

weather
report

29°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:29 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:05 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:29 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 34 degrees
• Humidity 49 percent
• Sky partly sunny
• Winds north 12 m.p.h.
• Barometer 30.26 inches
and falling
• Record High 77° (1955)
• Record Low -16° (1929)

Last 24 Hours*

High 38°
Low 10°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, isolated flurries, low 15, winds northwest 10-20 m.p.h. Tomorrow: partly sunny, isolated flurries, blustery, high 35, low 10, winds north 15-20 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday and Thursday: partly sunny, chance of snow, high 40-45, low 20s.

(National Weather Service)

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

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.59 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.47
Corn — \$1.97 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.88
Loan deficiency payment — 11¢
Milo — \$1.69 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.76 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.76
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.16
Millet — \$3.75 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$8.90 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 70¢
Confection current — inquire
Pinto beans — \$19 (new crop)
Markets closed for the holidays
(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.

Shoe bomber
faces charges

BOSTON — A man who allegedly tried to set off explosives hidden in his shoes on a trans-Atlantic flight was ordered held in federal custody today, and authorities said they had no evidence to link him to Osama bin Laden's terror network.

The suspect, listed in court papers as Richard C. Reid, appeared in front of U.S. Magistrate Judge Judith Dein, sitting alone and dressed in an orange prison jumpsuit and sandals. When she asked if he understood the charge — intimidation or assault of a flight crew — he answered, "Yeah."

Reid, 28, requested a court-appointed attorney and was ordered held pending a bail hearing Friday. If convicted, he could be sentenced to 20 years in prison.

The FBI said more charges are likely.

Goodland's bright lights...

Husband transforms front yard

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Marilyn Gittinger said she came home for lunch one day to find her front yard had been transformed.

There were hundreds of red, blue, green and white lights blinking on the house and fence; a row of sparkling Christmas trees had sprouted up; and a snowman and reindeer had parked an ice cream truck on the lawn.

"If he's in the mood," she said, "then he'll really go for it."

The Christmas spirit suddenly grabbed Marilyn's husband Kendall one day before Thanksgiving, and he decided to spread the joy by decorating their front lawn. He said it had been a couple of years since he put up Christmas decorations, so he figured he'd go all out.

Kendall said he knew it wasn't going to be an easy or quick job, so he took a day off from work to make sure he'd have enough time.

"It took 8 hours or so," he said, "by the time I got the lights out, fixed the broken ones and then went to buy more."

Marilyn said while Kendall was on the roof replacing lights, he accidentally blew a fuse in the house.

"I told him I thought he had enough lights," she said.

Kendall said his son Tim, a high school sophomore, helped him string about 150 feet of lights around the edge of the roof. He said his son couldn't understand why the colored lights had to be in a particular order.

"I didn't want to have two of the same colors next to each other," Kendall said, admitting that most likely no one would notice but him.

He also hung "icicle" lights from the eaves, decorated a fence surrounding the front yard and the garage, put up different sized Christmas trees his father made and incorporated an ice cream truck the family bought this summer into the scene.

It was hard work, Kendall said, but it was worth it.

"People ought to leave the lights up all year," he said, "it looks neat."

And it paid off in the end.

The Gittinger's house, 402 E. Fourth, won first place in the Goodland Development Corporation's holiday lights contest.

The couple received \$25 from the organization.

"We want to thank the development corp. for doing it," Kendall said, noting that there hasn't been a Christmas lights competition in Goodland for several years.

The prize money will help pay for the extra electricity, he said, adding that the bill hasn't been much higher than normal.

"It's not enough to make me stop doing it," Kendall said.

The Gittinger's display features a 1963 Jeep fleet van, which used to be a



J.J. Howard lined a bicycle with holiday lights on the side of his house at 1526 College (above). He won third place in the holiday lights contest.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Display includes lighted bike and big 'N'

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

J.J. Howard, 27, won third place in the Goodland Development Corp.'s holiday lights contest last week for the decorations at his home at 1526 College.

The display features a lighted bicycle, a lighted candy cane, and a huge red "N" in the middle of his yard.

The lighted display is something Howard says he does every year. He said he had already put the lights up when he read about the contest in *The Goodland Daily News*.

"I thought my lights were pretty good," said Howard. "I thought I had

a chance."

