

weather report

31°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 4:25 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 7:01 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 88 percent
- Sky overcast with snow and freezing fog
- Winds northwest 30-38 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.59 inches and rising
- Record High 74° (1962)
- Record Low -4° (1964)

Last 24 Hours*

High 62°
 Low 31°
 Precipitation none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: partly cloudy with blowing snow likely, high near 36, low near 18, winds northwest 29-47 m.p.h. Wednesday: partly cloudy, high near 42, low around 21, winds northwest 16-30 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: mostly sunny, high around 49, low around 23. Friday: partly cloudy, high near 53, low near 22. Saturday: partly cloudy with snow possible at night, high around 44, low around 23. Sunday: cloudy with snow possible. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

\$2,000 drawing to be Saturday

This is the last week to get your tickets for the \$1,500 Christmas on Us drawing to be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday on 11th between Main and Center avenues.

The last day to pick up tickets is Friday, and that is the last day for five lucky people to become "instant winners" by finding their winning number 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 first five winners to come to the *Star-News* office with their winning ticket will win \$50 in scrip.

There were two winners last week, making five prizes that have been given away so far.

Alberta Harding and Kendall Cooper claimed \$50 instant winner prizes. Harding said she picked up her winning ticket at Mann's Jewelry. She said she might buy a Christmas present.

"I wasn't going to take the ticket, because I never win," Harding said.

Cooper got his at Frontier Equity and said he would probably use it for a Christmas gift.

The contest continues, with participating businesses handing out tickets to customers until about 5 p.m. Friday. It will end at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday when the grand prize of \$1,500 and second prize of \$500 will be given away. If the weather is bad, the drawing will be held at the Central School gym.

Businesses 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 half of the

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 pick tickets each week and hide the winning numbers in Christmas on Us ads.

Winners have until Friday to bring their winning tickets to *The Star-News* office, 1205 Main, and collect \$50 in scrip, which can be spent at participating businesses.

If all of the \$50 instant winners aren't claimed 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.

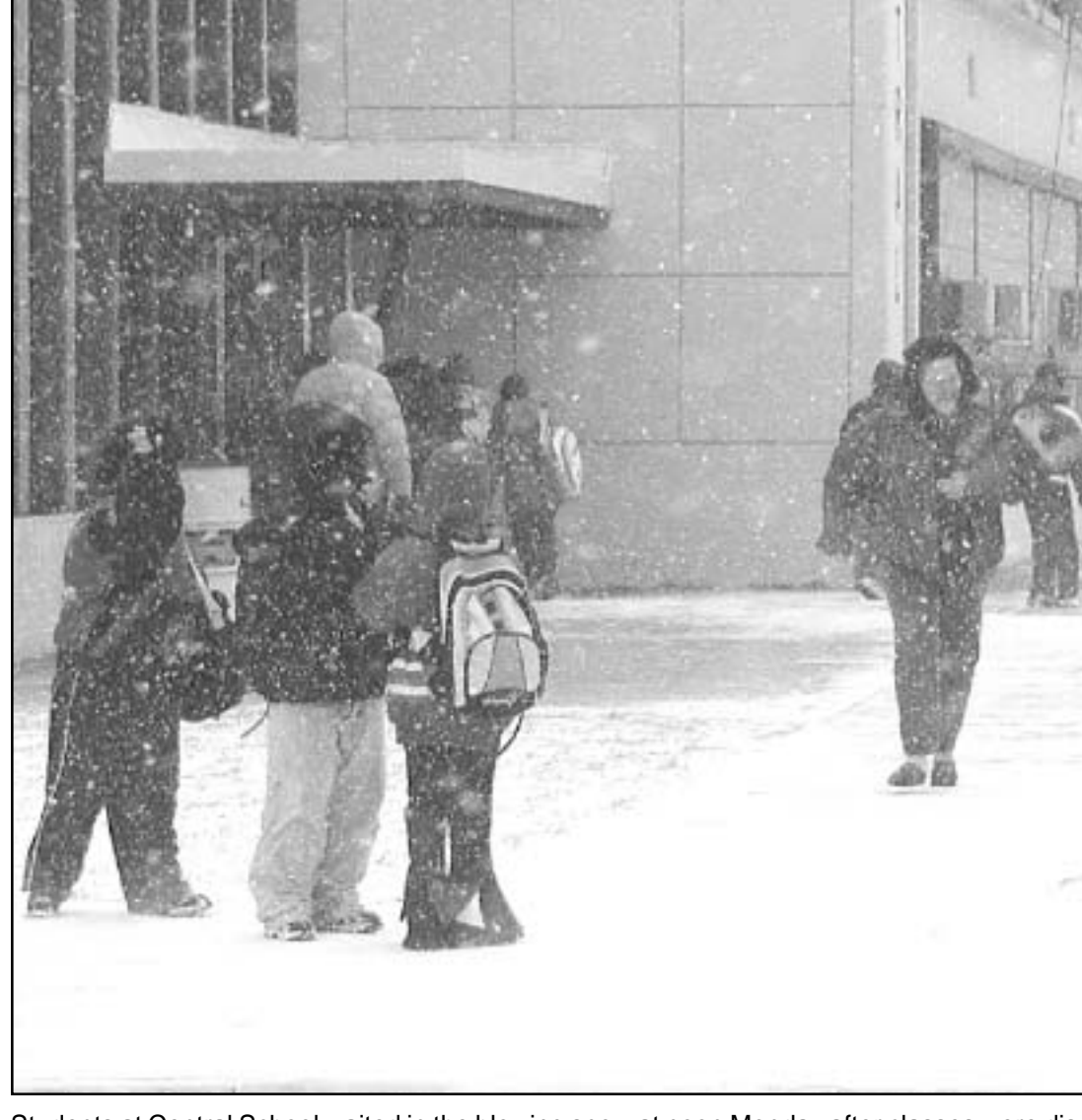
Participating businesses include American Communications, Hitchcock Inc., Mann's Jewelry, Medical Arts Pharmacy, Knott Just Books, Scooter's and Sight and Sound, Bankwest, Jacque's Hallmark, Frontier Equity Exchange, Aten Department Store, Miller's Electronics, Elliott's, People's State Bank, Eagle Cable 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*.



