

weather  
report

60°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 6:06 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:36 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:07 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 38 degrees
- Humidity 29 percent
- Sky clear and sunny
- Winds southwest 20 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.82 inches and falling

• Record High 89° (1963)

• Record Low 8° (1931)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 71°  
Low 25°  
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low mid 30s, winds variable 5-10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly sunny, high near 60, low 30s, winds north 10-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: mostly sunny, high upper 50s, low upper 20s. Sunday: mostly clear, high near 70. Monday: mostly cloudy with chance of showers, breezy, high lower 60s, low lower 30s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.64 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.60  
Corn — \$1.84 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.85  
Loan deficiency payment — 14¢  
Milo — \$1.55 bushel  
Soybeans — \$4.10 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.06  
Loan deficiency payment — 86¢  
Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$9.05 cwt.  
NuSun — \$9.20 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 17¢  
Confection current — \$16/\$8 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$27  
(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.

Israelis want  
big retaliation

JERUSALEM — Israel's defense minister met with army commanders today amid growing calls for massive retaliation for a Palestinian suicide bombing in a hotel banquet hall that killed 20 diners, many elderly, and wounded 130 at the start of the Jewish Passover holiday.

In response to one of the deadliest attacks in the current round of fighting, Israel said it would exercise its right to self defense, but stopped short of formally abandoning U.S.-backed truce efforts.

In anticipation of a possible Israeli strike, Palestinian government offices were evacuated in the West Bank. In the town of Ramallah, Yasser Arafat's West Bank headquarters, worried parents took their children home early from school and residents stocked up on food in expectation of a long Israeli blockade.

# Alco store closes after 32 years

## Boss, workers get a surprise

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Large strips of brown paper and signs reading "store closed" in bold, black letters cover the glass front entrance of Goodland's 32-year-old Alco Store, which shut down this morning to the surprise of employees and customers.

Although there had been talk for two years or more, the store's manager didn't hear that Alco, 1121 Main, was closing until last night. Employees found out at a meeting this morning and many customers didn't know until they saw the brown paper and found the doors locked.

"It was the best store in town," said an older man who came downtown this morning to do some shopping at Alco. He said he feared that Goodland's economy will suffer because of the closing.

Six to eight company officials, arriving in several cars, swooped into the store about 6:30 a.m., before it opened, to make the announcement and start clearing out the store. By late morning, a semi-trailer truck had appeared to begin the move.

Alco officials said the store was not making enough of a profit to warrant keeping it open.

"It was a very agonizing decision," said Bruce Hall, district manager from Ogallala, Neb., noting the business has been in Goodland since 1925.

Duckwall-Alco Stores of Abilene owns the Goodland unit, which opened as a Duckwalls in 1925 and switched to an Alco in Nov. 1970.



Adam Romero (left) and Dave Petereit of Sidney, Neb., moved pallets in front of the closed Alco store this morning. They were part of a crew loading merchandise into a semi-trailer truck after the store was closed.

Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Hall said the front part of the store will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily except Sunday through Wednesday. Customers can pick up film they brought in to be developed or items they had on layaway.

Hall said he and other Alco officials held a meeting with employees this morning to tell them the store will be closing today because it isn't making

enough money.

There's been talk of closing the store for years, he said, but the final decision was made recently. Rumors have been floating around Goodland for years, too. Most people thought the rumors were just that, until today.

Dean Van Horn, vice president of the western division in Abilene, said Tom Roesch, manager of the Goodland unit,

was told that the store was closing last night and employees found out when the bosses arrived this morning. He said Roesch is on medical leave after having surgery on his leg.

Van Horn, who said he has worked with the Goodland store for over 20 years, said it's a tough day for all of the employees and company administrators.

## Easter services planned

Goodland churches continue the observance of Holy Week with services tonight and Good Friday, climaxing with Easter services Sunday.

The First Christian Church at Eighth and Arcade will have Good Friday services at 7 p.m. Friday, a sunrise service Sunday at 7 a.m. and a potluck breakfast following. The church will have Sunday school at 9:15 a.m. and a worship service at 10:30 a.m.

The First Baptist Church at Fifth and Center will have a Good Friday service from noon-1 p.m. sponsored by the Goodland Ministerial Alliance. The church will have an Easter sunrise service at 7 a.m. Sunday on the church lawn, followed by a sunrise breakfast and an indoor Easter service at 10:30 a.m.

