

**weather report**

**58°**

at noon



**Today**

• Sunset, 4:30 p.m.

**Tomorrow**

• Sunrise, 6:35 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:29 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil Temperature 45 degrees
- Humidity 22 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds west 10 m.p.h..
- Barometer 29.55 inches and steady
- Record High 77° (1995)
- Record Low 11° (1937)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High 60°  
 Low 39°  
 Precipitation none

**N.W. Kansas Forecast**

Today: Mostly sunny, high near 57, low near 29, winds north-northwest 17-37 m.p.h. Wednesday: Sunny, high near 70, low around 35, winds southwest 7-9 m.p.h.

**Extended Forecast**

Thursday: Mostly sunny, high around 75, low around 33. Friday: Partly cloudy, high near 62, low near 32. Saturday: Partly cloudy, high near 52, low around 24. Sunday: Mostly cloudy, high near 40. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**

**Noon**

- Wheat — \$3.57 bushel
- New crop — \$3.38 bushel
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$2.31 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.22
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$2.15 bushel
- Soybeans — \$7.18 bushel
- Posted county price — \$7.10
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$5 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$11.35 cwt.
- NuSun — \$11.60 cwt.
- Confection — \$19/\$6 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- Pinto beans — Withdrawn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



**Bye champs at wiffle ball**

Junior Anthony Benavides of the team Bye took his turn at bat in the championship game of Goodland High School's week-long wiffle ball tournament. See story and photo on Page 9.

## Santa gets kids' Christmas wishes

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Starting a few minutes late failed to dampen the spirits of the crowd lining Main Avenue for Goodland's Christmas parade.

Leading the procession were city policeman Greg Kroskey and sheriff's Deputy Roger Studer, who had to leave suddenly a few minutes after the parade started.

Next in line was a color guard from Goodland's unit of the Kansas National Guard, comprised of Sgts. Mark Reasoner, Donald Frecks, Jimmy Moore and Dana Branstetter.

Following were three flat-bed trailers loaded with holiday well-wishers distributing candy to the crowd. The first group labeled "Round-Up for Christmas" was sponsored by the First Baptist Church and the second carried a simple Christmas display and a message of thanks to Jesus for the gifts he gives. The third trailer carried the consolidated membership of the area's Boy and Girl Scout troops.

Next came 21 motorcycles signifying that start of their Toys for Tots campaign, through which toys will be collected for needy children in the Goodland area to be distributed for Christmas through Genesis.

The guest of honor, Santa Claus, came next riding one of the county's fire trucks, waving to the crowd and wishing everybody a happy holiday.

Bringing up the rear was the state Class 4A volleyball champions, the Cowgirls of Goodland High, riding on another flat-bed semitrailer.

At the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce office, Santa dismounted and sat in his chair to receive wishes from the good children of the community.

A reception was held outside the Chamber's office when the Cowgirls arrived. Chamber Ambassador Dale Schields commended the team for their achievement. Marty Melia, representing the Goodland School Board, praised the team for their accomplishments.

Next the team's seniors and Coach Jerry McKee were invited to say a few words. They thanked the



Hunter Harkins (above) made his Christmas wishes known to Santa late Saturday afternoon at the Chamber of Commerce office. Hunter told the old guy he wants a remote-controlled space rocket. Keith and Cindy Bowman gave a ride to their grandchildren in the Christmas parade Saturday on Main Avenue. The Bowsmans led a procession of 21 motorcycles that symbolized the start of a Toys for Tots campaign sponsored by area motorcycle enthusiasts.

Photos by Greg Stover  
 The Goodland Star-News



town for its support and talked about the joy they experienced during the season and the memories they will keep from it.

## Shoppe to help children buy family gifts

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

A flurry of activity at the Goodland Churches Thrift Shop is whipping up a special shoppe for children to buy affordable Christmas gifts for their family.

Manager Jo Simmons said she has spent a good portion of the last two months planning the one-day affair and lining up volunteers and donations to pull it off.

"This is what I love to do," she said, "community projects."

