

Volume 72, Number 95

weather

report

24°

noon Monday

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

• Sunrise, 6:48 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Humidity 84 percent

Winds north 14 mph

Barometer 30.26 inches

and rising

• Record High today 73° (1970)

• Record Low today -3° (1985)

Last 24 Hours*

28°

20°

trace, 1"

snow

2.07

21.33

19.32

Sky mostly cloudy

High Sunday

Low Sunday

Precipitation

Normal

This month

Year to date

The Topside Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high near 33, wind chill between -1 and -9,

winds west northwest 7-9 mph low near 16. Wednesday: partly cloudy, high near 37, low around 17, winds west northwest 10 mph

Extended Forecast

near 40, low around 19. Friday:

partly cloudy, high near 43, low

near 19. Saturday: partly cloudy,

(National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

loca

markets

Wheat — \$3.08 bushel

Noon

Posted county price — \$3.16

high around 43, low around 20.

Thursday: mostly sunny, high

Today

Wednesday

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 34 degrees

Sixteen Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

Search renewed for missing man

By Tom Betz

a 44-year-old Goodland man, a new ing since that night.

sheriff wants to reacquaint the public with the case, hoping he might stir up a fresh lead.

"I want to try some new things we haven't tried in the past," said Sheriff Kevin Butts. "I have talked to the mother and step-father and assured them I will try to find out

what might have happened last year."

McClelland

County sheriff's deputies got a call cause of the high interest in the case about 5:30 p.m. on an argument at and the number of friends McClelthe home of Mark Peden, 6940 landhad. He said the department has County Road 19, about 3 1/2 miles followed up on every report without north of Goodland. On the phone, Marci Peden told dispatchers her husband was in an argument with a of his family, now believe McClelman holding a knife. She said her land is dead, but that his body may husband had a shotgun.

Jimmy McClelland, 5920 County

Road 14, allegedly the man with a The Goodland Star-News knife in the argument, reportedly ran A year after the disappearance of from the scene. He has been miss-

Many rumors have circulated since McClelland's disappearance last year. Some had him found dead in the creekbed near Kanorado. Others said McClelland had checked into a treatment center, hitched a ride to Denver or caught a train headed west.

Sheriff Butts knows

there has been a lot of speculation On Nov. 24, 2003, Sherman about what happened, mostly be-

See MISSING, Page 9a

Family afraid man is not alive

Day by day, the family of a Goodland man missing for more than a year now after an argument at a rural home loses hope of ever seeing him again.

As the holidays pass — Thanksgiving, Christmas, Thanksgiving, and soon another Christmas — his wife and his mother admit they're no longer sure Jimmy McClelland, 44, is alive.

The family, unsure that the Sherman County sheriff's office touched all the bases in its investigation, has asked for help from other agencies and even an outside investigator.

The missing man's aunt, Marie Edwards, who helped with a search last year, said she believed if he was hiding, McClelland

would have called home by Christmas. If he didn't, she said, then something had happened to him.

Next month will mark the second Christmas since his disappearance.

The fact that Mark Peden, who admitted firing a shotgun in an argument with McClelland the night he disappeared Nov. 24, 2003, was the last person to see McClelland alive makes him a leading suspect in the minds of many family members.

"The bottom line is that Peden is the last person who saw Jimmy alive," said Jan McClelland, Jimmy's mother, a cook at the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

In March, former Sheriff Doug

three people to the hospital.

The patrol said the first car, a 1993

Eustasio H. Facundo, 24, Engle-

wood, Colo.; Narmeen Shaker, 46,

Broken Arrow, Okla.; and James

McGuire, 55, Oakley, were taken to

Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

cue trucks and seven firemen out.

He said his crews didn't have to use

stranded motorists, but they did help

Chief Jensen said he had two res-

Ford explorer driven by Wilbert

Smith, 45, Aurora, slid in the east-

four more cars joined the fray.

Whitson said he and a KBI investigator talked to Peden and his wife Marci, and they have no reason to doubt their story. Peden agreed at one point to take a polygraph test, but a couple of days before it was to happen, Whitson said, he backed out.

Jan McClelland said she is hoping and praying that the new sheriff, Kevin Butts, will turn up something.

"There are a lot of things that don't add up right," she said Fridav.

Jan McClelland said she was disappointed in how the investigation was handled last year, and she has turned to others outside the sheriff's department for help.

See FAMILY, Page 9a

Weather turns I-70 into a skating rink

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News Interstate 70 turned treacherous Sunday, with freezing rain and nearly invisible "black ice" causing around a dozen accidents as Thanksgiving travelers tried to get home.

"It was just like a sheet of ice on the highway," said Goodland Fire Chief Dean Jensen, whose crews Nunn, Colo., and his children, Auswere called out to help work the accidents. "Traffic was just unreal out there. It was near bumper to bumper."

Snow Saturday night was topped off by freezing rain starting in the early afternoon Sunday, said Bruce County really started to pick up Entwistle, a meteorologist with the around 2:30 p.m. National Weather Service office here

and light snow blanketed the area control." and the office released a winter weather warning.

Troopers from the Kansas Highway Patrol, Sherman County Sheriff's deputies and Goodland firemen worked the accidents.

The first call came at 12:50 a.m. Sunday, when a westbound 1999 Ford sedan slid into a ditch at mile 1.5 on I-70, near the Kanorado exit.