The First United Methodist Church at 12th and Sherman will have Easter services at 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church at 307 W. 13th will have mass at 7 p.m. tonight for Holy Thursday, a Good Friday service at 1:30 p.m. and an Easter vigil at 6:30 p.m. Saturday. Easter services will be at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Sonrise Christian Church at 907 Caldwell will have Easter services at



9:30 a.m. Sunday.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church will have Maundy Thursday services at 7 p.m. tonight and Good Friday services

at 7 p.m. Friday. The church will have a sunrise Easter service at 7 a.m. Sunday. Breakfast will be served from 8-10 a.m., the children will have an egg hunt

during Sunday school at 9 a.m., and there will be another service at 10 a.m. with the children's choir, quartet and special music.

## Officials to discuss tax sale

Sherman County commissioners will hear details Friday of the upcoming tax sale, now expected to be held in May.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said Monday is the judgment day for those properties being included in the delinquent property tax sale. She said she will ask the district court to approve a judgment allowing the county to proceed.

Sheriff Doug Whitson said he expects it to be late May before all the details are completed and he can hold the tax sale.

Selby said people who have property included in the judgment do have until the day of the sale to pay the back taxes.

Commissioners have been touring the property in the county and in Kanorado and Goodland to determine if there is any the county or a city would want to bid on when the sale is held.

At the meeting Friday, Commissioners Chuck Frankenfeld, Mitch Tiede and Kevin Rasure will report on the "enterprise facilitation" economic development meeting last week in Horace, and name "core group" board members to represent the county in the regional effort.

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## Internet upgrade will speed up connections, downloads

Internet customers on [nwkanas.com](http://nwkanas.com) should notice higher connection speeds and faster downloads with installation of high speed incoming digital lines in Goodland on Wednesday as the first phase of a major improvement project.

"We have been working on improving our Internet service for nearly two years," said Tom Betz, director of Internet services for [nwkanas.com](http://nwkanas.com). "We have worked with Southwestern Bell over the months to find a mutual way to improve the connections.

"A new system design should provide our customers with the best possible connections available through the present phone lines. The first phase of the program went into operation Wednesday morning when the older copper-pair phone lines were changed over to the new digital system.

"This should provide some increase in connection speed for our customers and allow them to go beyond the old line limitations," Betz said, "and see better speed in loading of web pages and downloading of data and e-mail."

Southwestern Bell had several people from different divisions involved in the coordinated changeover Wednesday morning, which took a bit longer than anticipated.

Tom Wilcox of the telephone company said the change was expected to take about five minutes, but they experienced a bit of a problem in closing out the old phone lines in order to switch to the new equipment. Finally, the central office in Colby had to physically cut off the last five called on the old lines to allow the change to happen.

"We had a few calls from customers wondering why they couldn't get on line," Betz said, "but

most were understanding when told about the improvement.

"When the actual change happened, the new equipment responded immediately and within a minute there were seven customers on line. Within half an hour, the system was operating at a normal daily level."

In theory, Betz said, the new equipment will allow users to get full "56k" line speed if they have a "v.90" type modem.

"In practice," he said, "speed is limited by your home phone line and the route you take to the central office. Many users will see speeds below 56,000, and few will get anything above 51,000."

The next phase of the upgrade is scheduled for Wednesday, when the whole [nwkanas.com](http://nwkanas.com) system will transfer Internet service from the current Internet "backbone" provider to Southwestern

Bell Internet.

Planning for this change has been underway for several months, and customers received letters which detail the change and actions each customer will need to take for the switch

"We are happy to be working with Southwestern Bell," said Steve Haynes, president of Nor'West Newspapers, the parent company of [nwkanas.com](http://nwkanas.com). "In addition to helping with the technical aspects, the Bell people have helped with many aspects of the overall planning of such a large program."

The main switch should happen Wednesday afternoon, and should not take very long, but the service may be up and down for several hours as details of the switch are handled in all of the eight [nwkanas.com](http://nwkanas.com) locations. E-mail service will be out for at least a couple of hours.

Sophia Thompson and Caum Entwistle, students at Creation Kids Preschool, hunted for Easter eggs last week with their classmates in front of United Methodist Church.

Photo by Doug Stephens  
The Goodland  
Daily News