

weather report

40°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:52 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:23 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 39 degrees
- Humidity 62 percent
- Sky overcast
- Winds north 20-25 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.29 inches and rising

- Record High 75° (1939)
- Record Low -8° (1972)

Last 24 Hours*

High	42°
Low	21°
Precipitation	none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high near 40, low near 15, winds northwest 6-11 changing to southeast 6-32 m.p.h. Saturday: partly cloudy, high around 55, low around 31, winds south 11-14 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy, high around 64, low around 35. Monday: mostly cloudy with a slight chance of snow showers, high near 42, low near 22. Tuesday: partly cloudy with a slight chance of snow showers until 11 a.m., high near 40, low around 18.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

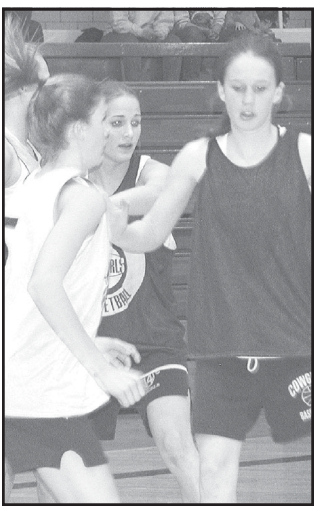
local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$3.83 bushel
 - New Crop — \$3.45 bushel
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Corn — \$2.42 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.35
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Milo — \$2.26 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$7.15 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$7.14
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$11.40 cwt.
 - NuSun — \$11.65 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 - Pinto beans — Withdrawn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



Cowgirls play tonight

Melissa Swager, Whitney Carmichael, Justeen Koehler and Jennifer Enfield faced off on opposite sides during the soap scrimmage Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. See story and photo on Page 12.

Special Christmas trees available

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Wooden Christmas trees with paint spatters and strings of lights are being made to order with a variety of themes, from a traditional tree with a gold star to blue and orange, topped with a Denver Broncos logo.

Clients of the Golden West Skills Center have had a chance to stay busy working with their hands and earn a little money while giving customers a permanent tree that requires no water and allows them to show their team spirit during the holidays.

A director and an administrator have combined efforts to create and launch the project and are hoping to keep wood-working as a regular feature of the center and expand it to include more people.

The center's administrator, Meripat Bowman, said she got the idea for the trees from her sister-in-law, who teaches a special education class in Houston. The students their had made the trees as a fund-raiser.

Bowman said her brother e-mailed her pictures of the trees, and Bob Simmons, director of support

services at the center, made a prototype and set up the tools the tree-makers need.

Bob has really taken it on and owned it, Bowman said.

"He's quite the guy," she said. "I hope he never leaves."

There are really just three people working on the trees, Bowman said, but hopefully, next year it can be expanded to include 10-12 people. There are two who have the ability to see the project through from beginning to end, she said, but others could help with various stages.

Different ones could paint, do the spatter and string the lights, she said.

The trees sell for \$25 and up, Bowman said, and those making them get paid, then the rest of the money goes for supplies to keep the project going. Once Christmas is over, she said, they can continue to do other wood-working projects, such as making lawn ornaments and jewelry boxes.

The trees have been the jump into it, she said.

And they have mostly been selling by word of mouth. When the

initial tree was done, Bowman said, it was up front. When the nurses came from Rural Health Ventures to give flu shots, she said, they saw the tree and wanted some like it.