The driver, Gregory Yeager, 33, tin, 3, and Gregory, 1, were not injured but his wife, Andrea, was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center. Everyone in the vehicle was belted in, the patrol said.

Accidents along I-70 in Sherman

"It was mainly just single-car accidents," Chief Jensen said. "People He said the mix of freezing rain would drive too fast and then lose

> At 3:30 p.m., a westbound 1998 Dodge Durango crashed into a

ver, to Goodland Regional. The driver, Jose Vazquez, escaped

belts. Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts said three officers from his department helped work accidents Sunday.

uninjured; both were wearing seat

Butts said he worked an especially bad accident in the westbound lane at the east Goodland exit.

He said they shut down the bridge and diverted both westbound and lanes through the exit off ramps.

A Chevrolet Blazer hit ice on the bridge, went out of control, slid into the median and then rolled, landing in the westbound passing lane. The driver and a passenger, he said, were taken to the hospital.

Butts said people were driving too over the stretch of I-70 for about two fast for the icy road, especially since hours, driving safely all the way. the ice was hard to see.

"You really noticed how icy it was said, "and we don't drive very fast."

the ambulance workers.

the day. A five-car pileup at 7:30 and the fire department stopped getp.m. in Thomas County sent at least ting calls around 4 p.m.

By Monday morning, he said, the roads were much better, but he warned motorists to stay alert.

"You still need to drive slow," he bound lane and hit a guardrail, then said.

> Entwistle said the area should remain dry for the next couple of days and the sun will come out to melt some snow today.

> To avoid accidents in icy weather, Butts said, drivers need to drive slower, be more careful and avoid using cruise control.

"Just slow down," he said. "Take any special equipment to free your time. Plan an extra hour or two to get places."

The weather service forecast for He said they went back and forth today was mostly sunny, high expected near 33, with a wind chill between -1 and -9. Winds were ex-"We have a four-wheel-drive," he pected from the west northwest at 7-9 mph. Low tonight near 16.



Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢ Corn — \$1.83 bushel Posted county price — \$1.68 Loan deficiency pmt. - 27¢ Milo — \$1.46 bushel Sovbeans — \$4.74 bushel Posted county price — \$4.88 Loan deficiency pmt. - 0¢ Millet — \$6 hundredweight Sunflowers Oil current crop - \$12.55 cwt. NuSun — \$12.65 cwt. Loan deficiency pmt. — 0ϕ Confection — \$19/\$13 cwt. Pinto beans — \$25 (Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)





Kids shoppe set this week

Monica Hunter wrapped coffee cups filled with goodies for the Kids Christmas Shoppe to be held on Saturday, Dec. 11, at the Goodland Churches Thrift Store. Photo, story on Page 3.

Monday, Entwistle said a total of guard rail on the median on I-70 two when you got out and walked miles west of Goodland, sending around," he said. He said state Department of Cloudy, high near 37, low around 17, the said. three days.

16-year-old Brenda Vazquez, Den-

Accidents continued throughout applied sand late in the afternoon and winds west northwest 10 mph.

Shopping mania hits Goodland day after Thanksgiving

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News The crowds were out well before the sun came up Friday morning to participate in an American tradition, day-after-Thanksgiving shopping. Eager shoppers crowded into brightly lighted aisles to get a deal. J.C. Penney's, Wal-Mart and Orscheln were all open early for sunrise shoppers.

Wal-Mart sent out a holiday circular a few days in advance and many shoppers were ready. The chilly morning air didn't deter the throngs of people waiting in line for open the door.

"We knew what we wanted," grinned Lisa Lockhart, of Goodland, her hands full before she turned and headed toward the store checkouts.

We're here for the TVs, DVDs, computers, cameras, camcorders,' was said over and over as employees helped customers find and then carry their big items. Some came early for the DVD players and some for the bicycles or dolls. Everyone was there to get the deals before they were gone, and large pallets of boxes dwindled quickly.

Shoppers were on the threshold of the J.C. Penney's Store in Goodland at 5:30 a.m. for the "doorbusters" promotion.

"It's just one big sale," said freight employee Kalan Lambrecht. Some of the early birds at the Penney's said shopping for them was an annual event.

"It's kind-of a family tradition," said Randy Wieck as he followed his wife, Charleen, around the store.

"Shopping is just my favorite thing in life," she said.

Kathie Thomas, a manager at Penney's, said she had a lot of calls about the early opening on Wednes-

See SHOPPING, Page 11a



Bryan (left) and Edna Bolen spent the biggest shopping day of the year Friday in Goodland looking for gifts for their 18-month-old granddaughter. at J.C. Penney's they searched through a rack of dresses to check out the deals.



Marilyn Colby, Goodland, got up before dawn Friday to get into J.C. Penney's by 5:30 a.m. She was on the lookout, she said, for a good deal on clothes for her grandchildren.



Kalan Lambrecht, J.C. Penney's employee, was up early Friday to open the doors. The store opened at 5:30 a.m. to usher in day after Thanksgiving shoppers.



Early-morning shoppers found that their eyes were bigger than their trunk in the Wal-Mart parking lot Friday. This family was waiting at the door before the store opened, and ended up taking home two 20-inch, flat screen televisions with a DVD player build in. Photos by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News