

weather report

42°
 at noon



Today

•Sunset, 4:24 p.m.
Tomorrow
 •Sunrise, 6:49 a.m.
 •Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

•Soil Temperature 43 degrees
 •Humidity 25 percent
 •Sky cloudy
 •Winds south 20 m.p.h.
 •Barometer 30.45 inches and falling
 •Record High 71° (1998)
 •Record Low -5° (1985)

Last 24 Hours*

High 65°
 Low 23°
 Precipitation none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: partly cloudy with 20 percent chance of snow showers in the evening, high around 51, low near 26, winds south 9-14 m.p.h.
 Wednesday: mostly sunny, high near 51, low around 27, winds northwest 5-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: mostly sunny, high near 50, low around 20. Friday: mostly sunny, high around 48, low near 22. Saturday: mostly sunny, high around 57, low around 23.
(National Weather Service)
 Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.
 * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.77 bushel
 New crop — \$3.39 bushel
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Corn — \$2.40 bushel
 Posted county price — \$2.29
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Milo — \$2.24 bushel
 Soybeans — \$7.01 bushel
 Posted county price — \$6.94
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight
 Sunflowers
 Oil current crop — \$11.45 cwt.
 NuSun — \$11.70 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 Pinto beans — Withdrawn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



Scooters open in downtown

Owner Scott Weber helped a shopper at Scooters, 1101 Main Ave., Saturday morning. The store, opened for business Oct. 31, offers formal, casual and sport wear. See story and photos on Page 3.

Big start to Christmas shopping

3 winners collect \$50

There is \$250 hidden in today's *Goodland Star-News*, but only those with the right numbers will win part of it. Let's hope you're one of them.

Five "instant winner" numbers from Goodland merchants' sixth annual Christmas on Us promotion are hidden in ads in today's special section. The contest will spread a total of \$2,500 around to 12 lucky shoppers over the next few weeks.

Three lucky winners have already claimed their \$50 prizes in the contest.

Marie Johnson, owner of Keepsake Creations, 120 W. 11th, claimed \$50 prize on Friday. She got her winning ticket at Bankwest, 924 Main.

Cameron Pittman, a custodian at West Elementary School, claimed his prize Tuesday. He got the winning ticket at Aten Department Store, 1103 Main Ave.

Kelly Rippe of B&K Pumping claimed her prize Wednesday. She got her ticket at Garcia's Home Furnishing and Appliance, 1114 Main Ave.

The contest continues this week with participating businesses handing out tickets to customers. It will end on Saturday, Dec. 20, when the grand prize of \$1,500 and second prize of \$500 will be given away during a drawing in downtown Goodland.

Shoppers will have plenty of chances to win the smaller \$50 prizes along the way.

Businesses will hand out one ticket for every \$10 a customer spends, with a limit of 250 tickets per transaction. Of course, you can win without spending a dime, because if you ask *Star-News* employees, they'll give you one free ticket each week.

The customer takes one half of each numbered ticket and the other half is dropped into wrapped collection boxes, which are emptied once a week into a large barrel. *Star-News* staff will pick tickets each week and hide the winning numbers in Christmas on Us advertisements, which will run every Tuesday.

Winners have six days, until the next Monday, to bring their winning tickets to *The Star-News* office,



People (above) lined up at the customer service counter minutes after the doors opened Friday morning at Wal-Mart, 2160 Commerce Rd. Customers (right) started lining up at Wal-Mart's front door as early as 5:30 in the morning to take advantage special offers during "the biggest shopping day of the season." About 250 rushed through the doors when they opened at 6.

Photos by Greg Stover
 The Goodland Star-News

1205 Main, and collect \$50 in scrip, which can be spent at participating businesses.

Ten \$50 instant prizes will be given out over four weeks, for a total of \$500. Five winning numbers appear in ads today, which means five shoppers have a chance to win up to \$250 this week. Other numbers will appear on Tuesday, Dec. 9 and 16.

If all of the \$50 instant prizes aren't claimed during the month, they will be awarded at the grand prize drawing.

It's simple enough, but there are a few rules.

- You must be 18 to participate.



- Employees of participating businesses are not eligible at their workplace, but can collect tickets from other sponsors. *Star-News* employees are not eligible.
- All prizes will be awarded in scrip, which can be spent only at participating businesses.
- The last day to collect tickets is Friday, Dec. 19.

- Winners must be present at the grand prize drawing and be able to show their winning ticket.