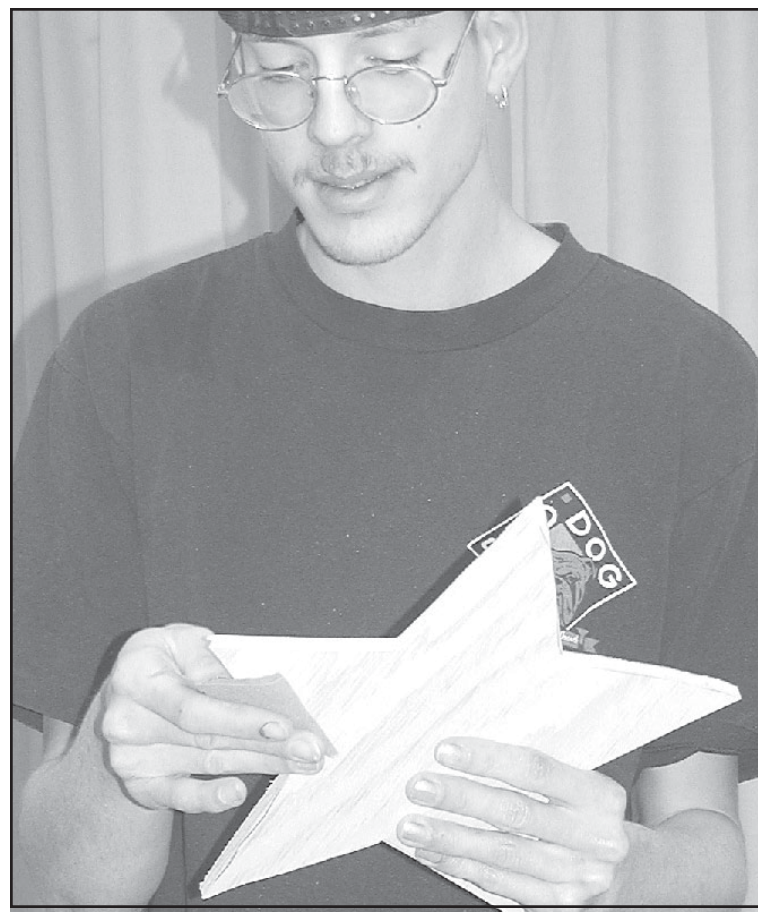
Employees have ordered trees, she said, and there's one at the courthouse and one at the city office that have drawn some orders.

"I don't know whose idea it was to expand into sports logos," Bowman said. "It may have been Stan's (Bulinski, who works part time at the center). His mother wanted a K-State one."

Bowman is proud of what the center does for the community as well as the clients. She said the center teaches clients who take advantage of its day services life skills and keeps the clients integrated in the community by helping them to live as independently as possible.

The center employs 74 people on any given day, she said, including keeping 11 homes staffed around the clock. There is a computer lab, sensory integration room and classes at the center, she said.

"All of my employees are good people," Bowman said.



Toy, food are tickets to special holiday shows

The Sherman Theatre will make a special collection for the area toy-for-tots campaign before matinees Saturday and Sunday.

Theater employees will collect a donation of a food item, toy or \$1 cash as the price of admission to the matinee shows this weekend. The afternoon feature is "Spy Kids 3-D Game Over," starting at 1:30 p.m. both days.

The campaign, organized by an informal group of motorcycle enthusiasts, kicked off with the annual Christmas parade Nov. 15.

Fred Studer of Fred's Auto Repair, the contact for the campaign, says about a station wagon load of toys already has been collected and they have not yet bought any with cash donations. Studer said the goal is to equal last year's collection, "three pick-ups and two station wagons" worth of toys.

"We definitely appreciate the support

of the people of Sherman County," Studer said, "and all the donated money received will be spent in Sherman County."

New toys are preferred, but used toys will be accepted if they are in like-new condition. Studer said the group does not have any way to fix them.

He says the toys should not be gift wrapped, since they will have to be sorted by gender and age group by the volunteers at Genesis food bank. The toys will be delivered to families along with the food baskets Genesis provides.

Toys can be dropped off between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Fred's Auto Repair, 408 W. Business U.S. 24.

"We will, of course, continue to take cash donations, large or small," said Studer.

For information, call Studer at (785)890-5551. The theater is at 1203 Main Ave.



Chet Hatfield (above right) sanded a star for the top of one of the Christmas trees being made at Golden West Skills Center. Finished trees, (above) including a Denver Broncos and a Kansas State Wildcats tree, stand near the entrance of the center.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Sheriff searching for missing Goodland man

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The Sherman County sheriff's office has been looking for a missing 44-year-old Goodland man who was last seen running away from a house north of the city last week.

"We have not found Jimmy McClelland," Sheriff Doug Whitson said Thursday. "We have been looking all over the area for him since he was seen running away from Mark Peden's home when a sheriff deputy arrived."

