

weather report

42°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 4:24 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 6:52 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:23 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 34 degrees
- Humidity 53 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds northwest 17 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.29 inches and rising
- Record High 75° (1939)
- Record Low -8° (1072)

Last 24 Hours*

High	42°
Low	24°
Precipitation	None

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low near 20, winds west 10-15 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly sunny, high near 52, low near 22, winds west 10-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: partly sunny, high near 45, low near 19. Sunday: cloudy, high near 41. Monday: clear, high near 43, low near 19. Tuesday: mostly clear, high near 43, low near 25. Wednesday: partly cloudy, high near 41, low 21.

(National Weather Service)

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

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$3.73 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.82
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Corn — \$2.41 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.23
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Milo — \$2.18 bushel
- Soybeans — \$5.11 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.07
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Millet — \$14.00 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$11.95 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Confection current — \$17/\$7 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$16

(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.

Hussein says no weapons

BAGHDAD, Iraq — President Saddam Hussein urged the Iraqi people today to support the new U.N. arms inspections as a welcome opportunity to disprove American allegations that his government still harbors weapons of mass destruction.

The White House quickly rejected those claims, insisting they lack credibility. President Bush, asked today if the United States was headed toward war, replied: "That's a question you should ask to Saddam Hussein."

In a holiday greeting to Iraqi leaders, Saddam said he agreed to the inspections, in which one of his own palaces was searched, "to keep our people out of harm's way" in the face of U.S. threats.

The Iraqi president's remarks contrasted sharply with a vice president's harsh words about the inspections late Wednesday.



Kids bank in school

Ashley Archer and Dane Frazier (above), students at Central Elementary, were tellers for Banking Day on Wednesday, when representatives from First National Bank came to the school to accept deposits for Kids' Club accounts at the bank. Gennifer House (right), marketing director at First National, helped students act out roles. Blaine Sapp, playing the teller, filled out a slip for Kasarah Woodrow's deposit as House counted the money.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Daily News



Contest will reward elf finders

By Rachel Hixson

The Goodland Daily News

Undercover elves will be working in Goodland stores this weekend and if you find one, you'll win \$100.

The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce Business Promotion Committee is reviving the Christmas Elf Contest this year. Ron Harding, Chamber executive director, said the contest was popular for several years, but the Chamber decided to try new promotions starting in 1996.

The other promotions have worked well, he said, but businesses and customers still said they liked the elf contest.

"It was very successful," he said. "People enjoyed it and asked if we would do it again, so we came back with it this year."

On Saturday and Sunday, employees

in 19 Goodland stores will wear red or green ribbons. One worker in six of the businesses will be picked as "Elf of the day," and will have a sticker attached to the back of their ribbon proclaiming "It's me for 02!"

It will be the customer's job to find the Christmas elf by going to businesses and asking employees if they are the elf of the day. The first customer to find an elf will win \$100 in scrip, which can only be spent at participating businesses.

Harding said three elves will be picked each day, for a total of six elves this weekend. A total of \$600 in scrip will be given away over the two days to six winners, he said.

Winners can pick up their prizes at the Chamber office, 104 W. 11th, or call the Chamber at (785) 899-7130 to have the scrip mailed.

Customers and business owners like the promotion because it's simple, Harding said, and the prize money will be spent in Goodland.

There some rules, however.

- People are ineligible at their workplace.
- The designated elf must be kept secret.
- Winners must be 18 and only one winner per family is allowed.
- You can win only once during the promotion.
- Scrip will be accepted in participating businesses as cash.



Loan loss may force United bankruptcy

By Dave Carpenter

AP Business Writer

CHICAGO — Trading in United Airlines stock was halted after it plunged 59 percent today, a day after the world's second-largest carrier lost its quest for government loan backing it said was needed to keep it out of bankruptcy.

The New York Stock Exchange said trading was stopped because of "pending news" regarding United. A spokesman for the airline said it had no plans for an immediate announcement, however, and maintained that the exchange's wording was mistaken. Shares in United parent UAL Corp. opened down \$1.84, or 59 percent, to \$1.28 —

their lowest level in more than 40 years.

Analysts said the Air Transportation Stabilization Board's rejection of United's request for \$1.8 billion in federal loan guarantees Wednesday all but ensures a Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing., the largest in airline industry history. Chief executive Glenn Tilton tried to reassure passengers and United's 83,000 employees, saying, "Whatever course we chart, it should be emphatically clear that United will continue to fly."

Barring a dramatic turn of events, that course will almost certainly take it to federal bankruptcy court as soon as this week. While the airline could keep on operating while it restructures it's

debt, stockholders could lose most, if not all, of their value.

"We believe bankruptcy is inevitable," J.P. Morgan analyst Jamie Baker wrote in a note to investors today.

"I can't imagine them avoiding it unless someone writes them a check for \$2 billion," said Ray Neidl of Blaylock and Partners. Cash-starved United has said for months that without government backing, it couldn't get the \$2 billion private loan it needs to avoid bankruptcy. It faces \$920 million in debt payments due next week, which would wipe out most of its cash.