Participating businesses include American Communications, Hitchcock Inc., Mann's Jewelry, Medical Arts Pharmacy, Knott Just Books, Scooter's and Sight and Sound, Bankwest, Jacque's Hallmark, Frontier Equity Exchange, Aten

Department Store, Miller's Electronics, Elliott's, People's State Bank, Eagle Cable Television, El Dorado, Garcia's Home Furnishings and Appliance, Seamhead, Sunflower Computers Services and Cyberland Gaming Center, Madd Hatters and Keepsake Creations, McClung's Appliance and Furniture and *The Star-News*.

City offices close for works chief's funeral

Goodland Public Works Director Edward J. Wolak, 48, died unexpectedly Saturday while working cattle at his in-laws ranch south of Oakley.

The funeral will be at 10 a.m. today, Dec. 2, 2003, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Goodland.

City offices will be closed all day, but emergency services will be available.

Wolak, a lifelong Goodland resi-

dent, had worked for the city for 28 years. He had been public works director four years, and before that, was the light plant superintendent.

"This is the third city employee in less than a year," said City Manager Ron Pickman. "It is taking a toll on the employees."

"His loss will put us in a bind for a while. He was a valuable member of the staff and an exemplary employee, the kind every boss begs to have.

You wish you could have a 100 like him and feel lucky you got one.

"He has taken on a wide variety of tasks over the years and was sort of a perfectionist. He liked to see a job done well. He never complained about anything and just went and did the work. He is irreplaceable as far as I am concerned."

Wolak was born April 12, 1955, in Goodland, the son of Janie (Mawek) and Stanley J. Wolak, and graduated from Goodland High School in 1974.

On April 24, 1976, he married

Kathy Racette in Grinnell. Wolak was a member of the church. He enjoyed his children's activities and sporting events, his granddaughter Makayla, and the stock car races.

Preceding him in death was his mother in 1987.

Other survivors include his wife; two sons, Lukas Wolak and fiancée Amber Boyd, and Shandon Wolak and fiancée Tina Perry; two daughters, Janelle and Andrea; his father; and a sister, Beverly Wolak; all of Goodland; another sister, Helen (Dale) Wood of Salina; and a

brother, Steve Wolak of Kansas City, Kansas.

Father Norbert Dlabal will officiate at the service, with burial in the Goodland Cemetery.

A vigil service was scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday at Koons Chapel. Visitation was set from 3-7 p.m. Monday at the chapel and at the church before the service.

Memorials may be made to the Ed Wolak Memorial fund in care of the funeral home at 211 N. Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735-1555.

County considers oil and gas lease near Caruso

Sherman County is considering a request for a five-year gas and oil lease on a 135-acre tract of county land north of old U.S. 24 west of Goodland.

This land is east of the Archer-Daniels Midland sunflower oil plant, and includes the sewer pond area the county has been offering to sell to ADM.

Gary Timmer of Press Oil Investments of Wray, Colo., working with Rosewood Resources of Dallas, told the commissioners last Tuesday that his company would offer \$22.50 per

acre for the five-year lease, plus a \$5 per acre one time payment once the papers are signed.

The county has been working with ADM for several months to transfer about 50 of the 135 acres.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure suggested the county revise the offer to ADM to sever the minerals and reserve them to the county.

Rasure made a motion to send a new offer to ADM setting out the changes, which passed unanimously with Commissioners Mitch Tiede and Chuck Thomas voting in

favor.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby prepared a letter to be mailed to ADM with the new offer.

The commissioners decided not to meet today, but rather to hold a special meeting on Friday to sign the oil and gas lease.

Timmer told the commissioners his company wants to do a three-dimensional survey of the property, but wanted assurance that they would be able to get the lease.

The commissioners asked Timmer to ask for \$25 per acre for

the five-year lease, and he said he thought that was possible.

In other business the commissioners:

- Heard from members of the prairie dog committee that they felt there were few landowners who had not taken action under the county plan. They suggested that weed supervisor Daryl West contact the ones who have reserved poison, but have not picked it up, to get that moving.
- Decided to do the same Christmas bonuses for county employees as last year. Those who have been

full time for at least six months would receive \$100, and those who are part-time would receive \$50.

- Approved donating \$100 to the White Elephant Sale run by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Selby said the money would come out of the diversion fund.

- Discussed Phyllis Long's termination from the Register of Deeds office. She asked if it was because of a disability as marked on an insurance form, but the commissioners