

**weather report**

**56°**



noon Monday

**Today**

•Sunset, 6:01 p.m.

**Wednesday**

•Sunrise, 5:44 a.m.

•Sunset, 6:02 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil temperature 47 degrees
- Humidity 30 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds southeast 12 mph
- Barometer 30.12 inches and falling

•Record High today 81° (1967)

•Record Low today 4° (1965)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High Sunday	55°
Low Sunday	23°
Precipitation	none
This month	.29
Year to date	1.37

**The Topside Forecast**

Today: partly cloudy with 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m., high around 80, low near 38, winds north northwest 5-11 mph. Wednesday: mostly sunny, high around 72, low around 38, winds north northwest 5-14 mph.

**Extended Forecast**

Thursday: partly cloudy, high near 74, low around 38. Friday: partly cloudy, high near 77, low near 38.

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

**local markets**

**Noon**

- Wheat — \$3.84 bushel
- New crop — \$3.88 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.68
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$3.02 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.84
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$2.84 bushel
- Soybeans — \$10.09 bushel
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$6.50 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$12.45 cwt.
- NuSun — \$12.70 cwt.
- Confection — \$16/\$9 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$15 cwt.

(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



**Wrapping up girls season**

Goodland's Dani Bedore was the only freshman to make the Northwest Kansas League All-League team. She made this shot in the Cowgirls' last game March 1 against Hugoton. See story on Page 12.

## Thrift store a giant recycling center

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland's former Chamber of Commerce director is now running a giant recycling operation. She takes useful items made of many different materials then sorts, labels and redistributes them.

Cardboard boxes are accepted at her recycling center, that is, if they are filled with clothes, toys, dishes or other household items. The items are sold at a low price to whoever wants to be their next owner.

Jo Simmons, former Chamber director, has been managing the Goodland Churches Thrift Store since July, recycling heaping piles of miscellaneous "rubbish."

Though sold at low prices, the stuff has brought in enough money that the store is able to pay two new employees and will add another part-timer this summer. Simmons has won praise for the store's "boutique" atmosphere, and the store has drawn customers and donations from a wide area.

The store, which operated for years with a paid manager and a staff of volunteers, added the two paid employees this year.

After hiring a couple of people who quickly departed, Simmons hired Lariena Moser and Yvonne Ornelas this month. Ruth Ontiveroz, a volunteer, will become a part-time employee this summer.

Despite having sold in eight months merchandise she was sure would last two or three years, Simmons is not resting on her laurels.

She is looking for grants for physical improvements to the store. Simmons said she's working on getting a new furnace so the storage room will be heated, shelves, a tiered pier system to make it easier for employees and volunteers to get to boxes and bags in the piles in the warehouse and lighting for the warehouse.

And since the heaps of merchandise sold have all been replaced, Simmons said, the employees are working on organizing the storage room and sorting things so everyone will know where things go instead of just guessing.

Simmons and her helpers worked to improve the appearance of the front of the store in the first few months she was manager and are working their way toward the back.

After getting the display room organized, she said, they have been working on the sorting room and the storage room and then will hit the warehouse.

Items are being sorted into categories and then put into boxes and bags that are marked. The categories of clothes, men's, women's, boys, girls and infants, are divided into summer and winter. Shoes are separate. Some people are marking their boxes and bags when bringing in donations, Simmons said, which has been helpful.



Lariena Moser (above), a new employee of the Goodland Churches Thrift Store, sorted donations and boxed the books together in the sorting room Wednesday. Monica Hunter (right), a new volunteer at the store and wife of Jack Hunter, new manager at Wal-Mart, made a list of items in the window display so customers could put their names on the list to buy them. Hunter has been credited with several creative projects for the store.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

She said it also helps if people bringing donations call 899-2007 to let the shop know they're coming. Stuff can go from their car to the warehouse, she said.

"Stuff that comes in from the front gets stuck in the sorting room," Simmons said, "and bogs us down."

The store has a lot of nursery items, the manager said, usually one of each of the furniture. If they are missing a piece of nursery furniture, she said, one usually comes in soon.

The store takes almost everything usable with the exception of mattresses, console televisions and computers and their parts. Computers become obsolete so quickly, Simmons said, it doesn't pay to stock them.

The staff is working months in advance on the second run of what is hoped to be an annual event for the store.

