

weather  
report

23°

noon Thurs.

Today

• Sunset, 5:11 p.m.

Friday

• Sunrise, 6:49 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:12 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 30 degrees
- Humidity 84 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds northwest 12 mph
- Barometer 29.96 inches and steady

- Record High today 74° (1963)
- Record Low today -22° (1982)

Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday 29°  
Low Wednesday 25°  
Precipitation .12

The Topside Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high near 31, low near 8, winds north northwest 26 to 40 mph. Saturday: mostly sunny, high near 35, low around 10, winds west northwest 10-20 becoming south southwest.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: mostly cloudy with 20 percent chance of snow, high near 32, low around 18. Monday: mostly cloudy, high near 35, low near 17. Tuesday: mostly cloudy, high around 32, low around 14.

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

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.51 bushel  
New Crop — \$3.41 bushel  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Corn — \$2.60 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.50  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Milo — \$2.46 bushel  
Soybeans — \$7.58 bushel  
Posted county price — \$7.58  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$11.65 cwt.  
NuSun — \$11.90 cwt.  
Confection — \$16/\$9 cwt.  
Pinto beans — Withdrawn  
(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigo 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



Bedore signs  
with K-State

Senior Jordan Bedore, who signed a letter of intent to attend Kansas State Wednesday, collapsed the left side of the Plainsmen's line during Goodland's homecoming win. See photo and story on page 12.

Storm dumps four inches of snow

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

The snow storm arrived Tuesday as predicted, but did not bring as much of the white stuff to Goodland as expected.

Predictions called for six to nine inches of snow in two days. However, only a little over four inches had fallen in Goodland as of Thursday morning. Forecasters said Goodland would get another couple of inches by today, for a total of 6-7 inches from this storm.

Bruce Entwistle, a meteorologist with the U.S. Weather Service in Goodland, said 4.2 inches of snow had fallen between 8:45 p.m. Tuesday and 7:30 a.m. Thursday, equaling .28 inches of precipitation.

Strong winds from the southeast were the dominate feature of the storm Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, clocked at 20 miles per hour with gusts up to 30. Entwistle said the direction of the wind is probably the most unusual feature of this storm.

The wind has since shifted to the northwest. Entwistle said another storm system is expected to arrive late this weekend.

Although the snowfall did not measure up to expectations, it was enough to close most schools Wednesday in northwest Kansas, including those in Goodland. Conditions improved slightly Thursday, as some schools in the region were open but running from one to two hours late. Goodland schools remained closed.

The weather did make travel, by car or on foot, treacherous, with a least two serious accidents reported on I-70.

The Kansas Highway Patrol said a Dodge Dakota pickup traveling east about 4:15 Wednesday afternoon slid off the road and rolled about nine miles from the Colorado border, but no one was injured.

About 3:30 Thursday morning, Trooper Joe Green reported a semi-trailer rig jackknifed just west of Goodland in the ditch on the south side of the eastbound lane. There were no injuries and traffic was not obstructed.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the city street crews have been working hard to stay up with plow-



Drivers (top photo) dealt with blowing snow and slippery conditions as they travel on Main Avenue on Wednesday morning. Strong winds kept the flag (above, left) in front of McClure Plumbing & Heating, 1214 Main Ave., flying straight. Dave Branda (right), owner of the Sherman Theatre, 1203 Main, shoveled snow off the sidewalk on the north side of the building.

Photos by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

ing the snow routes, and were out early in the morning.

"We are short one dump truck and one sand truck," Pickman said. "We are managing, but it is slower than usual because we are short of equipment."

A call to the county road and bridge office found Curt Way, public works

manager, out checking the road conditions. The county was working to plow old U.S. 24, but have not had many problems on the other roads. County graders have been working normal hours during the storm.

State crews have been out pretty much around the clock, especially on I-70.



Police make one arrest in burglary cases

Faced with an spurt of burglaries, Goodland Police caught a break last week when some stolen property found in Colorado led to an arrest which may solve some of the crimes.

Goodland officers arrested Grady A. Cloyd, 20, early Tuesday morning on a warrant from the Sherman County District Court in connection

with several burglaries and thefts.

At least 20 burglaries have been reported to Goodland police since Dec. 22 with losses between \$15 and \$6,000. The latest was an attempted burglary last Saturday night at 407 Washington Ave. that resulted in an estimated \$50 in criminal damage.

Police Chief Ray Smee said after

the arrest Tuesday, a search warrant was executed at Cloyd's home at 1512 Center Ave. He said officers siezed items they think were related to burglaries.

Smee said the police are trying to get people to come in and identify some of the recovered property. If you think some of it might be yours,

call him at 899-4570.

