

weather report

45°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:56 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 38 degrees
- Humidity 53 percent
- Sky Clear
- Winds NE 16 mph
- Barometer 29.68 inches and falling
- Record High 71° (1975)
- Record Low -14° (1972)

Last 24 Hours*

High 66°
Low 23°
Precipitation —

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Areas of blowing snow in morning, windy cooler. High lower 30s. North winds 25 to 35 mph. Tonight: Partly cloudy, lows around 15. Wind NW 15 to 20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, high upper 30s. Winds W around 15 shifting to the south 15 to 20 in afternoon. Lows around 19. Thursday: Partly cloudy, highs around 40, low around 19.

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

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$3.74 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.72
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Corn — \$2.40 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.32
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 00c
 - Milo — \$2.21 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$7.11 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.98
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0.00c
 - Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$11.50 cwt.
 - NuSun — \$11.75 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 - Pinto beans — Withdrawn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



Bahe wins at St. Francis

Freshman Brett Bahe (bottom) struggled with Colby's Dan Tumble at the St. Francis Tournament Saturday. See story and photo on Page 9.

Volunteers search Beaver Creek

Missing man not found

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Volunteers and Sherman County sheriff's deputies walked, rode and flew over a seven-mile section of Beaver Creek northwest of Goodland on Saturday, hoping to find clues to the disappearance of a 44 year-old Goodland man.

The search at least confirmed that Jimmy McClelland, who has been missing since Nov. 24, was not in the area along the creek, as has been rumored in town.

"I didn't really expect to find him," Sheriff Doug Whitson said Saturday. "At least this should be some comfort to the family, and tells us he is not laying out in a field somewhere. We do not know where he is hiding, but believe the search shows he is alive somewhere."

Asked when the last time the department has run such a massive search, Whitson said, "This is the first for me in 20 years."

"With this completed, we have done about all we can unless we get some more leads, or McClelland calls someone to say he is OK."

Many rumors have circulated since McClelland's disappearance. Some had him found dead in the creek bed or near Kanorado. Whitson said if McClelland had checked into a treatment center, it should have turned up through the national crime database system.

The search was centered southwest of the Mark Peden home at 6940 County Road 19. McClelland was seen running in that direction by a sheriff's deputy who had been called because of an argument that included a gunshot.

Whitson said the search around the Peden house included the help of several dog teams and four-wheel all-terrain vehicles over the Thanksgiving weekend. He said three dog teams had been used, but they were not able to locate any signs.

Saturday morning, about 17 volunteers plus a eight deputies gathered at the Sherman County Bastille to organize and plan the search.

One of the volunteers was Marie Edwards, McClelland's aunt, who rode with Harlan House and kept an

eye on the walkers through a pair of binoculars. She said the searchers scared up a coyote and several pheasants, but did not see any deer.

Whitson divided the group into two teams and split the four-wheelers between each team so there were people walking as well as the four-wheelers, which could cover more ground.

Whitson said the area is sort of rough terrain, and they felt McClelland might have followed the creek down toward I-70. He said the deputies had found his tracks leading to the southwest of the Peden house, but they had lost them after about a quarter mile.

"If you spot anything that looks like a body, don't touch it," Whitson said during his briefing. "We will get the right people in to handle the scene. He was wearing blue jeans and a dark blue sweatshirt. I don't expect to find him, but we need to answer some questions."

The Goodland School District provided a school bus to haul the walkers once everybody had their team assignments. The first team was dropped off near Jack Walker's home on Road 69 southwest of Peden's. They searched the creek to the southwest while the second team was dropped off about a mile to the south.

The whole group gathered south of Century Feeders and then moved across country, moving southwest until they reached the area east of Caruso where the creek crosses old U.S. 24. The search began about 9 a.m. and was completed about 1:30 p.m.

While the teams were beginning the search on the ground, Sheriff Whitson flew the area again with Ken Siruta before he joined the ground forces south of Century Feeders.

About noon, the teams gathered at the creek crossing on Road 67 west of Road 17, where food was brought out by a deputy. Gambino's, Pizza Hut, Wendy's, McDonald's and Taco Johns all donated food to feed the searchers. Water was provided to the volunteers all along the way. The water was from Wal-Mart and it was

kept cold in ice from Mid America Inn.