The manager said she started right after the Kids' Christmas Shoppe to save items for next year's shoppe. People have brought in jewelry, she said, new cosmetics for the gift baskets and toys.

"We didn't want to have to work in 2 1/2 months like last time," she said.

Simmons said she is saving items for the shoppe in the storage room separate from the other merchandise, and has saved quite a few

things, but needs jewelry gift boxes.

Keeping the store clean and organized and the prices low has had rewards, Simmons said. A couple came in who go around the country and shops at thrift stores, she said, and he asked how the Goodland store keeps things smelling so fresh.

Simmons said she thinks it's because there is plenty of room between racks, things are aired out before being placed in the store for sale, and the store uses candles, fabric freshener and cinnamon pinecones.

She said some people have told her they are drawn into the store by its window displays, and many have told her it looks like a regular store, not a thrift shop.

"That boutique look is what we're looking for," she said.

And the lower prices are a matter of plan as well.

"By lowering our prices," Simmons said, "we are getting a Tristate clientele."

Customers from all over Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado have heard about the store through word of mouth, she said. And it's not just customers who are from the whole area.

"We get donations from Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska," Simmons said.

She said she has been amazed at the volume of things available to sell



things and pass them on." Simmons said she enjoys her role in that. "It's like Christmas every day when I'm opening the boxes," she said.

## Petroleum dealer honored at celebration

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

The Sherman County Agriculture/Agri-Business Person of the Year award went to Wade Barnett at the 16th annual Farm/City Celebration last Monday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall.

From 1950 until he retired in 1995, Barnett was a successful petroleum dealer in Goodland. For his achievements and contributions to the economic development of Sherman County and his involvement in the community as a whole, he was named as this year's recipient.

The Farm/City Celebration committee presents the award to the one person among the year's nominees who best exemplifies a spirit of concern, dedication and genuine feeling of enthusiasm for the preservation and expansion of the quality of life in Sherman County. This year, Barnett was one of four people nominated.

Each year, the farmers and stockmen of Sherman County and the Goodland business community, re-

ferred to as the city, alternate as sponsors for the banquet. The year's honoree comes from the guest group. This year is the farmer's turn to sponsor the banquet and honor someone from the "city."

Last year, the city sponsored the banquet at the Safari Steakhouse, and long-time Sherman County farmer Oscar Ihrig got the award.

Jeannie Schields, president of the Sherman County Farm Bureau Association, served as this year's master of ceremony. After her introduction and an invocation by the Rev. Steve Raines of the Calvary Gospel Church, Schields recognized several special guests.

Schields introduced Patty Thompson, a first-grade teacher at West Elementary, who was this year's recipient of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Citizenship and Education Award. Thompson brought nine members of her class, who gave a short musical program honoring life in America.

Next Schields recognized the parents of military men and women from Sherman County on active



Jeff Deeds (left) listened to Barry "Bear" Ward as he describes exactly how Deeds was going to help him with the next number, "Dead Chickens in the Sky," during the entertainment at last Monday's Farm/City Celebration Banquet.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

duty, including some who could not attend.

Schields then introduced Goodland's new Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance agent, Kevin Pettay and his wife Patty. The Pettays will move to Goodland next month when

he starts work full-time. Also recognized were Greg and Amy Sederstrom, winners of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Contest, who won a trip to Hawaii.

Next came the highlight of the evening, the award to Barnett.

Part of the tradition of this event is for the previous winner, or a member of his or her family, to present the award. Goodland lawyer Mike Foust, a son-in-law of Ihrig, did the honors.

Barnett came to Goodland in 1950 and managed the Standard Oil agency. In 1976, he bought the agency and became an independent operator, selling Standard Oil and later Amoco products. Over the years, he added a warehouse, bulk storage tanks and a service station. In 1981 he opened a convenience store on K-27 and a storage rental/repair shop on U.S. 24.

"This all comes as quite a surprise," was all Barnett could say at first, but later he said it was wonderful to see the camaraderie between the farmers and businessmen.

The evening concluded with entertainment by Barry "Bear" Ward, a western singer/song writer. He shared two of his videos and sang some songs, including a duet with Jeff Deeds, a board member of the association and co-chair of the Farm/City Celebration committee.

Deeds provided some of the sound (and visual) effects for "Dead Chickens in the Sky."