

weather report

**24°
at noon**



Today

• Sunset, 4:50 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:04 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:51 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 36 degrees
- Humidity 78 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds west 8 mph
- Barometer 30.18 inches and steady
- Record High 71° (1923)
- Record Low -20° (1930)

Last 24 Hours*

High	23°
Low	13°
Precipitation	0.01 inch
Snow	0.5 inch

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 10-15, southwest winds 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, high 30-35, low 10-15, north winds 15-25 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday and Saturday: dry, high 35-40, low 10-20. Sunday: dry, high 40-45, low 10-20.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.92 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.81
 - Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
 - Corn — \$1.91 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.89
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 1¢
 - Milo — \$3.16 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$4.18 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.12
 - Loan deficiency payment — 78¢
 - Millet — \$8.25 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$5.90 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.75
 - Confection current — \$15/\$7 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.

Electric plants close in cold

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California declared another electricity emergency early Wednesday as cold weather settled in over the state and power plants were shut down for maintenance.

State regulators declared the second Stage 3 alert in as many days as power reserves dipped toward 1.5 percent. The alert raised the possibility of rolling blackouts, in which electricity is cut to about 100,000 homes in selected areas for up to 90 minutes.

The state has had four Stage 3 alerts since Christmas but has so far avoided ordering any outages.

On Tuesday, huge state pumps that move water from Northern California to the south were turned off temporarily, conserving enough electricity to power 600,000 homes, said an officer of the Independent System Operator.



Students help school raise money

Central School held a "Soup Spectacular" on Tuesday night to raise money for benches and a table for the playground. Principal Sharon Gregory estimated that about 450 people were served. Fourth graders from Virginia Palmgren's and Phyllis Zielke's classes (above) sang a song about black and white. They were directed by Char Avila, elementary music teacher. People got a meal (right) of soup and cinnamon rolls.

Photos by Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News



Where can you park a truck? Ordinances conflict

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Depending on which city ordinance you read, you can park a tractor-trailer rig on a Goodland street for one hour a day, two hours a day or no time any day.

City Manager Ron Pickman told city commissioners Monday that having three different rules for parking of trucks, tractors and semitrailers on city streets is causing confusion and conflicts.

One city ordinance says no one can park a truck-tractor or semitrailer on

any city street or alley for more than one hour a day.

Another, newer section says no one can park a truck weighing more than 12,000 pounds, or a truck-tractor, road tractor, farm tractor or semitrailer, in a residential area for more than two hours a day.

A third ordinance, included in Goodland's traffic codes, says no one can park farm machinery, a trailer or a semitrailer of any kind on any city street at any time.

"The police don't know what to do

when people call to complain," Pickman said, noting that without an enforceable rule, city streets can become storage space for people with trucks, trailers, boats or recreation vehicles.

City Attorney Perry Warren suggested that commissioners combine what they feel are the most important aspects of each ordinance into one.

After talking about farm vehicles on streets, unloading in front of businesses and appropriate wording, commissioners asked Warren to write a new big-vehicle parking law, this time includ-

ing boat trailers and recreational vehicles.

Pickman said the commissioners passed an ordinance in 1993 making it illegal to park a large truck, tractor or trailer in a residential area for more than two hours a day.

Commissioner Jim Mull, who was on the commission then, said he voted no because the law could interfere with farming.

Nonetheless, he said, he thought then that the new ordinance would replace any older ones.

Pickman said that wasn't the case, and anyway, a traffic ordinance, which the commissioners adopted from the state code, conflicts with both.

Commissioners discussed problems with writing a fair ordinance with no loopholes.

Pickman said there are people who will move a trailer a foot every hour to get around the law. Mull said the city doesn't want an ordinance that won't let people who are moving to park a moving trailer in front of their house overnight.

Relay group donates money, plans for year

In December, the Topside of Kansas 24-Hour Relay Challenge gave five mini-grants to area organizations for programs that encourage kids to stay free of alcohol, drugs, tobacco and violence.

The event's organizers will meet next week to start planning for this year's challenge.

