

weather report

23°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 4:28 p.m.
- Tomorrow
- Sunrise, 7:04 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:29 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 33 degrees
- Humidity 71 percent
- Sky cloudy and overcast
- Winds east 5 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.20 inches and falling
- Record High 83° (1964)
- Record Low -9° (1998)

Last 24 Hours*

High	46°
Low	15°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: cloudy with 20 percent chance of snow, low lower teens, winds north 5-10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly cloudy, high lower 30s, low lower teens, winds north 5-10 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Christmas: mostly sunny, high near 40, low mid teens. Thursday: mostly clear, high lower 40s. Friday: clear, high lower 50s, low mid teens. Saturday: partly cloudy, high upper 40s, low upper teens.

(National Weather Service)

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

local markets

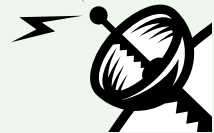
Noon

- Wheat — \$3.64 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.56
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Corn — \$2.48 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.22
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Milo — \$2.25 bushel
- Soybeans — \$5.27 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.15
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Millet — \$10.00 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$11.00 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.

No plans for N. Korea

WASHINGTON — With a nuclear crisis deepening in North Korea, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said today the U. S. could fight the war on terror, a war in Iraq and possible conflict with Pyongyang simultaneously.

"We are perfectly capable of doing that which is necessary," Rumsfeld said.

But White House officials emphasized the United States has no intention of attacking North Korea, and intends to defuse the situation through diplomacy.

Rumsfeld gave no indication the U. S. was readying military force against a nuclear power plant that North Korea is moving to restart — a step the administration calls evidence of North Korea's new attempts to build a nuclear bomb.

The Clinton administration considered bombing the same site in 1994, before that was resolved.

Woman wins \$1,500 from paper

The weather was sunny Saturday as hundreds of people gathered on 11th Street with their tickets and lists of number to see who would be the winners of the fifth annual Christmas On Us contest sponsored by Goodland merchants and *The Goodland Daily News*.

The crowd jammed around the stage, and nearly every parking place downtown was full. It took less than half an hour to find the two winners, with Rusty Fritz of Edson winning the \$500 first prize, and Maria Castillo, 404 Cherry, winning the \$1,500 grand prize.

Fritz got his ticket at Frontier Equity while Castillo got hers at El Dorado.

The grand prize drawing took place at 2 p.m. in front of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce office, ending the month-long contest, which gave 12 Goodland shoppers a total of \$2,500 extra holiday dollars. All prize money was awarded in scrip, which can only be spent at participating Goodland businesses.

Ten "instant winners" received \$50 each in weeks leading up to the drawing by finding their numbers in ads in the special Christmas on Us section of the paper.

Steve Haynes, president of *The Goodland Daily News*, stood on a stage in front of the crowd, calling out winning ticket numbers. Eleventh Street was blocked off at Main and Center for the drawing, which lasted about 20 minutes.

Haynes called children out of the audience to mix the tickets and pick the winning numbers out of a huge plastic bin. Rachel Smith, daughter of Sheila

Smith, *Daily News* office manager, wrote the numbers on poster board, displaying the signs to the crowd.

The \$500 prize was given away first, and it didn't take long for Fritz to realize he was a winner.

Castillo was the second person called for the grand prize. The holder of the first ticket drawn, which had been given out at Dan Brenner Ford, was not present.

Castillo was accompanied by two daughters to help with translation. It took several minutes for her to realize she had the winning ticket, and the time had nearly expired when she came forward.

Many of those in the audience had organized their tickets in numerical order and had lists to make finding the numbers easier.

While waiting for the drawing to begin and between drawings, Eric Yonkey and Bill Wagoner, advertising representatives for *The Daily News*, led the crowd joined in singing carols.

The contest, sponsored by Goodland merchants and *The Daily News*, started in mid-November, with participating businesses handing out one ticket for each \$10 spent on products or services. Shoppers could collect up to 250 tickets per transaction. The last day to get a ticket for the big drawing was Thursday.

Over the four weeks, there were ticket numbers in the participating merchants' ads, and the lucky winners who came to the newspaper office received \$50 in scrip.