He said it took him two days to put up the decorations and that he designed the display himself with a little help from his girlfriend. She came up with the lighted bicycle and candy cane.

"But the great big N in my yard," said Howard. "I came up with that myself."

The N is the trademark of the Nebraska Cornhuskers, of which Howard says he is a big fan.

Howard said he thought he could have done better in the contest, and predicts he might get first place next year.

"Every year I try to improve my decorations; try to get them a little better," he said. "I'll think of something, and I'll try it. Sometimes it comes out great that way. Of course, sometimes it doesn't. But it's fun either way."

Howard said he has received many compliments on his decorations, and that his neighbors all have said that they like the display.

He mentioned that he has received the most compliments on the bicycle and candy cane, but jokingly said that his N would get more attention if more people in town were Nebraska fans.

He said he also likes looking at the

decorations of other houses around town, and has driven around town at night to enjoy the displays.

When asked which house was his favorite this year, he named the house at 402 E. Fourth, the first place winner in the contest, adding that he especially liked the ice cream truck snowman.

Howard plans to keep his lights up after the first of the year.

"That way," he said, "everyone can get a chance to look at them."

He won \$10 in the contest, which is sponsored by the Goodland Development Corporation. He says the money will probably go towards his gas bill.



Kendall Gittinger put Christmas trees his father made on his front lawn at 402 E. Fourth. The decorations helped him win first place in the contest.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

mail delivery truck, but is now "The Ice Cream Express."

Kendall said they bought the truck, decorated with red, orange, green, blue and white circles, from the "Clown

Club" in June. He said the club once used the truck in parades, but it's been sitting in a parking lot for the past 7 years.

He said they fixed up the truck a bit,

put a sign on the side and drove around during the summer, playing snappy tunes and selling ice cream to kids.

"The kids just love it," Kendall said. "They can hear it coming from blocks

away and they go out and stand on the curb."

Marilyn said they didn't know where to park the truck during the winter, so Kendall decided to put it on the front lawn. A spotlight now illuminates the colorful van at night, and a snowman and reindeer occupy the front seats.

Kendall said they sometimes use the speaker system to play Christmas music.

The Gittinger's front lawn has gotten a lot of attention lately.

"People drive by real slow to look," Kendall said.

A knack for decorating must run in the family, as he said his father Robert, who lives in Kismet, also won first place in a lights contest.

"I thought that was pretty neat," he said, adding he and the family planned to visit his father this weekend and maybe get some new decorating ideas.

He said his father built a chimney on his roof and has a Santa Claus popping up and down from the chimney. Kendall said he might do something similar next year, but it'll take time.

"Next year I might have to use two vacation days," he said.

Putting up holiday lights display tradition for family

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

Putting up Christmas lights is a family tradition at Jim and Judy McKee's house, 323 Harrison Ave., and this year it paid off with a second place award in the Christmas lights contest.

The McKees won \$15 from the Goodland Development Corp., which organized the contest.

The house is decorated inside and out. Judy said she wanted it to be extra special this year because the Carnegie Arts Center included their house in the tour of Christmas houses.

Decorating for Christmas is a continual project, Judy said.

She said they usually put up the same decorations, but add something new each year.

Last year, she said, they added a nativity set outdoors, for which she and



Jim and Judy McKee took second place in the holiday lights contest with their own "White Christmas." The McKees have 2400 white mini lights strung on trees, fences and their house and white figures lit up in their nativity set.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

Jim built the stable.

The idea for the nativity set came from her collection of sets, Judy said, which she always puts up indoors. Judy

said the white lights they put up highlighted her trees, which she raised from eight inch saplings.

She said she has had to add another

row of lights each year to cover the trees' growth and is now up to 42 strands of 100 white mini lights — 4,200 mini lights.

The lights are attached to garlands before they are tied to the fences and porch rail, she said.

The garlands are tied on with fishing line, which helps keep the lights up even when there are strong gusts of wind.

This year it took the family from noon to 6 p.m. to put the lights up, she said, so it was a half-day project.

She said she couldn't give up putting up the lights, because her six children want them up.

"They said, 'Oh mom, we have to,'" she said.

The McKee children are: Jayme, 27; Jake, 24; Janel, 21; Jara, 18; Janae, 15; and Jance, 12.

Judy said she likes to cruise around town looking at other people's lights, and has enjoyed seeing people drive by to look at her's.