The chief said the warrant for Cloyd's arrest stemmed from the recovery of some stolen items from Goodland in Englewood, Colo.

"This was one of the breaks we were looking for," he said.

He said the investigation that led to the arrest and recovery of stolen

property was a joint effort of the Goodland police, the Sherman County sheriff's office, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the Englewood police.

Smee said the investigation could lead to other arrests. In the meantime, he advised people to be watchful and report suspicious activity.

City employee health costs raise 11 percent

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

About 25 city employees attended the commission meeting Monday to hear an update on health insurance from Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Charles Krull, area representative for the Blues, told commissioners the rate increase for the coming year would be 11 percent, which he said is about the state average.

"We had a surprisingly good renewal review," Krull said. "Despite having some claims larger than normal, that was balanced by the way the rates are figured."

"The city is a self-funded program, and last year the city had \$400,000 plus in claims over the stop-loss level. However, when figuring the rates, 40 percent of that is included and the other 60 percent is figured on a statewide basis."

"The rate did not go as high as expected, and we kept the deductible the same at \$500."

Krull said after the deductible, there is a co-insurance provision where the individual pays 20 percent of the next \$1,000 up to a maximum out-of-pocket expense of \$2,100 for an individual. For a family of three or more, the deductible is \$500 for each one covered, up to a maximum of \$1,500, and the maxi-

Remodeling bill draws split vote

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The cost of remodeling the city building that Aircraft Seal and Gasket is moving into drew questions and a 4-1 vote at Monday's city commission meeting.

Mayor Rick Billinger questioned a Rhoads Construction bill for \$486,945 for remodeling of the city building last fall. He said it seemed higher than he understood the contract.

Pickman said the contract, which was approved at a special meeting in October, named Rhoads as the general contractor. The city is to pay Rhoads its total cost plus 5 percent.

"I was not at the meeting," Billinger said, "but that is not how I understood it was to be. I don't see why we are paying Rhoads 5 percent on top of the labor charges."

"The 5 percent is our fee over the total cost of the project," said Darwin McClung of Rhoads.

Billinger asked if the 5 percent should be added on to the cost of project managers and other Rhoads employees who worked at the site.

McClung said these people were part of the cost of the total project, and the 5 percent was to be on top of

the total cost of the project.

"Did the commission see the contract?" Garcia asked.

"You agreed to the general contract being cost plus 5 percent, but left the detail up to the city manager," Pickman said.

Commissioner Dave Daniels brought up a couple of minor questions about paying for interpreters and a clothing allowance. City Manager Ron Pickman said the interpreters are for the police department, and the clothing allowance is an annual payment to the police chief in lieu of buying uniforms.

City Commissioner John Garcia asked about a bill from Applied Concept. Pickman said it was for new in-car police cameras.

When the vote was taken on the bills, Commissioners Garcia, Daniels, Dean Blume and Chuck Lutters voted in favor of paying them. Mayor Billinger vote no, and said it was because of the Rhoads bill.

"It was not the way I understood it," he said.

After the meeting, Pickman said the bill from Rhoads as presented would have been \$1,100, lower if the labor had been taken out of the total.

um out of pocket is \$1,500 per person or \$4,500.

He said the office visit co-pay will stay at \$10 per visit, and the first \$300 for x-rays and lab work will be fully

covered, and then goes into the deductible and co-insurance. The prescription program will remain the same, with the person paying the first \$50. The rest is paid at 50 percent; a

family pays \$100 and then 50 percent.

The city pays the first \$15,000 of each claim, Krull said, and the increase in fixed costs reflects the number of claims statewide that

were higher than \$15,000.

The new monthly premium for an individual will be \$457.51, up from \$411.51 per month, an increase of 11.18 percent or \$5,490.12 for the year. For a family, the rate is \$996.24, up from \$896.30, an increase of 11.15 percent or \$11,954.88 for the year. The city pays 100 percent of all employees' premiums, whether married or not.

"This is much better than we anticipated," City Manager Ron Pickman said. "We expected an increase of 30 percent and budgeted for a 40 percent increase."

Pickman said the city has 62 employees, down two from last year, plus two positions which have not been filled. There are fewer less employees because the city does not handle the trash collection, he said, and they have not replaced Deb Snethen or Ed Wolak.

Krull said the city will get a refund check for this month, as the monthly cost will drop from \$26,873 to \$25,807. He said the refund check will go to the reserve fund.

Krull said the Medicare Exclusion Rider has dropped by 2.36 percent from \$239.92 to \$234.25 per month.

There were no questions and the commission approved the insurance renewal.