

weather report

27°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:58 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 37 degrees
• Humidity 92 percent
• Sky snow
• Winds northeast 18 m.p.h.
• Barometer 29.92 inches and rising
• Record High 66° (1921)
• Record Low -19° (1961)

Last 24 Hours*

High 57°
Low 31°
Precipitation .26

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of snow, low 15-20, wind northwest 10-15 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly sunny, high 30s, low 15, wind northwest 5-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Friday and Saturday: partly sunny, high 40s, low 20s, chance of snow.

(National Weather Service)

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

Snow dusting ends dry spell

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

After a couple of months of unseasonably warm weather, Goodland has gotten a little snow, bringing icy roads, iced-over windshields and driving with headlights during the day.

Early this morning, light rainfall turned into snow. A total of 0.36 inches of moisture fell in Goodland, said Aaron Dorn, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office here.

He said that a low-pressure system broke off and came into the area, bringing some snowfall to a narrow strip from McCook, Neb. to Goodland and down to southwest Kit Carson County in Colorado.

McDonald recorded the most snow, Dorn stated, with three inches, while Goodland had only a trace amount.

The icy stuff is not expected to last long. The weather service predicts Thursday and Friday will be party to mostly sunny with temperatures in the 40s. The weekend will be colder, though, with a slight chance of precipitation, which might come as snow.

Dorn said the weather has been abnormally warm, with temperatures more like middle or late autumn than winter. He said he could not attribute the warmth to any one factor, but noted that many other areas of the country have been as cold or colder than normal. Our weather in northwest Kansas is not part of a national or global warming trend, Dorn said.

"We just haven't been in a (weather) pattern which supports cold weather," he said, "but that might change in a few weeks."

County weighs insurance deals

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County commissioners are weighing the two insurance proposals, from a statewide pool group and from Eklund Insurance of Goodland, which were presented at Tuesday's meeting with about 1 percent difference in total cost.

The insurance decision will be on the agenda for the meeting Tuesday. Questions include details on coverage for workers' compensation, general liability, property coverage, vehicle coverage and special coverage for errors and omissions and boilers and machinery.

The state group is Kansas County Association Multi-line Pool and Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative for Counties, headquartered in Topeka. Presentations were made by Carl Eyman, deputy administrator and loss prevention specialist for the workers' compensation pool, and Tom Job, administrator for the risk group.

Jack Eklund and Janette Ruddell made the presentation for Eklund's First Insurance of Goodland, and Employers Mutual Cos. of Wichita, the company Sherman County has been insured with for 11 years.

The total cost of the state pool group is \$125,233, with the worker's compensation insurance costing \$48,962. The

state general liability, property and vehicle coverage is \$73,282. The statewide group also had a special policy for boiler and machinery coverage at \$2,989.

Eyman said the worker compensation was high because the experience rating for the county had increased from less than 1 percent to 1.16 percent for next year. He said there are 40 counties in the state pool, and the system is financially strong. He said the system has returned money to the pool members over the past three years.

Coverage under the policy would have \$1 million limits, which is higher than the \$500,000 established by the state, and there is no deductible. He said the group has a number of services to help manage the insurance costs and can help the county with loss prevention programs to educate the employees.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked if the coverage included volunteers and those who are doing community service through the courts. Eyman said all volunteers and the community service people would be covered. He said the premium for volunteer firemen is \$11,581 of the total cost.

"We try to help counties prevent

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Brick by brick



In the cool days of early December, crew members from Realm Construction of Blue Springs, Mo., wore gloves as they finished laying the bricks for the Seventh and Main intersection. The project, which rebuilt the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Street intersections, has been completed and all three are open to traffic.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News



Volunteers Tillie Smith, Gloria Kibel, Fred Studer, Shirley Lamb, Brandie Smith and daughter Ashley, and Bob Lamb displayed a few of the hundreds of gifts for the Toys for Tots program.

Photos by Eric Yonkey/The Goodland Daily News

Residents make kids' holidays

By Eric Yonkey

The Goodland Daily News

Nearly 180 underprivileged children will have at least three Christmas gifts to unwrap thanks to Sherman County residents.

Organizations, businesses and individuals have donated more than \$2,000 in money and new and used toys to Toys for Tots this holiday season. The Goodland Kiwanis Club presented a check for \$500, and businesses and individuals contributed more than \$900 in cash.

The Tri-State Area Coalition of Concerned Motorcyclists, which operates Toys for Tots in this area, has been collecting toys at Christmas for 13 years. Fred Studer, program coordinator here, said Goodland bikers and other volunteers have collected toys for 10 years.

At least a dozen volunteers assist with the drive every year.

