


weather report

46°  
at noon



**Today**  
• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

**Tomorrow**  
• Sunrise, 6:52 a.m.  
• Sunset, 4:23 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**  
• Soil Temperature 38 degrees  
• Humidity 23 percent  
• Sky sunny  
• Winds northwest 22-28 m.p.h.  
• Barometer 30.06 inches and falling

• Record High 75° (1939)  
• Record Low -08° (1972)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High	65°
Low	22°
Precipitation	none

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**  
Tonight: mostly clear, low 20s, winds west 10-15 m.p.h. Tomorrow: partly sunny, high 50s, low 20s, winds west 10-20 m.p.h.

**Extended Forecast**  
Thursday and Friday: partly sunny and colder, high 40s, low 10s.

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

local markets



**Noon**  
Wheat — \$2.58 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.50  
Corn — \$2.01 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.92  
Loan deficiency payment — 07¢  
Milo — \$1.76 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$3.84 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.84  
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.08  
Millet — \$3.75 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$9.05 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 66¢  
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



## Friendly fire kills U.S. men

TORA BORA, Afghanistan — American bombs accidentally killed three U.S. servicemen and injured 20 others in southern Afghanistan today. Anti-Taliban fighters in the mountainous east battled al-Qaida guerrillas, capturing territory below a suspected cave hide-out of Osama bin Laden.

The friendly fire incident happened when a B-52 seeking to target enemy Taliban forces missed and dropped its ordnance too close to opposition forces and their American advisers north of Kandahar, the last stronghold of the Taliban, U.S. officials said.

Five Afghan fighters were also killed and at least 20 wounded, officials said. The American and Afghan wounded were rushed away by Super Stallion helicopters escorted by helicopter gunships, said Cpt. David Romley, public affairs officer at a Marine base.

## Players getting topside

### Basketball event attracts eight teams

By Sharon Corcoran  
The Goodland Daily News

The annual Topside Tip-off basketball tournament will begin Thursday with the Cowboys seeking their first win of the season and the Cowgirls hoping to keep the momentum going from a win in Imperial.

The Cowboys and Cowgirls will compete with teams from Yuma, Holyoke, Wray and Burlington in Colorado, McCook and Morrill in Nebraska and Ottawa, the only other Kansas contender.

Ottawa is not just any contender. The team is ranked first in the state in Class 4A and is traveling 381 miles across the state for the Topside Tip-off. The Cowgirls defeated them at state competition last year in a close 54-49 match.

Mitch Hixson, who coaches the freshman Cowgirls, coached the Ottawa freshman girls as eighth graders last year.

"It's fun having them come up here," Hixson said, "to see the coaches and players."

Though he has friends on the Ottawa team, Hixson said, the Cowgirls will get down to business on the court.

"It will be a little bit different feeling being on the other side," he said, "but

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## Holiday projects planned

By Rachel Miscal  
The Goodland Daily News

Goodland Development Corp. members are looking to stir up some holiday spirit with a Christmas lights decoration contest, a fund-raiser for clients at Golden West Skills Center and a free inspirational movie.

Schylar Goodwin, corporation president, said the group is sponsoring a holiday lights contest, and plans to find three people to judge decorated homes on the night of Saturday, Dec. 15. The first-place winner will receive \$25, he said, followed by \$15 for second and \$10 for third.

He said the corporation is also sponsoring a free afternoon showing of the movie "Pay It Forward" on Sunday, Jan. 13, at the Sherman Theatre, hoping to inspire people to do good deeds. Sherman County residents can attend the movie for free, and Goodwin said there may be a speaker before the film.

Featuring Kevin Spacey, Helen Hunt and other well-known actors and actresses, the movie tells the story of a young man who devises a way to make the world better as a class assignment. The boy's "Pay It Forward" plan, which starts with one person doing good deeds for three others, earns him national attention and helps bring his family closer together.

Goodwin said the corporation, formed earlier this year to make life better in Sherman County, is asking people to give a little, too.

He said members want to raise \$2,500 for clients at Golden West, a center for the developmentally disabled in Goodland, and figure they'll reach their goal if everyone in town donates 50 cents — the average price of a soda.

"Everyone can spare 50 cents to help someone else," he said. "Just drink one less soda."

Goodwin said the money will be used for new equipment, clothing or other items for Golden West clients. Jars will be placed at the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce, *The Goodland Daily News* and the three banks in town, and the money collected will be presented to the center on Christmas Eve.

"Just spread the joy," Goodwin said.



Nona Mason, an early childhood special education teacher at West Elementary School, worked with two of her students on Friday. She won an award of excellence for her work and dedication to teaching. Photos by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

## Teacher recognized for dedication

Rachel Miscal  
The Goodland Daily News

A new organization formed with tobacco-settlement money to recognize early childhood teachers gave Nona Mason, a special education teacher at Goodland's West Elementary School, an award of excellence and \$200 last week.

