

## weather report

**45°**

**at noon**

### Today

• Sunset, 4:26 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:03 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:26 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 34 degrees

• Humidity 29 percent

• Sky partly cloudy

• Winds west northwest 14

• Barometer 30.41 inches and falling

• Record High 64° (1941)

• Record Low -14° (1924)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 58°

Low 25°

Precipitation none

### N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high near 58, low near 25, winds northwest 9-17 m.p.h. Saturday: mostly sunny, high around 60, low around 27, west northwest 10 m.p.h.

### Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy with slight chance of snow at night, high near 50, low around 23. Monday: partly cloudy with snow possible, high near 37, low near 20. Tuesday: partly cloudy, high near 46, low around 19. Wednesday: partly cloudy, high around 49.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$3.60 bushel

New Crop — \$3.36 bushel

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.39 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.33

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$2.23 bushel

Soybeans — \$7 bushel

Posted county price — \$7.06

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$11.15 cwt.

NuSun — \$11.40 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Pinto beans — Withdrawn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



## Cowboys finish third

Brandon Zelfer drove one of his opponents to the mat during a tournament in Burlington on Saturday. The Cowboys finished third out of 12 teams. Story and photos on Page 12.

# \$2,000 Christmas drawing Saturday

Today is the last chance to get your tickets for the big \$2,000 Christmas on Us drawing scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Saturday on 11th Street between Main and Center avenues.

Today also is the last day for three lucky people to become “instant winners” by finding their winning number in Tuesday’s *Goodland Star-News*.

Seven “instant winner” numbers from Goodland merchants’ sixth annual Christmas on Us promotion were hidden in ads in Tuesday’s special section.

The first three winners to come to the *Star-News* office today with their



**Colleen Duell**



**Steve Duell**

winning ticket will win \$50 in scrip.

There have been two winners so far this week, making \$350 in instant prizes that have been given away. If the other three instant \$50 prizes are not claimed before the Friday dead-

line, those will be given away on Saturday before the grand prize drawing.

Steve Duell was the first to find a winning number in Tuesday’s edition, and claim his \$50 on Wednesday. A short time later Colleen Duell brought in a second winning ticket. Both husband and wife got their tickets at Frontier Equity at separate times.

Steve Duell said he was going to spend his at Mann’s Jewelry, where he said he had an order coming in. Colleen said she would probably use hers after Christmas when she sees what she gets.

Last week, Alberta Harding and Kendall Cooper claimed \$50 instant winner prizes. Previous winners were Marie Johnson, Cameron Pittman and Kelly Rippe.

The contest continues, with participating businesses handing out tickets to customers until about 5 p.m. Friday, when the tickets will be collected.

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.

The weather is expected to be warm and sunny, with temperatures soaring into the low 60s.

Get your tickets at participating businesses, including 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*.

## Flu fills hospital

**By Sharon Corcoran**

*The Goodland Star-News*

Goodland Regional Medical Center has seen a jump in patients in the last month, especially last week, partly due to the flu epidemic, but the onslaught seems to have abated some this week.

The hospital is out of vaccine, and its lab has even run out of testing supplies for influenza. The Sherman County Health Department is also out of vaccine but is hoping to get some early in January that can be given to infants.

All the states around Kansas have been reporting high concentrations of the flu, Hospital Administrator Jay Jolly said, but Kansas isn’t listed as having widespread cases yet.

Nonetheless, the Goodland hospital has seen its share. Jolly said nearly half of the hospital’s flu tests since Oct. 30, 24 out of 61, have been positive.

“We were full a couple of days last week,” he said. “We have seen a fair amount of the flu.”

The hospital here is not much different from any others in the country, the administrator said; it’s having trouble getting flu vaccine. It was on back order a couple of times, he said, and what came in, all of it was spoken for. The clinic had a waiting list, he said.

It turned out that Rural Health Ventures was not completely out of vaccine. The clinic located five vials, Jolly said, with 10 doses in each, giving Goodland another 50 doses.

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## Toys ready for delivery

Bob Lamb (above) volunteered his time checking toys Tuesday at the Fellowship Hall of the Goodland United Methodist Church, Sherman Ave. and 12th Street. He did some minor repairs to used toys and put batteries in as needed. Lamb showed Fred Studer (right), one of the toy campaign’s organizers, some of the toys that had come in.

