

Volume 69, Number 234

weather

report

43°

at noon

• Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

• Sunrise, 6:47 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

• Humidity 33 percent

· Sky mostly sunny

High

Low Precipitation Today

Tomorrow

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 29 degrees

• Winds south 25-30 m.p.h. • Barometer 33 inches

and falling • Record High 72° (1932) Record Low 1° (1952)

Last 24 Hours*

30° 3°

none

Twenty Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

Hunters come despite low numbers

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News Pheasant hunting has brought many hunters to Sherman County this season and hotel workers say results have been mostly good though wildlife officials say the number of birds is down.

The season opened on Saturday, Nov. 10. Judy Siruta, manager of the Comfort Inn, says the hotel was sold out for the opening weekend. She said it seems all the hunters have gotten at least one or two birds, and none of them have complained about not getting any.

Debbie Demeo, office manager of Best Western Buffalo Inn, said her hotel had many hunters, plenty of whom booked rooms for a week or more. A housekeeper said hunters were imthey will be back next year.

Paul Villarreal, sporting goods manager at Walmart, said license sales are down a little from last year. He said that the number of hunters in the area seems about the same, but many are buying their licenses over the Internet before they get to the area. The recent cold weather has helped hunting, he said, as the birds gather together for warmth.

Shirley Dupsky and Mary Ann Snethen of the Sherman County clerk's office say they have had steady sales of licenses, and that most hunters have said the hunting is good and that only a few hunters have complained about there not being enough birds.

The Presto convenience store did not sell any

pressed with the number of birds and many said licenses this year, as they did not get their bond he says. When farmers spray the wheat stalks direnewed in time. A counter clerk said they have lost business because of it. She says that hunters who would normally come in to get a license, and then stop and get a soda or snacks, are instead going someplace where licenses are sold.

Larry Hachmeister of Goodland said he has been out three times this year. He says he only got a couple of birds the first time out and nothing since, but that other hunters who have found better locations have gotten better results. He said he thinks the weather this year has been fine for hunting, unlike last year, when hail storms ruined conditions, but that many hunters think farming practices may be hurting the pheasant crop.

Good hunting spots are getting harder to find,

rectly after harvest, it kills the insects the birds eat, and can also kill the pheasant eggs themselves.

While most people say the number of hunters in the area equals that of past years, Paul Simon, a manager at McDonald's, thinks that the number is definitely lower this year.

Troy Schroeder, regional fish and wildlife supervisor for northwest Kansas, agreed that the hunting was poor. He said that the bird population was lower this year from last year, due to hot, dry spring weather and the small wheat crop. The low rainfall and high temperatures hurt wheat

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Northwest Kansas Forecast Tonight: partly cloudy, low 20s, wind south 15. Tomorrow: sunny, high 50s, low 20s, wind northwest 10-15.

Extended Forecast Saturday and Sunday: mostly sunny, high 40s, low 20s.

(National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.



Noon Wheat — \$2.56 bushel Posted county price - \$2.53 Corn — \$1.93 bushel Posted county price - \$1.82 Loan deficiency payment — 17¢ Milo — \$1.69 hundredweight Soybeans — \$3.76 bushel Posted county price — \$3.75 Loan deficiency payment - \$1.17 Millet — \$3.75 hundredweight Sunflowers Oil current crop — \$8.75 cwt. Loan deficiency pmt. - \$1.19 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.)



support Manager to attend tonight's meeting

Grocery

needs

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News Members of a volunteer steering committee working to bring a community-owned grocery store to Goodland say they have had big crowds at two informational meetings this week and hope more people will show up for the third tonight.

The committee held meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday nights to explain how the cooperative would work, answer questions and try to find 500 investors willing to pay \$2,000 apiece to open the grocery in downtown Goodland.

John Garcia, a committee member, said tonight's meeting, at 7 p.m. in the Goodland High School auditorium, will be the last. It will give people a chance to meet the man picked to run the store, he said, adding that the committee hopes people who attended the



KABUL, Afghanistan — Anti-Taliban troops pushed to the outskirts of the Taliban's last stronghold of Kandahar today and were engaged in heavy fighting, a senior northern alliance commander said.

The Pentagon said opposition troops may be in the provincial district around the city.

Bismillah Khan, the alliance's deputy defense minister, told the Associated Press there was nonstop fighting on the city's eastern edge. Khan, speaking from Kabul in a series of calls, said his information was based on radio communications with his commanders at the scene.

"There is heavy fighting going on," he said, adding he did not expect the city to fall quickly.

In Washington, Rear Adm. John Stufflebeem told reporters he could not confirm or deny that opposition forces had entered.

previous meetings will return to meet him.

"Tonight will be the climax to it all," Garcia said. "It will be the barometer to gauge enthusiasm for the project." Steve West, Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce chairman, said the committee wants to see if Sherman County supports the idea and whether people are willing to invest.