Maureen Ostmeyer and Nathalie Staats, administrators with Smart Start Northwest Kansas in Colby, gave Mason the plaque and check Friday afternoon at West.

Staats, education coordinator, said money the state received from the settlement with the tobacco companies was used to create the organization in January. She said Smart Start, formed to keep teachers in the profession by recognizing their efforts, serves 11 counties in northwest Kansas.

Mason was one of five teachers and others who work with young children in the 11 counties to win the award, which was given out for the first time this year.

Students, Principal Jerry Burkett and County Attorney Bonnie Selby watched as Ostmeyer, professional development coordinator for the group, hammered a metal sign into the school's front lawn announcing the honor. She said the sign will stay in the ground through February.

Mason, an early childhood teacher for 17 years, said she has taken 15



Students at West Elementary looked at a sign announcing a teacher at the school had won an award of excellence.

classes in her field in the past year and is working to get her program accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

She said she feels honored to receive the award.

"Oh man, I was really excited," she said. "It was kind of a goal."

She said she plans to spend the \$200 on new science equipment for her classroom and will let her students help choose the tools.

In the past year, Mason said, Smart

Start has given her books and the names of people to talk to in her field, both of which have helped her become a better teacher.

"I've appreciated the books and the support," she said, noting that the award gives her a reason to keep working.

"It encourages me," Mason said. "It's like that positive reinforcement you need to keep you going."

Ostmeyer said the organization sent out over 200 applications to

schools and daycare centers earlier this year.

A panel of people who work with young children reviewed the returned applications, she said, and chose Mason based on her application, her commitment to training and her willingness to learn and share ideas with other teachers.

"Her self-assessment form was awesome," Ostmeyer said, noting that Mason, who has three children of her own, included a video tape recording of her working with her students.

In Mason's application, which asked about career goals, a daily classroom routine and education, the teacher said she enjoys teaching special education students and bringing them closer to their parents.

"I like watching for little improvements in the bigger picture of learning," she wrote. "These children teach me so much about the world and how children process information."

"I also like working with parents, helping them notice the good things about their child. Parents are such wonderful teachers when we work together."

The Smart Start organization is important, Staats said, adding that she hopes the state keeps giving it money.

"Those who work in the early childhood field are very dedicated to their career," she said, "and their contribution to young children goes unnoticed, until now."

## Goodland family named 'farmers of the year'

By Skilar Boland  
The Goodland Daily News

Gerald and Linda Franklin of Goodland have been named Farm Family of the Year from the Kansas Farm Bureau's 10th District.

The couple received their award during Farm Bureau's 83rd annual meeting in Wichita last month.

The award recognizes families for their service and leadership to agriculture, their communities and Farm Bureau. The Franklins received a commemorative gift and will join other award winners on a trip to Washington.

They have lived in Sherman County for 20 years, both graduating from Goodland High School.

The couple said they were not high school sweethearts. Gerald spent time in Vietnam and taught special education in Hutchinson before the two were wed.

"After being married and living in Hutchinson for two years and coming to Goodland for our vacations, we just decided to move here and settle into farming," Gerald said.

The Franklins have three children, a daughter Sarah, and two boys, Kyle and Tim, all now in college.



Farm Bureau says the award is based on how active the family is in the community and the new agriculture techniques they have tried.

"We were very surprised and pleased," Linda said. "We recommend that everyone get involved."

The Franklins said they are trying to

switch their dry tillage to strip tillage. They believe that it is worth a try to see if it will help them.

The couple have been involved with 4-H for nearly 15 years. Mr. Franklin says that the baking was a wonderful week for him because he got "all of the bad cooking." They also are active in

Gerald and Linda Franklin at their farm in Sherman County.

Photo by Skilar Boland  
The Goodland Daily News

the Goodland United Methodist Church, and the last two years Gerald has served on the board of Northwest Kansas Technical College and was a member of the Goodland School Board.

"I really enjoyed working on that board and spending time with all the kids," he said.

Gerald has also been president of Goodland Lions Club, a trustee of Southwestern College, and served on the Frontier Equity Co-op and the Northwest Kansas Production Credit Association boards. He said that being part of Farm Bureau is his favorite volunteer job.

Linda has been active on the board of the Lakeside United Methodist Center and takes a role in school organizations.

"Cooking is definitely my favorite hobby," she says. She said she cooks for the church when needed and has had 15 years cooking in 4-H.

This winter, the Franklins will be getting equipment ready and planting done for spring, working to improve every crop.

"Our most important and best crop is without a doubt our three kids," she said.