Photos by Greg Stover  
*The Goodland Star-News*



# Superintendent agrees to stay for another year

**By Greg Stover**

*The Goodland Star-News*

Goodland Superintendent Marvin Selby told the school board Tuesday that he would to delay his retirement until after the 2004-2005 school year so he can help the district get through some tough times ahead.

The board had asked Selby to stay on and provide leadership for the district as it faces challenges the next couple of years. With the potential of major changes in the state’s school finance system next year and declining enrollment, the board, with three new members, felt it did not want to get involved in a search for a new superintendent.

During the public forum part of the meeting, high school freshman Matt Slusher, representing Sara Short’s family and consumer science class, explained a project where they used church donations to buy the dry ingredients for making cookies. Those were placed in jars in the proportions needed to make about two dozen cookies.

Baking instructions were pasted on the jars, which were decorated for Christmas, and they were given to the Goodland Churches Thrift Shop, 1218 Main Ave., for sale at the Kids Christmas Shop last Saturday. Slusher gave each board member a jar of the cookie mix.

For his report, Selby said the new roof on the high school’s old gym should be ready for final inspection today.

Selby updated the board on the latest developments of the school finance coalition made up of representatives of the Kansas National Education Association, United School Administrators of Kansas and the Kansas Association of School Boards. He gave the members a copy of the coalition’s joint request for school finance, noting that it needed minor changes to its wording as a result of the recent ruling declaring the current school finance law unconstitutional.

In other business, the board:

- Heard from Threse Armstrong, who said the new forms used to plan staff professional development are working out well and that faculty members are taking advantage of opportunities to earn credits for salary steps and/or recertification.

- Conducted the second reading of a revised policy that would require extended learning time for students not meeting academic standards. The board approved the policy, which will become effective once guidelines are established.

- Heard Selby say he was making up spread sheets to track utility costs at each of the five schools to illus-

trate how costs fluctuate from month to month. He said he is doing this because of worries rising heating costs and their impact on the district.

- Voted to accept the resignations of Jaime Heater, effective Dec. 19, as a teacher aide at North Elementary and Monica Rangel, effective Jan. 9, as a migrant tutor at Grant Junior High. Voted to hire Kathryn Gurfinkel, effective Dec. 8, as an aide, or paraprofessional, at North.

The meeting, which had been rescheduled because of the snow Monday, adjourned at 6:41 p.m. The next meeting will be at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, at the district office, 1312 Main Ave.

## Year-end economic update paints a positive picture

**By Tom Betz**

*The Goodland Star-News*

The county’s economic development director gave city commissioners an upbeat year-end report Monday, saying she saw much progress around the area and not a lot of problems.

Carolyn Applegate talked about her activity in her first year and a half and the good things that have been happening.

“I look back 18 months ago when we started, and I think the indicators look positive,” Applegate said.

“Looking at the recent sales tax figures, we are in good shape, and the stores reported having a very good

weekend.

“The new Wal-Mart strip mall, to be built next spring on the north side of the parking lot, is taking applications for businesses now. The school enrollment is not a disappointment this year.

“We have handed out 32 applications for the micro loan program and nine for the SoHo loan program. Many of these have not come back in, but we have been working with people where they need our help.

“Some projects, like the control city (to get Goodland on highway signs) may take up to three years to get approved, but we have gotten good support for this at the state

level.

“We have been successful getting the new rail spur, and the pallet business is up and running. The pallet business looks like it may expand because the company wants both rebuilt and new pallets.

“On the truck stop, we have made three packages for Homeland Realty to work with prospective buyers. We have worked with two qualified buyers for the Howard Johnson Motel in the last 30 days, and know the Howard Johnson people are to be here this week to inspect the property.

“We have visited many of the businesses in the city and county,

and there are some projects that have not worked out. There is a possible Ben Franklin franchise we thought would be great in the old Alco building, and they thought it was a good fit, but we have not found anyone who wants to take this project.

“We have had a number of public meetings, and we feel we are doing well at letting the people know what is happening.

“It was good to see the city step up to help with the Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp., and that the people saw this and felt this shows that things are doing better.

“Another good thing is that the downtown revitalization grant will

be submitted in January. Penny Nemechek and Dave Branda have received enough response to make it worth doing the grant application in January.

“It has been busy, and I think in the next year or two, we will really be rolling.”

Several of the commissioners agreed that the business indicators were looking positive.

Applegate told the commissioners 38 businesses opened, expanded, renovated or got new ownership in the last year. Eight closed, she said, but one of those reopened under new management.