

weather  
report

40°

at noon

Today

•Sunset, 4:47 p.m.

Tomorrow

•Sunrise, 6:15 a.m.

•Sunset, 4:46 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 59 degrees
- Humidity 55 percent
- Sky overcast
- Winds north 12 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.85 inches and rising

- Record High 87° (1950)
- Record Low 12° (1991)

Last 24 Hours\*

High	90°
Low	36°
Precipitation	none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow showers, high mid 40s, low upper 20s, winds southeast 15-20. Saturday: partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain, windy, high mid 50s, low mid 30s, winds southeast 20 to 30 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain, breezy, high lower 50s, low lower 30s. Monday: partly cloudy, breezy, high lower 50s, low mid 30s. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.33 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.40  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Corn — \$2.43 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.27  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Milo — \$2.21 bushel  
Soybeans — \$7.46 bushel  
Posted county price — \$7.40  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Millet — \$5 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$10.35 cwt.  
NuSun — \$10.80 cwt.  
Confection — \$16/\$9 cwt.  
Pinto beans — Withdrawn  
(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside  
today

More local  
news and  
views from  
your  
Goodland  
Star-News



Contest  
winning kids

Shaina Sapp's cheerleader costume was a hit at Tuesday's Moonlight Madness, and she performer a special cheer for the crowd while the judges came to a decision. See story and photos on Page 6.

Family fights hardship of separation

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

A Goodland woman finds herself raising five kids while the parents of two of them, 4-year-old twins, serve their country as Army sergeants in Iraq.

She says she may write the president asking him to bring some soldiers home.

Though she views her daughter and son-in-law as heroes, Judy Morris says she feels their sacrifice should be over. Her grandchildren need their parents back, she says.

And the couple has endured danger; injuries, including a broken nose and back injury for her, shrapnel in the neck for him; and not seeing each other or their children for eight months.

Morris has been caring for the 4-year-old twins for eight months while her daughter Veronica Hooten and son-in-law Chris, both sergeants in the Army, have been in Iraq.

The twins miss their parents; Veronica and Chris miss each other; and Morris is caring for three 4-year-olds and a 3-year-old and raising a teen-ager of her own. Not to mention that Morris misses her daughter and son-in-law and battles the constant worry that a phone call will bring bad news.

"If God's ever put me through a test," Morris said, "this is it."

Besides caring for the Hootens' twins, Madeline and Madison, both girls, Morris has a 14-year-old, Elizabeth, and her oldest daughter's children, Bobby and LeAnn, whom she's planning to adopt.

Although both in Iraq, Veronica and Chris have only spent nine days together (in October) since their departure March 8. And they have been dealing with constant danger.

Morris said Veronica's nose was broken and her back was hurt, and Chris was in the hospital two days with shrapnel in his neck after terrorists attacked a convoy he was traveling on.

Children are invited to show off their costumes tonight beginning at 5:30 at the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th St., at the annual Halloween event hosted by the Goodland Police Department.

Police Chief R.L. Smee said this will be the third year children can trick-or-treat the police department. Officers will be giving away trick-or-treat bags, candy, soft drinks and party favors.

Officers on patrol will have candy with them to pass out. Smee said this was something he initiated when he was chief of police in Belleville then continued when he came to Goodland in 1999.

"Doing this helps foster good a good relationship with the community's children," said Smee.

The department has complied a list of safety tips to help ensure a safe and happy Halloween for everyone.

Motorists

- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars.
- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.

Parents

Before children start out on their trick-or-treat rounds, parents should:

- Make sure an adult or an older responsible youth will be supervising the younger children.
- Plan and discuss the route the trick-or-treaters intend to follow, know the names of older children's companions.
- Instruct your children to travel only in familiar areas and along an established route.
- Teach your children to stop only at houses or apartments that are well lighted and never to enter a stranger's house.
- Establish a return time.
- Tell your children not to eat any treat until they return home so you can check them.



Jacque Cooper, owner of Jacque's Hallmark, gave candy to Judy Morris' grandchildren at the Moonlight Madness Tuesday. From left

to right are "Ladybug" LeAnn, Madison as a bumble bee, Madeline as a lady bug and Bobby as a soldier.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

When Veronica was on a convoy going through Baghdad, Morris said, Iraqis tried to pull her off the truck. When they go out on convoys, she said, it's dangerous. That's when terrorists attack.

"I wish they would come home," Morris said.

There are still a lot of terrorists in Iraq, Morris said, people who don't want the Americans there. And the soldiers have been there for months, the Hootens since March.

"It's about time some of them come home," Morris said. "I'm thinking about writing to the president."

Every night, she said, the kids pray for their mom and dad, and Bobby prays for his uncle Chris. Elizabeth misses her sister, Morris said, and e-mails her as often as possible.

Bobby is proud of his uncle, she said, and imitates him. He wants to do everything in camouflage, she

said, and got an Army costume for Halloween.

"It's really sad when something like this is going on," she said. "You never know what kind of phone call you'll get from day to day."

Morris said she tries to keep the kids busy so they won't have too much time to worry and keeps their memories alive.

"I have pictures of their parents all over the house," she said, "and take them to Colorado Springs so they

can see their house."

The Hootens were stationed at Fort Carson at Colorado Springs before being sent to Iraq. He was in the 10th Special Forces in Colorado, and she handled top-secret information, communicating with the White House and the Pentagon.

Morris said she took the kids swimming in the summer and has been taking them to the library each

See IRAQ, Page 3

Watch out for kids in costume tonight

Student uses secret weapon on alien



A local soldier (above), armed with a secret weapon concocted by students at Northwest Kansas Technical College, took aim at a sour-faced alien (right) in one of the scenes created for the



college's annual haunted house in the basement of the student union. The haunted house was open 5-8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

Photos by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

- Review all appropriate trick-or-treat safety precautions, include pedestrian-traffic safety rules.

- Pin a slip of paper with the child's name, address and phone number inside a pocket in case he or she gets separated from the group.

Costume Design

- Use only fire-retardant materials for costumes
- Costumes should be loose so warm clothes may be worn underneath.
- Costumes should not be so long they are a tripping hazard. Falls are the leading cause of unintentional injuries on Halloween.
- If children are allowed out after

dark, outfits should be made with light-colored materials and strips of reflective tape should be used to make children more visible.

Face Design

- Masks can obstruct a child's vision, so consider using facial makeup instead.
- When buying Halloween makeup, check for packages containing ingredients that are labeled "Made with U.S. approved color additives," "laboratory tested," "meets federal standards for cosmetics," or "non-toxic" and follow the manufacturer's instructions for applications.
- If masks are worn, they should

have nose and mouth openings and large eyeholes.

Accessories

- Knives, swords and other accessories should be made of cardboard or other flexible materials. Don not let children to carry sharp objects.
- Bags and sacks carried by children should be light colored or trimmed with reflective tape, if they are allowed out after dark.
- Carrying flashlights will help children see and be seen more clearly.
- On The Way
- Children should understand and follow these rules:
- Do not enter homes or apartments without adult supervision.

- Walk, do not run, from house to house. Do not cross yards and lawns where unseen objects or uneven terrain can present tripping hazards.
- Walk on sidewalks, not on the streets.
- If there are no sidewalks, walk on the left side of the road facing traffic.

Treats

To ensure a safe trick-or-treating, parent are urges to:

- Give children an early meal before going out.
- Wash fruit and slice it into small pieces.
- When in doubt about a treat, throw it out.