Whitson said deputies were called



McClelland

to the Peden home at 6940 County Road 19 about 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 24. There was a report of someone threatening with a knife, he said, and that a shot had been fired.

"We know McClelland and Peden had an argument," Whitson said. "We do not know what it was about, and McClelland took off running on foot when the deputy drove up."

"McClelland's girlfriend was in his pickup when he ran off. Peden said he shot a gun in the air during the argument.

"We have used airplanes, two dog

teams from Colby, one local dog team, 4-wheel drive and all terrain vehicles.

"We have heard a lot of rumors that he has been found dead at several different locations in the county, but so far they have been false.

"We are asking anyone who may know where he is to call the sheriff's office at 785-899-4835.

"I am getting concerned about his welfare, but we have done about all we can at this time."

His Aunt Marie Edwards said no one in the family has heard from

him. McClelland's mother, Jan, works at the Goodland Regional Medical Center and he has two sisters Rhonda Skrdlant and Tammie Barnes.

Edwards said he was laid off from Union Pacific a couple of weeks ago, and that he has been working some as a part time carpet layer.

Whitson said McClelland's description has been entered in the national listing of missing persons.

McClelland, 44, is described as 5'11", 190 pounds, with brown hair and hazel eyes.

City approves loan application for Aircraft Seal, Gasket

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp.'s request for a \$200,000 state economic development loan through the city was approved on a 4-0 vote at the regular City Commission meeting Monday.

The application will be processed through the Community Development Block Grant program, a federal program that provides grants and loans through the state Department of Commerce and Housing.

Doug Bruggeman, with the Northwest Kansas Regional Planning and Development Commission in Hill City, told the city commission the \$200,000 is much less than the maximum of \$750,000 under the loan program. The city is sponsoring the loan application, but would not be responsible for repayment even if the firm didn't pay the state.

"The loan requires one job to be created for every \$35,000 that is

borrowed," Bruggeman said. "For Aircraft Seal and Gasket, it would be about six jobs for the \$200,000 loan amount."

There were no objections during a public hearing held at the beginning of the commission meeting, but later when the commission was discussing approval of the application, Dave Walker, 1016 Harrison, raised an objection.

"Where is the risk in this?" Walker asked. "What happens if they walk out. I don't see any risk to the company in this.

"What are the terms of the loan?" "The loan will be at 4 percent for five years," Bruggeman said. "The loan specifications are established by the state, and the company will be required to provide collateral as well as a \$100,000 match."

"I don't feel government should be involved in gambling," Walker said. "What about the local banks.

See CITY, Page 3

Building dedicated to fallen works director

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The city commission took a few minutes Monday to remember Public Works Director Ed Wolak, who died Saturday.

"I called him Steady Eddie," said Mayor Rick Billinger. "He was always working and handling anything that he was asked to do. We are going to really miss him."

In honor of Wolak's 28 years of service to the city, the commission unanimously approved a resolution dedicating the city's building at 1006 Center, which has been renovated for Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp., in his memory.

"We will order the plaque,"

City Manager Ron Pickman said, "and it will say 'In memory of Ed Wolak, Director of Public Works and Utilities, City of Goodland, Aug. 1, 1998 to Nov. 28, 2003.' "We will miss him. I wish I was half as good as he was.

"We will have a tough time replacing him, and know that things will not be a smooth for a while."

The resolution said Wolak "was a capable, honest, courteous and trustworthy employee who has devoted himself unselfishly to the duties of his position.

"We mourn his loss and extend to his wife and family our sincere sympathy in their hour of deep bereavement."

Commissioner Dean Blume said he will miss Wolak's friend-

liness, and wished to extend his sympathy to the family.

Commissioner John Garcia echoed Blume's thoughts.

"I was saying to Mary Volk that in the short time I have been a commissioner, I got used to looking out and seeing Ed on the front row, and now I won't see him."

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he also agreed they will miss Ed, and he wanted to extend his condolences to his family and friends.

"This will be a tough one to get over," Billinger said.

Many city employees and commissioners attended the funeral on Tuesday at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church. The sanctuary was full.