The Genesis Food Bank in Goodland supplies Toys for Tots with



Fred Studer and Bob Lamb, Toys for Tots program volunteers, helped prepare bags of toys for 180 area children.

the numbers of kids, gender and age, from newborns to teens. Volunteers purchase all toys here, then bag the presents for each qualifying family.

By Monday, more than 40 family bags were finished for Genesis distri-

bution day, which is Saturday. Families receiving assistance will be notified directly by the organization.

"Local citizens have been real generous this year," Studer said. "We have most of what we need."

Winning ticket good surprise

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

Jason Unruh, a Sharon Springs construction worker, said he'd never heard of the Christmas on Us contest in Goodland before he went into Dan Brenner Ford, where he had recently bought a pickup, and discovered he had won \$50.

"I didn't even know it was going on," he said. "I was at Brenner's and they looked my tickets up and told me I won."

When he bought his new pickup, Unruh received 250 tickets as part of the Goodland merchants' fourth annual cash giveaway, which features a \$1,500 grand prize. The grand prize and a \$500 second prize will be given away at a drawing at 1 p.m. on Saturday in downtown Goodland.

The contest started in mid-November, with sponsoring Goodland businesses handing out one ticket for each \$10 spent on products or services. Shoppers can collect up to 250 tickets per transaction.

Unruh said Brenner Ford keeps track of the ticket numbers and lets people

know if they've won. He is so far the seventh instant winner of \$50 in the contest, which will have a total of 10 instant winners. Charlene Fritsch, the second instant winner, also received her winning ticket from Brenner.

Employees at *The Goodland Daily News* pick six or more instant winners each week, placing the winning ticket numbers in randomads in the weekly Christmas on Us section, printed each Wednesday. Ticket holders have four business days to claim their prizes at the newspaper office, 1205 Main Ave.

Look for the last eight instant winner numbers in today's Section C. The first three people to bring their winning tickets to the newspaper office by Friday will receive \$50.

Merchants will stop handing out tickets on Thursday and the drawing will start at 1 p.m. on Saturday in front of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce office, 104 W. 11th. In case of bad weather, the drawing will be moved to Central Elementary School gym.

Ticket holders must be present to win, but it will be a good time for ev-

eryone. The X-Pressos, the Goodland High School show choir, will perform and Santa Claus may show up to talk with little ones.

All winners receive scrip money, which can only be spent at sponsoring businesses. No purchase is necessary to win, as anyone can pickup one free ticket per week at the newspaper office or the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce.

Unruh said he plans to buy Christmas presents with the extra money.

"I'll get something for the kids," he said, "or maybe my wife, after I just spent so much money on a new pickup." Sponsors 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, Jacques'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, Brenner Ford and WebKansas.

Schools invite seniors to traditional lunch

By Skilar Boland

The Goodland Daily News

Goodland Schools will be holding their annual holiday senior lunch at noon Friday in the old gym at the high school, with entertainment starting at 11 a.m.

School Superintendent Marvin Selby said this is the seventh year that they have invited senior citizens in for a holiday meal. There will be no lunch at the senior center Friday. They are expecting to serve around

400 people and hope that more will join them, Selby said. The meal will be a traditional Christmas dinner with turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans and pumpkin pie.

Selby says that everyone is welcome. "We let them decide whether or not they are senior citizens," he said. "We don't have a 61-and-older rule."

The superintendent said the schools try to get every age group involved. The junior high makes table coverings, woodworking classes make favors to

go on the Christmas trees and the elementary students make place mats. Music groups will start singing around 11 a.m. for entertainment.

They will have valet parking for the seniors and will be giving rides if needed. Call the high school office at 899-5656 to schedule a pickup.

"It's a treat for our seniors who have supported the students with scholarships and gives our kids a way to say thanks," Selby said. "We do everything we can to reach out to senior citizens."

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Tribal leaders set deadline

TORA BORA, Afghanistan — Afghan tribal commanders set a new deadline today for the surrender of al-Qaida fighters cornered in a mountain canyon under heavy U.S. bombardment, demanding that top terrorist leaders, possibly including Osama bin Laden, also turn themselves in.

U.S. airstrikes sent smoke and debris billowing into the air as they pounded the desolate canyon where the al-Qaida fighters were boxed in after being forced out of their caves in the Tora Bora region of eastern Afghanistan. An earlier deadline of Wednesday morning passed without the men's surrender.

Claiming they want to end the carnage, eastern alliance leaders gave a new ultimatum, giving men from bin Laden's terror network until noon Thursday (12:30 a.m. Mountain Time) to surrender.



local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.54 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.48
Corn — \$1.98 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.94
Loan deficiency payment — 05¢
Milo — \$1.73 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.72 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.76
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.16
Millet — \$3.75 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$8.95 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 69¢
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.)

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