He said many have pledged their support, but more is needed.

"We've got a long way to go," West said, "but we're making progress."

Garcia said Bruce Gouker, a Greeley, Colo. man, who has more than 20 years of experience in all aspects of the grocery business, will be at the meeting to talk with people and answer questions about his position as manager.

West said the committee has checked Gouker's background and references and feels he's the best man for the job. Garcia said the committee feels good about the interest people have shown so far, too. He guessed about 200 people have attended the first two meetings. "We've certainly been encouraged," he said.

Housing talk tops agenda

In their final meeting of November, the Sherman County commissioners are scheduled to make an appointment to the City/County Recreation Board and pay the monthly bills.

The meeting begins at 8 a.m. in the commissioner room on the first floor of the courthouse.

There are no scheduled appointments, but under new business the commissioners are to review an agreement and resolution for a housing subsidy program. This is a cooperative program run by Johnson County that the county has participated in for several years.

Following the meeting, commissioners are to attend a noon luncheon with members of the Goodland Regional Medical Center Board at Sugar Hills Country Club for an update on the status of the hospital, and to discuss needs in the coming year.

Deneyce Bahe (far right) and Linda Enfield, secretaries at Grant Jun- members of a team that won the school district's weight-loss competi-Wednesday, as they have for the past six weeks. They were three pounds, with Bahe losing the most, 22 pounds.

ior High, weighed Jim Mull, Grant principal, in the school's hallway on tion, which started in September. The team dumped a total of 59.5

Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

District trims the fat for contest

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News The Goodland School District is 373.5 pounds lighter these days, after 50 teachers, secretaries and administrators spent the past six weeks shaping up and trimming down in a race to the scale.

Carrie Peter, the district nurse, said when she first heard the idea of holding a weight-loss contest at a nurse's conference in Wichita this summer, she never imagined it could be so successful. She's glad she was wrong.

Peter said the contest started on Sept. 4, with 50 employees from the district's five schools paying \$10 each to participate. She said she broke the group up into teams of four, with a couple having more or less, by randomly drawing names.

Each team's goal, she said, was to shed as many pounds as possible by Nov. 19, when the contest ended. Peter said the \$500 in entry fees was saved as a prize for the team that took off the most, with the stipulation that \$200 must be donated to charity.

Team members weighed in every participants took the competition seriously, with most of the teams losing



Bonnie Smith, secretary at the school district administration office, lost 20.5 pounds for her team, which won the district's first weight-loss contest. She said she cut back on breads and meat and ate more fruits and vegetables.

Monday, the nurse said, noting that between 20 to 40 pounds for a total lose so much," she said. "It was crazy." loss of 373.5 pounds. The last weigh-in came three days

"I honestly didn't expect them to before the Thanksgiving holiday, tra-

ditionally a time of feasting. After Peter added the total losses, she said the prize went to a team from Grant Junior High, which shed a total of 59.5 pounds.

Deneyce Bahe, a secretary at Grant, was the team's captain and lost the most weight, managing to trim off 22 pounds. Bonnie Smith, a secretary at the administration office who asked to join the junior high team, was right behind Bahe, shedding 20.5 pounds.

"They pretty much carried the team," said team member Linda Enfield, Grant secretary.

She and Jim Mull, Grant principal, didn't take off as much, but said they never had as much fun trying to lose weight.

"It was fortunate that three of us worked in the same office," Mull said, "because we supported each other. Whenever Denise saw me go into the kitchen she'd yell at me.'

Mull said he tried to eat healthy food and stayed away from the school's lunches — which he said are good for the students, but not so good for someone trying to lose weight.

Bahe said she gave up pizza, Mexi-

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Food bank to collect for annual drive Saturday

Needing to fill 110 Christmas baskets for area families, the Genesis Food Bank is holding its annual food drive Saturday.

Goodland residents are asked to leave nonperishable food items on their porches or somewhere easily seen from the streets by 8 a.m. Volunteers from the Boy Scouts and 4H will be picking the food up between 8 a.m. and noon.

questing the baskets, Pat Jordan, administrator of the food bank, said, and they have a lot of children.

That is a record number of baskets this year, Jordan said; the program has never needed more than 100 baskets before.

She said she appreciates the support the community has given in the past,

There are 110 families on the list re- and hopes its will be strong this year. For questions about the program, call Jordan at 899-5073 or Jeff Mason at 899-3254.

There has never been a week this year that people haven't needed the food bank, Jordan said.

It has been serving Goodland since 1984. When the bank has gotten low on only qualify to get food once every six food, Jordan said, she has advertised on

television and in the newspaper and has had a good response.

The community has been behind it 100 percent.

People who need food call Jordan, and she gets the food for them. They are not allowed to use the bank for grocery shopping, she said, and a family can months