Harding



Cooper



Students at Central School waited in the blowing snow at noon Monday after classes were dismissed early because of the blizzard.
 Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

Blizzard winds force closings

A blizzard driven by north winds up to 48 miles an hour hit Goodland about 9 a.m. Monday, forcing schools to close and cancel all extra curricular activities.

Students at all five Goodland schools were sent home at noon. The first round of the junior high school boys league basketball tournament, which games scheduled at Max Jones Fieldhouse, was postponed. School officials are hoping to get those games played either today or Wednesday.

Monday's Goodland school board meeting was postponed until 5:30 p.m. today.

Schools in Brewster also closed early Monday. Postal clerk Kelly Rogers at the Goodland post office said that Monday's outgoing mail run was

moved up from 4 p.m. to 2 p.m. Out-of-town copies of today's *Goodland Star-News* might not make that run. Colby papers were held up because of the storm.

Sherman County offices closed at noon and the city library at 1 p.m.

The only automobile accident reported was involved a single car at Cattletrail Avenue and 8th Street. Details were not available.

Meteorologist Dave Floyd of the National Weather Service in Goodland said the blizzard warning was to have expired at 5 p.m. Monday and the snow advisory expected to expire sometime this afternoon. He said because of the snow and fog visibility was down to a quarter mile and there was the possibility of whiteout conditions in some areas.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.56 bushel
 Posted county price — \$3.63
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Corn — \$2.42 bushel
 Posted county price — \$2.35
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 Milo — \$2.26 bushel
 Soybeans — \$7.12 bushel
 Posted county price — \$7.13
 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 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



The Northern Sun Industries sunflower and soybean processing plant at Caruso, about four miles west of Goodland, returned to full production in October.

The plant is one of three in the Great Plains operated by Archer Daniels Midland Corp., commonly referred to as ADM, where sunflowers are crushed for their oil and to produce animal feed. The oil is shipped by rail to various destinations.

Northern Sun shut down its processing operation last January and laid off half its work force of about 40 workers due to low sunflower yields caused by years of drought. The plant continued to operate as a distribution center.

Under ADM corporate policy, all questions about Northern Sun's operation and personnel are referred to the firm's headquarters in Decatur, Ill. An employee at Northern Sun, who did not identify himself, provided the telephone number for Brian Peterson, senior vice president



Trucks were entering the main gate at the ADM Northern Sun plant at Caruso in a steady stream Wednesday afternoon, and there were at least 18 cars in the plant parking lot. The plant began processing sunflowers in October after layoffs in January.

Photo by Greg Stover / The Goodland Star-News

for corporate affairs.

A different employee, who declined to give his name, said he was not allowed to say anything about his

job and refused to confirm he worked there. A third person identified him as an employee of Northern Sun.

Karla Miller, ADM vice president

for public relations, after checking the facts confirmed Northern Sun has restarted its processing operation. She offered to respond to specific

Ottawa, McCook take Topside Tipoff championships

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

The final basketball games at the 2003 Topside Tipoff Tournament featured the Cyclones of Ottawa High School against the Bison of McCook High, with Ottawa taking the boys title and McCook the girls.

The Goodland Cowgirls finished third, defeating the Norton Blue Jays 66-59, while the Cowboys fourth, losing to Norton 64-58. The Cowgirls finished the tournament 2-1 and the Cowboys 1-2.

The tournament, in its 15th year, was played Thursday through Saturday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Eight schools, four from Kansas, three from Colorado and one from Nebraska, sent their boys and girls teams to compete for the title.

The Cyclone boys team won the

Topside Tipoff title for the second year with a 72-61 over McCook. Last year, the Cyclones defeated the Cowboys in the title game 71-59.

Ottawa earned its way to the championship game by beating the Holyoke Dragons 82-63 Thursday and then besting Norton 67-57 Friday. McCook got into the title game by defeating the Eagles of Wray High 76-58 Thursday and the Cowboys 59-56 Friday.

The Lady Bison of McCook took home the girls trophy after a thrilling one-point victory over Ottawa 47-46 in the title game. This was the third year in a row the Lady Cyclones were in the finals. They defeated Goodland 56-46 in 2001 and lost to the Cowgirls last year 76-69.

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McCook's Willie Williams tripped after a collision with Goodland Cowboy Bobby Miller and both went to the floor during the second round of the Topside Tipoff on Friday. The Cowboys lost to McCook, 59-56.
 Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

Cowgirls hit century mark
 Goodland sophomore Melissa Swager made her second free throw to make it an even 100 points for the Cowgirls in the last seconds of a Topside Tipoff game against Burlington Thursday. More photos and stories on Pages 8, 9 and 10.