Simmons will have the help of high school students, senior citizens and many people from Goodland and the surrounding area, and is even getting some help from a homeless shelter in Lawrence.

The Kids Christmas Shoppe will open at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at the thrift store. Kids to age 14 will have the opportunity to buy one gift for each of their family members, including grandparents, at the shop.

The children can choose from items including toys, dolls, gift baskets and jewelry, priced from 25 cents to \$5, and can have their gifts wrapped by volunteers.

There will be Christmas trees and decorations available. All children up to 14 are eligible to participate, Simmons said; there is no economic factor. The kids can choose from quality, carefully loved or new gifts, she said.

The children need to bring a list of family members they are shopping for, Simmons said, with the names printed for the gift tags.

The shop is first come, first served, but she hopes people will only take what they need for their family and give everyone a chance at the low-priced gifts.

Simmons said she has saved plastic toys from kids' meals, stuffed animals, dolls, jewelry and other items for the shop.

She's hoarded wrapping paper,



Jo Simmons, manager of the Goodland Churches Thrift Shop, pulled a giant reindeer, a stuffed kids' chair, down from the pile in the back storage area. Simmons is preparing for the shop's Christmas Kids Shoppe to help children afford Christmas gifts for their families.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

ribbons, bows and yarn. Volunteers have taken stuffed animals home to wash them, while others cleaned, repaired and sewn doll clothes.

And many volunteers have been cutting gift tags out of Christmas cards.

Simmons said she is still accepting donations of cash, toys and other items and is looking for volunteers to help the children shop and wrap gifts.

The family and consumer sciences class at Goodland High School is making hot chocolate mix and muffin mix, Simmons said,

washing cups and putting together gift baskets. The students are also making goodie jars of cookie ingredients. They have to do a community service project for their semester grade.

Simmons said she is asking churches to donate cookie ingredients for the jars and needs to know by Friday what will be donated to know how much she will need to buy.

She's asking for cash to help buy those ingredients, wrapping paper, tape, ribbon, batteries for toys, candles for gift baskets, shampoos,

conditioners, soaps and bath salts.

She said the Goodland Rotary and Kiwanis clubs have agreed to help.

Comfort Inn, Super 8 and Buffalo Inn have donated bags of coffee for gift baskets, Simmons said, and Comfort Inn gave combs and shower caps.

Simmons said her daughter is the director of the Lawrence Homeless Drop-in Shelter and has been given many cases of bath items from motels in the area.

She's sharing some for the gift baskets, Simmons said.

Residents at the Sherman County

Good Samaritan Center and Wheat Ridge Acres and clients of Golden West Skills Center are cutting gift tags from Christmas cards, Simmons said.

Goodland Regional Medical Center is saving boxes for the shop, she said, because there are a lot of toys to box up.

Bill Hartzler and Taylor Tomsic, son of Lisa and Rob Tomsic, are making wooden doll furniture, she said, and Mary Schippert is repairing and making doll clothes.

Deanna Currie crochets doll clothes and sews pillows, pot holders and towel holders and styles dolls' hair.

Beverly Hurd made some doll clothes, and Shelda Benally donated dolls and doll clothes. Barb Springsteen of Brewster made doll clothes.

Simmons said she's asking the 4-H clubs to help the kids choose gifts and help with gift wrapping the day the shop is open.

Sherryl Ketter has said she'd help, Simmons said, and Carol Gattshall and Sharon Jensen brought in gift boxes.

Holton Witman and Brandon Sissel are helping sort and package toys, she said, and Gertrude Carroll provided a bag sealer to package toys to keep them clean. Simmons said she welcomes help from anyone who wants to work.

She said the thrift shop will need to close at least on Friday, Dec. 12, to get ready for the shop and that she and others will clean out the shelves and toy room for Christmas items. There will also be Christmas items hanging on the walls.

The shop's short window will change weekly until after the Christmas Shop, the manager said, displaying Christmas items for sale.

The other window will be decorated with Christmas items that are store property, she said.