

weather  
report

15°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 4:57 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:00 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:58 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 29 degrees

• Humidity 88 percent

• Sky cloudy, light snow, fog

• Winds south 15 m.p.h.

• Barometer 30.37 inches

and Falling

• Record High 69° (1981)

• Record Low -9° (1963)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 19°

Low 8°

Precipitation .01

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Tonight: cloudy, low mid teens, winds south 10 m.p.h. Friday: mostly sunny, high 45-50, low mid 20s, winds northwest 10-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: cloudy, high upper 40s, low lower 20s. Sunday: partly cloudy, high upper 40s. Monday: partly cloudy, high upper 50s, low mid 20s. Tuesday: mostly cloudy, high 55-60, low upper 20s. Wednesday: mostly clear, high lower 50s, low mid 20s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.29 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.28

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.41 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.18

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$2.18 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.15 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.05

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$10.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$9.55 cwt.

NuSun — \$10.80 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$15

(Markets 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.

U.S., French  
clash on Iraq

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell, chafing over criticism of the Bush administration's Iraq policy, says he sees no need for further inspections before moving ahead with enforcement of U.N. resolutions requiring Saddam Hussein to disarm.

A burgeoning dispute between the United States and some of its allies could hamper efforts to reach a consensus next week when the monitors report to the Security Council on 60 days of searches.

The White House sought to minimize the dispute. Presidential spokesman Ari Fleischer said "the president is confident that Europe will heed the call." Fleischer acknowledged, however, that "it's entirely possible that France won't be on the line."

# Warm Winter, cold night

It was a cold night Tuesday when the second graders performed their musical program "A Warm Winter, featuring Once Upon a Lily Pad," at a nearly packed high school auditorium. In the musical story a young frog, Freddie, Tyler Raby (below, center), is trying to find his place in the world. His parents, Mama (Taylor Milke, left) and Papa (Jordan McCombs, right) tell him he will find his way someday. The combined second grades played the parts of the various animals (right) Freddie talks to about what he wants to be and special hats designated the birds, turtles, snakes, frogs and fireflies who talk to him. Each group had spokespeople who talked to Freddie. Nathaniel Smith, Turtle 1, (below right) showed Freddie how the turtles can come out of their shell. In the end Freddie finds his place when he signs a jumping contract with an owl, Hoot Gibson (Tiara Gagliardo) to be part of the Calaveras County Jumping Team.

Photos by Tom Betz /  
The Goodland Daily News



## Harding heads back to retail side after 22 years

By Michelle L. Hawkins

The Goodland Daily News

After working for more than 20 years for the Sherman County Chamber of Commerce, Friday will be the last day for Chamber Director Ron Harding.

In celebration of his years of service there will be a going away party at the Chamber office on Friday from 2 to 5 p.m.

Harding grew up in the area and left for college in Denver. After graduation he was ready to develop a career and began working in the area of retail, which applied to his business college training. He worked for the May D&F Department store chain and worked his way up to being a part of the buying team for men's shoes and furnishings.

When the company started going through some changes, Harding took advantage of an opportunity to work for the Rock Island Railroad, which brought him back to Goodland.

"I was ready to try something new," he said.



Ron Harding and his secretary Jo Simmons reviewed a project file yesterday afternoon. Harding is leaving his position as director of the Sherman County Chamber of Commerce after 22 years.

Photo by Michelle L. Hawkins / The Goodland Daily News

In 1975, the railroad started to have financial difficulty, and seeing the writing on the wall, Harding took

the opportunity to look for other employment.

He started working for the Cham-

ber in 1978 when he first took a seat on the board of directors and in 1980 applied to be the director of the Chamber of Commerce. He took over as director in May of 1980 and has seen many changes in the commerce of the area.

He became very involved in organizing the efforts to preserve rail service both in Goodland and down the line. With the closing of the railroad, Harding said there were a lot of employees left to find new jobs, a financial hardship on the community.

Shortly after losing the railroad, Harding said the Great Western Sugar Company announced they would be closing and the Chamber board began searching for direction.

"We were very concerned about its effect on the agriculture of the community," he said.

The sunflower industry was identified as being a possibility of expansion in the area, Harding and the board discovered farmers were having a great deal of success in growing them at the time, but needed a place to have them processed.

In 1986, Ag Dynamics came in to process confectionery seeds and soon after, an oil processor was recruited to come in as well. National Sun Industries, which is now known as Northern Sun, with oil production and gave farmers a way to diversify.

Harding said. "This provided employment and valuation for our community," he said. "It was a way to process a commodity we had here."

Another agricultural development Harding has seen in the past few years is the addition of Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizers. They first came into the community as a distributor for fertilizer in 1999, but in 2001 added processing facilities to be able to produce the fertilizer in Goodland.

"This was a great project that has employed local people," Harding said, "this is always gratifying."

In addition Harding said he has been a part of the development of the Convention and Visitor's Bureau in

See HARDING, Page 7

## Goodland man arrested for drugs in Columbia, Mo.

A Goodland man was arrested in Columbia, Mo., Sunday after police discovered 90 pounds of marijuana in a rental car outside the hotel where he and four other men were staying. He also faces charges here.

Columbia police arrested Anthony Garza, 31, of Goodland on a warrant for 12 counts of sale of marijuana and for resisting arrest. In the same bust, they arrested Garza's brother, Michael J. Garza, 25, and uncle Tony C. Garza, 49, both of

Excelsior Springs, Mo., formerly of Goodland; and Manuel F. Villarreal, 22, of Tulsa, Okla., for first-degree drug trafficking and Alvaro A. Hinojos of Garden City for deceiving a police officer.

Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson said officers here arrested Anthony Garza Tuesday, Dec. 24, and he ran. Garza had been under investigation for almost a year, Whitson said, before officers served the warrant that day.

When Missouri is done with him, Whitson said, they'll notify us, and we will go get him. In Sherman County, Whitson said, Garza faces two counts of sale of narcotics within 1,000 feet of a school, two counts of possession and a count of escaping from custody.

"When it came time to arrest him, he ran," Whitson said, "but he didn't get far."

He ran from one state, Whitson said, and went to another to do the

same thing.

Columbia Police responded to a call of suspicious activity at the Quality Inn at 9:30 p.m. Sunday. Hotel employees said there was a lot of activity and a lot of phone calls to the room.

While officers questioned four men in the room, two tried to flee and were arrested.

After finding the key to a rental car in the room, police searched the car with the K-9 unit and found 90

pounds of marijuana. Officers went to two other rooms associated with the suspects, and one other person was arrested.

Anthony Garza ran into a wall, injuring himself, while running from the Columbia Police and was listed in good condition Monday morning at University Hospital.

Villarreal and Tony Garza were held at Boone County Jail on a \$100,000 bond, and Michael Garza was held on a \$100,500 bond.