


weather report

63°
at noon



Today

Sunset, 4:28 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 6:38 a.m.

Sunset, 4:28 p.m.

Midday Conditions

Soil Temperature 46 degrees

Humidity 19 percent

Sky sunny

Winds west light and variable

Barometer 29.82 inches and falling

Record High 74° (1974)

Record Low 4° (1929)

Last 24 Hours*

High 70°

Low 27°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, low 30s, winds northwest 5-15 m.p.h. Tomorrow: partly sunny, high 60s, low 30s, winds northwest 10-20 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast


Friday and Saturday: partly sunny and breezy, high 50s, low 20s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.61 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.58

Corn — \$2.01 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.86

Loan deficiency payment — 13¢

Milo — \$1.71 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$3.90 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.85

Loan deficiency payment — \$1.07

Millet — \$3.75 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$8.90 cwt.


Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.41

Confection current — inquire

Pinto beans — \$19 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, 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.

Anthrax death still a mystery

WASHINGTON — A 94-year-old woman from rural Connecticut died of inhalation anthrax today, while the source of her infection remained a mystery.

Meanwhile, the Education Department reported today that small amounts of anthrax were discovered in the agency's mailroom, and officials awaited results of testing done on a large supply of deadly spores found in a letter addressed to Sen. Patrick Leahy.

Connecticut Gov. John Rowland said early today the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had confirmed the Connecticut case after five sophisticated tests at the hospital and state health laboratory had indicated anthrax.

Rowland said the Connecticut victim, Otilie Lundgren, lived in Oxford, a rural community of 9,800 people.

Group asks people to finance grocery

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

After two years of having only one food store, Goodland shoppers could soon have another choice if residents and businesses decide they want to put up \$1.2 million.

A committee of farmers and business owners and operators is holding meetings next week to see if 500 families want to invest \$2,000 each in a community-owned grocery store, which they say will be run as a cooperative and offer products and services Wal-Mart doesn't have.

The Wal-Mart Supercenter, which sells food and home and health products, has been the only

grocery in town since Fleming Foods closed the Jubilee store at 11th and Broadway in September 1999, and Mosburg's IGA on 10th and Center shut down in the spring of 1998.

A survey the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce had done last year showed Goodland shoppers spend \$11.4 million on groceries each year, while people in the five-county surrounding region buy \$30 million worth of food a year.

The survey showed 75 percent of people in the Sherman County area want another grocery in Goodland for a broader selection of food, better customer service and competition, which they hope would drive down prices.

After seeing the survey results, Steve West, Chamber president, said, the Chamber's economic development committee approached food chains and smaller companies about opening a grocery store here, but couldn't get a bite.

"The larger chains weren't interested because of Goodland's size," he said, "and the smaller ones didn't have the capital to expand."

West, president of Western State Bank, said the committee wasn't going to give up and started considering other options, including opening a co-operative grocery.

The idea has been brewing for about six months, he said, but Chamber officials didn't start actively

pursuing it until they found someone interested in running the store.

"I've always believed if you don't have a manager," he said, "you don't have anything to build on."

West said the committee found its foundation in Bruce Gouker, a Greeley, Colo. man, who has more than 20 years of experience in all aspects of the grocery business.

He said he met Gouker through Roy Dixon, a livestock nutrition salesman in Brewster, who is now one of 17 people on the steering committee

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'Farmers hold future in hands'

Economist says strength is in numbers

TOPEKA (AP) — Farmers face a grim future unless they and regulators take steps to stem the power of agriculture conglomerates, an agricultural economist told a Statehouse gathering Tuesday.

The roundtable discussion on "The Future of Rural Kansas" was sponsored by the Family Farm Coalition, a bipartisan group of Kansas legislators interested in the preservation of independent family farms.

Organizers said the discussion was designed to illustrate the impact federal farm policy has on Kansas agriculture. It came as Congress is working to draft a new federal farm law to replace the 1996 farm bill.

Neil Harl, professor of agriculture and economics at Iowa State University, told those who packed the old Supreme Court chamber that the expansion of agriculture companies into near-monopolies threatens a fundamental underpinning of the U.S. economy — open, competitive markets.

To date, mergers haven't led to inflated prices for consumers, he said, but Congress has failed to note that meatpackers are becoming regionally dominant, which threatens producers.

"We really need to start looking at these mergers not just from the standpoint of the consumers, but from the standpoint of the producers," said Harl, the featured speaker at the gathering.