Further sealing United's fate, its mechanics canceled a vote scheduled for today on \$700 million in wage cuts.

If you pack it, they will come

Youths to pick up food for drive

By Rachel Hixson

The Goodland Daily News

If you pack a box with canned and boxed food, fruits, vegetables and Christmas gifts and leave it on your front porch Saturday morning, a group of young people will come take it away.

The food and gifts will make their way to Sherman County families who probably need them a lot more than you do.

The Genesis organization will hold its 17th annual food drive on Saturday morning, with youth volunteers heading out at 8 a.m. to pick up boxes off front porches.

Genesis was formed in 1984 to help people who can't get state assistance through tough times.

The organization collects food and money throughout the year, but always has a big collection before Christmas to make sure less fortunate families have a nice holiday.

Goodland lawyer Jeff Mason, chairman of the Genesis board, said they want to collect peanut butter, pasta, cereal, macaroni and cheese, sugar, flour, canned food, fruit, vegetables and traditional Christmas items. He said they cannot accept homemade food items.

Director Pat Jordan said Genesis will take toys or other Christmas gifts for children and cash or checks. She said money can be mailed to Genesis, Box 476, Goodland, Kan., 67735, and checks should be made out to Genesis. The money will be used to buy hams, turkeys and other perishable items for families.

Jordan said the food and gifts collected Saturday will be brought to the United Methodist Fellowship Hall on

Club collects hats and gloves

The Ruleton Eager Beavers 4-H Club is collecting hats and gloves for holiday gift boxes passed out by the Genesis food bank serving Goodland and Sherman County.

Collection boxes will be on the first floor of the Sherman County courthouse, Bankwest, First National Bank, Western State Bank and the Goodland Public Library through Friday. There will also be drop-off boxes at Max Jones Fieldhouse during the boys and girls basketball games against Imperial, Neb., on Friday. The games begin at 5:30 p.m.

12th and Sherman, where volunteers will sort them and make holiday boxes for more than 100 families in Sherman County. The boxes will be put together on Thursday, Nov. 19, she said, and distributed before Christmas.

Most of the families that will receive boxes include three to four children, Jordan said, and it takes a lot of food to feed them. She said Genesis won't turn down help from anyone who wants to help pack holiday boxes.

"It's a job," she said.

If you want to volunteer, call Jordan at (785) 899-5073.

Jordan said church groups, 4-H, the Boy Scouts and other organizations help collect and sort food every year.

"It's really a community thing," she said, "and we want it that way."

Drug diluter gets 30 years in prison

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A federal judge sentenced former pharmacist Robert R. Courtney to the maximum 30 years in prison today, ending the year and a half-long saga of his scheme to dilute cancer drugs for profit.

Courtney, who earlier expressed remorse for his actions, showed no emotion as the judge announced his sentence.

"I have committed a terrible crime that I deeply and severely regret," Courtney told the court in soft, shaky voice before being sentenced. "I wish I could change everything."

U.S. District Judge Ortrie Smith listened patiently as tearful relatives explain how they felt Courtney's scheme cost them precious days with their loved ones. Cancer patients who were treated with drugs diluted by Courtney also testified. Georgia Hayes was among them.

"I leave Robert Courtney in your hands for his lifetime, and in the Lord's hands for eternity," said Hayes, who earlier won a \$2.2 billion jury award in her civil lawsuit against Courtney. "May God have mercy on his soul."

Defense lawyers, citing Courtney's "sincere remorse" and acceptance of responsibility, had urged Smith to impose the lightest possible sentence under the terms of Courtney's plea agreement — 17 1/2 years without parole.

Federal prosecutors asked for the maximum of 30 years for a "cold-blooded" crime they say hastened at least one patient's death. Prosecutors have acknowledged it would be very difficult to prove in court that Courtney's crimes killed patients. "What did these women lose? What did he take from them to satisfy his avarice? He took their hope and quality of life," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Gene Porter.

Senator must give back \$19,000 from campaign

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Sen. Sam Brownback's campaign has been ordered to give the federal government \$19,000 in over-the-limit contributions after the Kansas Republican's parents-in-law were found to have violated federal election laws.

The Federal Election Commission found that John and Ruth Stauffer of Topeka funneled excessive campaign donations to Brownback in 1996, *The Kansas City Star* reported Thursday. The Stauffers have been ordered to pay a \$9,000 civil penalty.

The panel report detailed a series of transactions in July 1996. The money went to GOP consulting firm, Triad

Management Services, which then distributed the money to several mostly obscure conservative political action committees. An almost exact amount ended up days later in Brownback's campaign coffers.

A spokesman for Brownback said the senator was pleased the matter was now closed.

"As the commission found, the (Brownback) committee received contributions which were permissible on their face, but which the commission ruled should be refunded," spokesman Erik Hotmire said.

Neither the Stauffers nor Triad officials could not be reached for comment, *the Star* reported.



Brownback