest shopping weekend of the year. She was shopping with her mom, Teresa David.
Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

Holiday sales here flat despite crowds

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

On what usually is the busiest shopping day of the year, people lined up outside of Goodland's Wal-Mart at 6 a.m. waiting for the store to open.

Shoppers all over Goodland braved the traffic, the crew finishing asphalt work on K-27 and a lack of parking on Friday to rush to stores before the best deals were gone.

Despite the early morning lines, Manager Scott Schroller said Wal-Mart customer numbers were down this year and sales were flat.

Schroller said he couldn't explain why the count might be down. He said

it might have something to do with the economy and the price of gas right now, since a lot of the store's customers come from out of town.

"It didn't help that they closed our entrance for two hours on the busiest shopping day of the year," he added, explaining the contractor working on K-27 closed the Wal-Mart entrance to complete asphalt work on Friday.

He said he thought a lot of out-of-town customers might not have wanted to deal with the mess and that business might pick up now that the paving is done.

Sales were up 1 percent on Friday even with the entrance being closed,

Schroller added, and then they fell flat for the rest of the weekend. A lot of Christmas items and decorations were purchased all weekend long, he said.

Schroller said last year, computers were the stores hottest selling item, and that they were still popular this year but they were beat out by motorized scooters.

"We sold out of 96 scooters in the first 10 minutes after the store opened," he said.

Friday was the busiest day at Wal-Mart, and also at Alco Discount store.

Tom Rush, manager at Alco, said Friday was their busiest day but sales stayed steady the rest of the week.

Alco was running a sale for the entire weekend and had about the same number of customers as last year, he said.

"We definitely got less customers than we were expecting," he said.

Beverly Baldwin, manager at Collage LTD, said sales were down for her also but there was a lot of traffic coming through the store.

She said they had a really good weekend last week, when merchants had their Christmas opening celebration, but for this weekend sales were down from last year.

"I think people are still getting ideas and it will pick up later," she said.

Experts say farming isn't getting safer with time

By Blake Nicholson

Associated Press Writer

BISMARCK, N.D. — On a cold, late-November day in 1990, Jeff Malm was digging post holes on his farm when his coat sleeve became entangled in the machinery. In an instant, his left arm dangled by a few tendons below the elbow, and his spinal cord was bruised.

Malm, 45, of Kulm, N.D., now has use of both arms and hands but must use

a wheelchair and is considered a quadriplegic.

"I considered myself to be somewhat safe. But you still get used to doing things that aren't safe," he said. "You've done it so many times you don't think, 'This might be dangerous.'"

Despite advances in equipment and safety education campaigns, farming does not appear to be any safer than it

was a decade ago, officials say. Farmers still get caught in augers, which transfer grain to bins, still get pinned under heavy equipment that tips over and still fall into grain bins and suffocate.

Farming ranks "a close second" to mining as the most dangerous occupation, said Sam Steele, director of the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety, a division of the National

Safety Council.

Farmers are five times more likely be killed in a work-related accident than people in most other industries, he said.

Some insurance companies are considering offering farmers price incentives on their policies if they have their farm certified as "safe," Steele said.

"I think that's the wave of the future,"

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The final stretch



An asphalt crew from Kanopolis finished up work on K-27 Friday, spreading out the last layer of asphalt and closing down entrances to businesses off the highway as they moved along. Now they will smooth out rough spots and do striping. City Manager Ron Pickman said this may take a few weeks at the most.
Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

Winners get \$50 prize

The mayor of Kanorado and the co-owner of Spudz Trucking have something in common. Both are "instant" winners of *The Goodland Daily News'* annual Christmas on Us contest.

Thanks to the Goodland merchants' Christmas on Us promotion, sponsored by *The Daily News* and area businesses, Mayor Hazel Estes, Farm Bureau sales agent, and Jo Hinger, who runs Spudz with her husband John, have 50 extra bucks as the holiday season rolls in.

The women are the first of 10 instant winners who will get \$50 in scrip to spend at participating businesses. The gift certificates are still burning a hole in their pockets, as both women say they don't know when they'll use them.

Customers get one contest ticket for every \$10 they spend at sponsoring businesses, with a limit of 250 tickets per purchase. Four tickets are drawn each week and winning numbers are printed in *The Daily News'* weekly Christmas on Us section. Sections are set to run in Wednesday's papers.

The owners of last week's two other winning tickets have not come forward, but have four business days from the time the winning numbers were printed to claim their prize. That means they have until Tuesday.

There will be bigger winners later, as

Grocery
study is
finished

Survey says shoppers
spend millions to eat

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

People in Goodland spend \$11,384,000 on groceries a year, a study done for the Goodland Chamber of Commerce economic development committee shows, and the total for the five-county surrounding area is almost \$30.5 million.

That might be enough to attract a new grocery here, which is the whole point of the study, but no one has signed up to open one yet.

People said they would like a choice in grocery shopping — Wal-Mart has been the only supplier here for more than a year — and favor a downtown location, the survey shows, but Chamber officials say the study is only a start on attracting a new store.

The committee contracted for the study by the Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hays State University in May. Surveyors called people in a five-county area including Cheyenne, Sherman and Wallace counties, Kit Carson County in eastern Colorado and Brewster and Levant in western Thomas County.

There was an advantage to the survey taking so long, said Ron Harding, executive director of the chamber, because it gave the people of Goodland time to think about what they wanted in a store from the time the survey was announced to when they were contacted.

"We were surprised by how high the numbers were," he said. "It is a very positive thing for any clients."

Harding said he was especially surprised, looking at how much people in the area spend at restaurants. He said he would have thought the amount spent on groceries would be less.

Taking all of the areas surveyed, the institute figured about \$30,420,672 is spent in the region for groceries every year.

The study noted that Goodland only has one grocery outlet, the Wal-Mart super center, and its nearest competitor is 17 miles away, a small store in Brewster.

These are the only grocery outlets within a 25-miles radius of Goodland. Safeway and Red Front in Burlington, across the Colorado line, advertise in Goodland, and Dillons in Colby also may draw some business from the area.

The study reported that 33 percent of households in the five-county area do their grocery shopping in Goodland.

Part of the reason for such high

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Hazel Estes



Jo Hinger

one lucky person will receive the grand prize of \$1,500 at the contests' final drawing on Saturday, Dec. 16. A \$500 second prize will be awarded at the drawing, along with any unclaimed \$50 instant winners. Estes said her winning ticket was one of the 250 she received at Dan Brenner Ford, where she recently bought a Taurus. Hinger's winning ticket came from Orscheln's Farm and Home Supply.

Businesses include American Communications, Aten's, Cowboy Loop, Brenner Ford, Collage Ltd., Elliott's, First National and Western State Banks, Grass Roots, Goodland Sheet Metal, Knott Just Books, Frontier Equity Exchange, Garcia's Home Furnishings, Mann's Jewelry and Julie's Interiors, Miller's Electronics, NAPA Auto Parts, Orscheln's and Wane's Carpet.