Farmers now have two choices — to try to negotiate prices with a regionally dominant packer or to drive their livestock perhaps hundreds of miles to another packer.

In either case, he said, an individual farmer confronts a powerful company.

If allowed to continue along this track, Harl warned, farmers are "on the road to serfdom."

One solution is for producers to band together in sufficient numbers to affect prices.

"This has not been a popular move because we're all independent types," Harl told a room packed with farmers and others interested in the issue.

The Capper-Volstead Act of 1920 allows producers to work together, so long as prices aren't "unduly enhanced" by farmers, which would be a level for the courts to determine, Harl said.

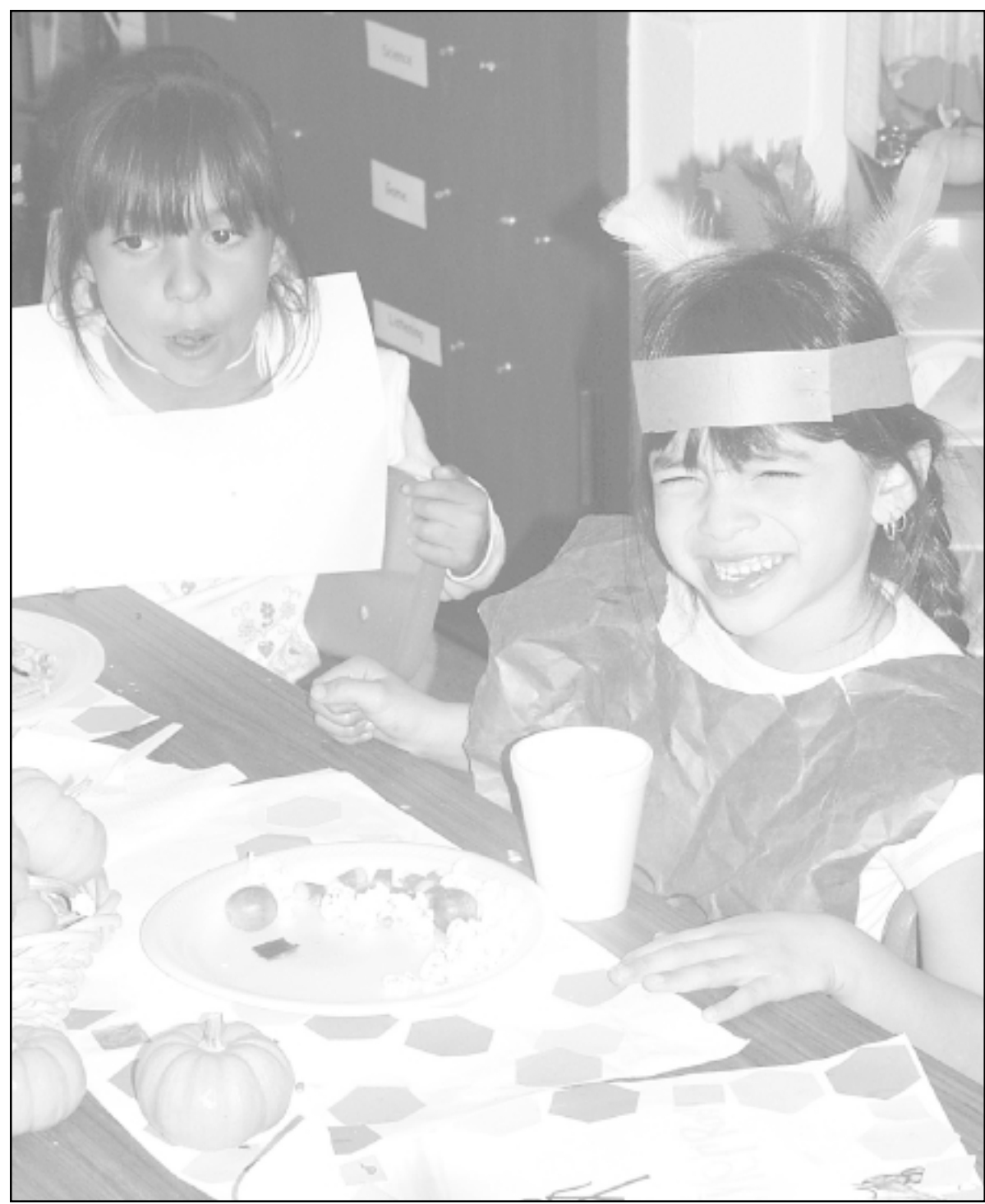
Aggressive antitrust oversight at the state and federal levels is also critical, Harl said.