Deputies involved in the search were Undersheriff Kevin Butts, Roger Studer, Terry Smith, Burton Pianalto, Jason Showalter, Barb Disney and Irma Benavides.

The volunteers were Alex (Chip) Miller, Timothy Armknecht, Alan David, Dave Smith, Jerry Armstrong, Dale Skrdlant, Gary Garrett, Harry Hurst, Clarence Howard, Craig Austin, House, Sonya Vandiver, Edwards, Danyale Nothdurft, Mel Bracelin, Dennis Snethen, Gary Snethen and Mike Lake.

Sheriff Whitson said he wanted to thank everyone who helped, and Ken Siruta who donated his time to fly the area. Steve Evert supplied an ATV. Whitson said, "the landowners should be thanked for letting us conduct the search on their land."



Sheriff Doug Whitson (top right) talks to several of the volunteers during a break south of Century Feeders during the search of Beaver Creek for clues to the disappearance of Jimmy McClelland. The volunteers and sheriff deputies (above) walked about seven miles of the creek looking for any sign of the missing 44 year-old man. Nothing was found, and Sheriff Whitson said it should settle some of the rumors about what happened to McClelland.

Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

More \$50 ticket numbers in today's edition

There were no \$50 "instant winners" last week in the Christmas on Us promotion, and there is \$350 hidden in today's *Goodland Star-News*.

Seven "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 winners have claimed \$50 prizes in the contest. There were no \$50 prize winners last week, so the prizes roll forward to this week.

The contest continues, 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 at 1:30 p.m.

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. If you stop by the *Star-News* office, we'll give you one free ticket each week.

The customer takes one half of each numbered ticket and the other half is dropped into gift-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, 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. Seven winning numbers appear in ads today, which means seven shoppers have a chance to win up to \$350 this week. Other numbers will appear next Tuesday.

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

Here are the contest 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 Kreations, McClung's Appliance and Furniture and *The Star-News*.

Judge's ruling may help school district

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

A ruling that the state school funding scheme is flawed may have positive results for the Goodland School district said Superintendent Marvin Selby.

Shawnee County District Judge Terry Bullock ruled last Tuesday "that the current state school funding scheme stands in blatant violation of Article 6 of the Kansas constitution and the equal protection clauses of both the Kansas and U.S. Constitutions."

Governor Kathleen Sebelius and the Kansas legislature have until July 1 to correct the state's school funding system that is unfair and inadequate under the judge's ruling. Judge Bullock said it was up to the legislature and the governor to fix the problem because they were responsible for creating the formula in

1992. Selby said he believes the judge's goal with this ruling is to have the state redesign its system to provide more funds for at-risk students. However Selby feels that increasing taxes to provide additional money, at this time, is unrealistic especially in view of western Kansas' depressed agriculture economy.

Selby said the school district already spends twice as much for its at-risk students than is allocated. This was a local decision made in recognition that the need was there. He said should more money be found and allocated for at-risk programs Goodland would benefit by needing less from the general operating budget.

In his ruling Bullock said the current system:

- Fails to equitably distribute resources among children equally en-

titled by the Constitution to a suitable education or in the alternative to provide a rational basis premised in differing costs for any differential.

- Fails to provide adequate total resources to provide all Kansas children with a suitable education.
- Dramatically and adversely impact the learning and educational performance of the most vulnerable and/or protected Kansas children.

Bullock further said that the court cannot and should not write a new school funding scheme. He said that it is "a function of the legislative and executive branches" to remedy the problems adding that the problems were created by legislature by passing a flawed school finance law in 1992.

In a statement also released last Tuesday, Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline said, "We will carefully

study the judge's opinion as we prepare to appeal. We will continue to fight to preserve the authority of the governor and the legislature to make policy with regards to education spending and to preserve the local option budget, low enrollment waiting, and local control."

Bullock's ruling is a product of a lawsuit filed in May 1999 on behalf of the Dodge City and Salina school districts claiming that the state's school funding formula denies minority and at-risk students their fair share of state funding and thus unconstitutional.

In November 2001, Bullock dismissed the lawsuit saying that although some disparities did exist it did not mean Kansas' school funding system was unconstitutional. The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 3-0 in July 2002 against Bullock's decision.

Souvenir edition inside today

State Champions Class 4A Volleyball



The Goodland Star-News

The special State 4A Volleyball championship edition is in today's *Star-News*.