See DRAWING, Page 4



Maria Castillo (above) was the grand prize winner at the Christmas on Us drawing Saturday afternoon. Steve Haynes, president of *The Goodland Daily News*, presented her \$1,500 in scrip in front of the Chamber of Commerce office. The \$500 winner in the drawing was Rusty Fritz, (bottom left) who received his scrip from Haynes. Kids (below) from the audience came up to help mix the thousands of tickets.

Photos by Rachel Smith and Sharon Corcoran / *The Goodland Daily News*



Merchants feel positive about holiday buying

By Michelle L. Hawkins

The Goodland Daily News

Despite a tough year due to drought and economic strain, most merchants in Goodland say that business has held up pretty well.

With only two shopping days remaining, retailers were gearing up today for the last-minute shoppers who come in search of the perfect gift.

"It has been a bit of a tough year," said Brad Koza, manager of the Wal-Mart Supercenter, "but we have been real comparable to last year's numbers."

Most managers agree with Koza that the economy has affected retail sales for this Christmas season, but several types of merchandise have been found to be more positive than others.

Koza said as Christmas approaches, "electronic items are really taking off."

Chuck Bohme, owner/manager for Millers Electronics, said that for them, carpet and furniture sales have been higher, but the small toy items have been a little slower.

"Our sales have been OK, but nothing to brag about," said Bohme. "We

are a little down."

The owner is Garcia's Home Furnishings, John Garcia, said that sales have been very steady. Sales were higher in November than they were last year, he said, and December was steady.

"I am pleased with what's going on," said Garcia.

To help with sales from now until the end of the year, Garcia said, they are offering their customers and additional 10 percent off, even on sale items.

"We are trying to perform miracles for the last-minute shoppers," he said.

Jim Lunsway of Mr. Jim's said that although sales were soft in the first week of December, the last two weeks have been extremely strong.

Lunsway said that the hot-ticket items for his business have been leather goods and sportswear, but sales in other areas have been comparable with years past.

Both Wayne Aten of Aten Department Store and Mike Elliott of Elliott's Inc. say that their sales have been down some this year as opposed to last year.

"We are doing pretty good, all things considering," said Aten.

Elliott said that even though sales were not down much, the items sold by their business are "not necessarily impulse buys."

Patsy Gresty, catalog supervisor for J.C. Penney, said sales there have been a bit higher.

"It has been a good season," she said. Penney's had a significant increase in advertising this season.

Most of the stores downtown will be closing early on Christmas Eve, between 3 and 4 p.m., although Miller's will be closing at noon and Wal-Mart at 6 p.m.

Tech College graduates 100 Friday

About 100 students graduated from the Northwest Kansas Technical College Friday in the college's first December graduation.

Robert Reiners, president and chief executive officer of Reiners Marketing Inc. of Denver, gave the graduation address on "Attitudes for Success."

Reiners graduated from the college's communications technology department in 1969 and has been in the telecommunications industry for over 30 years. He began the talk with a little humor.

"A strange thing happened to me this morning," Reiners said. "I went to the president's office, and I wasn't in trouble."



Reiners

Reiners said life is like a video game in that people complete levels and move on to the next, and the students graduating are moving on to the next level. He said there is a difference between life and video games, though.

"There's no reset button (in life)," he said.

Reiners told the students he was going to give them some tools to use for the next level, and one would be their attitude. If you have a good attitude, he said, you are willing to get along with your peers and treat people right.

The students have one thing going for them, he said, their Midwest, rural farm attitude. When things change, he said,

Midwesterners ask questions and figure out how to make it work.

When he worked in cities, Reiners said, people would say, "This is stupid! It'll never work."

Reiners told the students trade magazines are good tools for a career. Get these and read them, he said. The magazines have advertising for things they will need, he said, and information on new procedures.

Life is 10 percent what happens to you, he said, and 90 percent how you react to it.

Goodland students graduating were Ryan Stewart (communications), son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Stewart; Tohna Thompson (automotive), daughter of Marge Quast; and Clayton Hoss (networking), son of Mr. and Mrs. Daryl Hoss.



The Northwest Kansas Technical College held its first winter graduation Friday, and this little girl had fun playing with her daddy's tassel as they waited to go through the ceremony.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran / *The Goodland Daily News*