As a long-term solution, he said he backs the so-called Producer Protection Act, which has the support of 17 state attorneys general.

Included in that measure are such proposals as requiring conglomerates to write contracts in plain language, allowing farmers the right to review contracts with a three-day cancellation period and preventing retaliation against producers who organize.

But as Congress redraws existing farm legislation, Harl said he thinks it is time to draft a global food and agriculture policy.

"We're looking for a more rational approach than what we're doing," Harl said.



Kids dress for big feast at school

Gloria Bustillos (back) and Briana Salinas enjoyed the Thanksgiving feast for first graders at West Elementary Monday (top) while Stephanie Bauer showed off her placemat (left). Kids were dressed as pilgrims or Indians for the feast.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Daily News



City decides to join area recycling plan

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Daily News

City commissioners approved a joint city-county recycling plan Monday despite questions about where the money to pay for containers will come from.

With the opening of a new landfill, county commissioners are seeking ways to reduce the amount of trash dumped in it and thus extend the life of the landfill.

The joint recycling effort is one way

to keep trash out of the landfill cells.

At their regular meeting Monday, city commissioners approved the proposal, which says the city will pay for a minimum of three collection sites.

City Commissioner Dean Blume asked what the county will pay for. At a meeting with the county commission, four sites were discussed, City Manager Ron Pickman said, but this agrees

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Merchants giving away \$2,500

Goodland merchants are giving away \$2,500 in the fourth annual Christmas on Us cash giveaway, which started Thursday and will end with a grand prize drawing on Saturday, Dec. 15.

In its fourth year, the contest offers a \$1,500 grand prize, a \$500 second prize and 10 instant winners of \$50 each.

Sponsoring Goodland businesses are giving out tickets for each \$10 in merchandise or services purchased.

No purchase is necessary to enter the contest; anyone can get one free ticket per week at *The Goodland Daily News* or the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce.

All tickets will be entered in the grand prize drawing, which is planned to be held at 11th and Main in downtown Goodland. Winners must be present to claim their prizes.

There is no limit to the number of tickets a person can collect for the contest, but there is a maximum of 250 per transaction.

Instant winner numbers will appear in random ads in the Christmas on Us section of *The Daily News*, starting

with today's issue. See Section C. Instant winners need to come into the newspaper office to match their ticket and claim their prize. All winners will be paid in scrip money, which can only be spent at sponsoring merchants.

Any leftover instant prizes will be drawn along with the two big prizes at the grand prize drawing.

Complete rules for the contest appear in Section C of today's paper.

Sponsors so far include Antique Warehouse, Bankwest, Unruh Family Chiropractic, Hayden Chiropractic and Wellness Center, First National Bank, Goodland Sheet Metal, Goodland Medical Arts Pharmacy, Goodland Machine and Automotive, Jacque's Hallmark, Shores Bros., Elliott's Furniture, Knott Just Books, Garcia's Home Furnishings and Appliance, Wane's Carpet, Aten Department Store, Mann's Jewelry and Julie's Interiors and Gifts, Miller's Electronics, American Communications, Grass Roots, Cowboy Loop, Frontier Equity Exchange, Dan Brenner Ford and WebKansas.

Schools, banks, offices to close for the holidays

Government offices and schools will be closed Thursday for Thanksgiving, and many will also be closed on Friday.

All Goodland city offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, and there will be no trash pickup on these days.

Sherman County offices will all be closed Thursday and Friday, including the county trash transfer station.

Goodland schools closed today, and will remain closed until Monday.

The Northwest Kansas Technical College close up Thursday and Friday.

The Goodland Public Library will be closed Thursday, but open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

The Rural Health Ventures clinic will be closed Thursday, but open on Friday.

The Goodland Post Office will be closed Thursday, and there will be no mail delivery, but the office will reopen Friday.

Most Goodland businesses will be closed on Thursday with the exception of restaurants, gas stations and Wal-Mart, which will be open all day.

The Alco Discount Store will open at 7:10 a.m. Friday for holiday shoppers, and J.C. Penny will open Friday at 7 a.m. Wal-Mart will open at 6 a.m.

Alco and Penny's will be closed on Thursday for Thanksgiving, as will nearly all downtown stores, offices and banks.

Aten's will be closed Thursday, but will open at 9 a.m. Friday.