



The Goodland Daily News

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Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

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 32 degrees
• Humidity 55 percent
• Sky partly cloudy
• Winds variable 5 m.p.h.
• Barometer 30.05 inches and steady
• Record High 77° (1955)
• Record Low -16° (1929)

Last 24 Hours*

High 27°
Low 12°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low near 10, winds west 5-10 m.p.h. Christmas: sunny, high upper 30s, low near 10, winds northwest 10-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: sunny, high lower 40s, low upper 10. Friday: mostly clear, high lower 50s. Saturday: mostly clear, high upper 50s, low lower 20s. Sunday: partly cloudy, high mid 40s, low 20-25. Monday: partly cloudy.
(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 — \$5.27
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Millet — \$10.00 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$11.00 cwt.
Loan deficiency prmt. — 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.

Winter storm hits Midwest

A powerful storm system that has contributed to at least nine deaths moved across the Plains, dumping up to a foot of snow across parts of Oklahoma today.

Winter weather warnings remained in effect for much of northern Oklahoma, the Texas Panhandle and parts of Kansas, Colorado, Arkansas, Missouri and Illinois. Up to 10 inches of snow was expected to fall before the storm system moved out of the region.

Three people died in Oklahoma on Monday, including a Wichita, Kan., woman whose vehicle slid out of control and collided with a tractor trailer. At least two others died in snow-related traffic accidents in Kansas.

Santa delivering wheels to local kids

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

Eighteen shiny new bicycles are lined up in Joe Russell's garage, awaiting the culmination of over two months of work by Russell and other volunteers who will deliver the bikes to children Wednesday.

Russell will drive Glenn Johnson Sr. of South Dakota, dressed as Santa Claus, to deliver the bikes starting at 8 a.m. on Wednesday. He will also have Brandon Terry, a Goodland police officer, along to show the children there is a good side to police officers.

Often children are afraid of police officers, Russell said, because they think of the police as only being around when something bad happens.

Russell said he has been working for over two months to raise donations to pay for the bicycles, buying the bicycles and finding children to give them to.

To find the kids, Russell said, he started with a list from *The Goodland Daily News* of children who wrote letters to Santa and then called parents to ask if they would be interested in having bikes brought to their children.

That wasn't very productive, he said, so he took the list to the elementary schools and asked people there who knew the children to mark the ones they thought would deserve and appreciate bicycles.

From the narrowed-down list, Russell said, he found parents interested in having bikes for their children more quickly.

He made several trips to Wal-Mart to buy bikes, Russell said, and the store donated four and gave him a 10 percent discount on the rest. If it weren't for that and the donations from businesses and individuals in the area, he said, the Christmas trip would not be possible.

Although there were a few people who feared a scam, he said, many were eager to help, even a man from New Jersey.

He went to McB's Motor and Radiator Repair, Russell said, to ask if the business would donate. The New Jersey man was having his car fixed so he could go home, Russell said, and overheard the conversation and offered the money he had in his wallet.

Russell said he has given bikes and/or clothes for the past eight years, with the exception to last year, his first in Goodland. When he lived in Denver, Russell said, he alternated between giving coats and bikes. One year, he said, he gave away 36 used bikes and spent July through December putting them together.

This year, Russell has 18 new bi-



Glenn Johnson Sr. of Rapid City, S.D., cleaned a used bike he and Joe Russell, of Goodland, planned to offer to a parent to ride with his child who received a new bike through the special program Russell has done

in Sherman County for Christmas. Santa and Russell will be delivering 18 bicycles to kids Wednesday.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

cycles to give to children and is planning to clean and repair used bicycles to offer to the parents to ride with their kids. The goal was 20 bikes, he said, and next year's goal is 30. He would like to have 100 to give eventually, Russell said, but that would take a lot of volun-

teers and money.

Russell wants to expand his giving to include a bike a month at the elementary schools so all of the children who have birthdays that month could enter a drawing to win it. He said he hasn't talked to anyone at the schools about it

yet or worked out the details.

Though seeking donations, buying bikes to give and making all of the arrangements and schedules is a lot of work, Russell said, it's worth it.

"I do it because I like to see the look on the kids' faces," he said.

Russell drove a concrete truck for Schlosser Concrete until he was laid off on Halloween because there was not enough work. He expects to go back to work there in the spring.

Johnson's son, J.R., is an officer for the Goodland Police Department.

Toys for Tots program helps over 200 children

Michelle L. Hawkins

The Goodland Daily News

For over 200 children in Sherman County, Christmas will be a bit brighter due to the efforts of Toys for Tots, organized by Fred Studer.

Studer said the annual drive was started in Sherman County in 1991, and has continued to grow. He said this year, they were able to collect over \$1,500 to buy toys for children, more than has ever come in since he took over organizing the event in 1994.

Each year, Studer says, the toy drive starts in early November as families begin to sign up for assistance with Genesis. He says Toys for Tots began working with only one agency, Genesis, to eliminate overlap and to be able to know an exact number of families who need assistance.

As the list is made by Genesis, Studer is hard at work, canvassing the county for donations of toys or money. He makes sure all the donations go to families in Sherman County and that all the money raised to buy toys is spent in the county.

"Many businesses have been good to donate, as well as individuals and groups such as the Kiwanis," he said.

Once the list has been made — and checked twice — Studer and his band of elves (he has help from his wife, Leena, and another, Don Zimbelman)

go to work shopping for the children, from newborn to 16. On the list, there are no specific names, just different age groups and the number of children in each. If there are five boys on the list who are 8, Studer says they try to buy 15 gifts suitable for them, three for each child.

Once the gifts are bought, they are taken to the First United Methodist Church, where they are given out along with food baskets from Genesis. This year, five pickup loads of gifts were delivered to the church and given to families. To make sure there is no mix-up, the gifts are left unwrapped so the families can take them home.

Studer said he is thankful for all of the support he receives throughout the county.

"Without the people of Sherman County," he said, "I could not make this go."

When asked what the biggest challenge is organizing the drive, Studer said it's not getting to see the results of his work — the smiles on the faces of children opening the gifts beneath the tree on Christmas.



Fred Studer held one of the fluffy Teddy bears that were part of the tables full of toys that have been collected and distributed to over 200 children in Sherman County to ensure they have a wonderful Christmas.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

There will be no Goodland Daily News on Christmas Day