Mini-grants are available to northwest Kansas organizations that provide youth programs to combat alcohol, drugs, violence and tobacco.

The second annual relay challenge in June raised over \$10,000. Of this, \$5,000 was set aside for the \$500 mini-grants. A \$2,500 distribution was made on Dec. 15 and the second \$2,500 distribution will take place in the spring.

The recipients were the American Association of University Women to be used for the Sister to Sister program, the

Goodland Public Library to support the youth reading program, the Hispanic Advisory Board to support existing programs such as Brainstorm (the truth about your brain on drugs for fifth and sixth grade students) and alternative nights for fifth and sixth grade students, the Target Area Council of Harvest America to support education and parenting programs for teen-age mothers, and the Cheylin School After Prom Party.

The money is raised by the relay challenge from team fees and donations, and organizers say all of it stays in northwest Kansas.

More than twice the number of teams participated this past year than in the first challenge. Each team has 10 walkers and two captains, and each team

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Student sees 'UFO' on drive home

People from three states watched meteorite fly across night sky

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Susanne Allaman was driving home after work on Thursday when the night sky suddenly lit up and a blue fireball flew over her car.

"It looked bluish white," said Allaman, who is in charge of advertising production at *The Goodland Daily News*. "It reminded me of the moon, but it was much brighter."

The 20-year-old Northwest Kansas Technical School student, who lives 15 miles west of Goodland, said the glowing sphere disappeared as fast as it had appeared.

"I saw it go out in the sky," Allaman said, adding that she was about a mile from home when she noticed the fireball.

It crossed her mind, she said, that

she had seen an Unidentified Flying Object, a UFO, but after telling her mother, father and boyfriend, she pretty much forgot it. That is until Monday afternoon.

Walking into work, Allaman said, she heard coworkers talking about a man who had called from the Denver Museum of Natural History to say a meteorite may have landed west of Goodland near the Colorado border. "I didn't think it was that big of a deal," she said.

But it is a big deal to Jack Murphy, curator of the museum's earth and space science department, who thinks of fallen meteorites as "free samples from space."

"You know how much it costs to launch a space ship?" Murphy asked. "A meteorite may represent some-

thing no one has seen before. It can tell us about the age and composition of space."

It was also a big deal to people living along Colorado's Front Range, around Boulder and Fort Collins, who called or e-mailed the museum after hearing about the meteorite on the evening news.

"We're doing a little investigation," Murphy said, "asking for reports. All of these people that saw it are sending reports."

The curator said he started hearing from people in Kansas and Nebraska on Tuesday, with a Nebraska helicopter pilot getting one of the best views of the "fireball" from the air.

Murphy, who was there when mu-

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Explosion lights fire in Hutch

Blazes injure two, shut down power

HUTCHINSON (AP) — An explosion rocked downtown Hutchinson today, forcing the evacuation of a one-block area as firefighters battled blazes at two businesses.

At least two people were treated for minor injuries, *The Hutchinson News* reported.

Power was out to much of the downtown area.

The 10:45 a.m. blast blew out windows in nearby buildings.

Decor Wedding and Party Supply and Woody's Furniture and Appliance were engulfed in flames — sending a huge column of smoke over the city's downtown. The businesses are on First Street, a block west of the city's Main Street.

The fire, believed to have been caused by a gas leak, was expected to be contained to those two buildings, the newspaper said. Firefighters were forced to leave the burning party supply building until a helium tank used to fill balloons exploded.

As many as three explosions were reported by witnesses, but accounts varied. Authorities evacuated buildings within a block of the fire, and closed off about four blocks of the city's downtown.

Jerry Clark, a repairman for Hutchinson Vacuum, said he was working in the back of his store about a block and a half away when he heard a big explosion.

He ran outside and debris was falling out of the sky.

"It was a very loud explosion and shook the whole building," he said. "The power went off for a second and then it came back on, and of course, my windows just rattled like crazy. The first thing I did was go outside — everybody downtown did."

Investigators for the federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms were at the scene.

Police said the investigators were already in town investigating a fire that had destroyed a Hutchinson hotel Monday.