

weather  
report

34°

noon Thursday

Today

Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Saturday

Sunrise, 6:50 a.m.

Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

Soil temperature 30 degrees

Humidity 49 percent

Sky mostly sunny

Winds northwest 13 mph

Barometer 30.24 inches and rising

Record High today 74° (1959)

Record Low today 1° (1978)

Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday 34°

Low Wednesday 11°

Precipitation none

This month 2.10

Year to date 21.36

Normal 19.38

The Topside Forecast

Today: sunny, high around 47, low near 23, winds west northwest 9-29 mph. Saturday: sunny, high near 50, low around 25, winds west northwest 7-13 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy, high around 48, low around 24. Monday: mostly cloudy and breezy, high near 39, low near 18. Tuesday: mostly sunny, high around 38, low around 18. Wednesday: partly cloudy, high near 38.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

# She did it! She's walking again!

Florence Farris

**By Sharon Corcoran**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

Can the lame walk again? To residents and staff at the Sherman County Good Samaritan Center, the answer is "yes."

Florence Farris, a retired postmistress, was paralyzed from the waist down last year. Doctors told her she would never walk again. But Wednesday morning, she walked out of the center to move back to Wheat Ridge Acres Retirement Community.

She spent a year at Good Samaritan with her sister and former post office clerk, Helen Jones. During that time, Farris had to work hard for what she wanted but was told she couldn't have.

Tuesday, friends, relatives and staff and residents at Good Samaritan gathered for a going-away party. Farris was living at Wheat Ridge when she fell over a year ago. She was taken to Lutheran Hospital in Denver, where she said, doctors told her she would never walk. She tried anyway, and with help from physical therapists, nurses, aides and a Goodland doctor, Farris is back on her feet.

Staff at the center say she is an inspiration to others. Family and friends say they would like to take her back to Denver and show the doctors there what she is able to do.

The center's director of nursing and social worker say her case shows how cutting the health care budget hurts people, especially the elderly.

Florence Farris (left) walked out of her room at the Good Samaritan Center on Tuesday to go to a party in her honor. Doctors told her a year ago she would never walk again. She was joined at her party (above) by Anna Schutte, Wanda Adams and her sister, Helen Jones, all residents at the center.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

In 2003, said Rob Cotter, social worker at the center, there was a cap on part B Medicare, limiting the time therapists could work with any one patient. Since there was no cap this year, he said, therapists were able to work with Farris as long as she needed them to.

Maybe when people are voting on health care, said Director of Nursing Laura Tubbs, they'll think about her.

Farris, who was the postmistress in Edson before she retired, had a struggle to get back on her feet. Being paralyzed felt strange, she said,

and having to learn to walk was frustrating.

"I didn't know people had to do that," she said. "I was disgusted."

She said she felt like she was 2 again, but she persisted.

The day before her dream came true, Farris was surprised at her party by friends who traveled from Colorado to see her. Mo Tinsley and Jerry "Slim" Trebilcock, retired science teachers, traveled from Arvada, a suburb of Denver, to surprise Farris at her party.

"I had no idea they were coming," she said.

Her sons Rick and Gary Farris and grandson Patrick were there as well. Rick said he and Trebilcock went to the University of Kansas together. Trebilcock and Tinsley taught together in the Jefferson County, Colo., School District for 25 years, and in the summer, they have run combines from time to time for Rick. Now, they are friends that are like family. Florence said the retired teachers are like sons to her.

Rick said his mother makes friends quickly and takes them in as

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# Genesis food bank helps town

**By Kathryn Burke**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

'Tis the season to for food, warmth and – for the Genesis program – giving to Goodland's less fortunate families.

For 20 years, families who can't get help from welfare or other programs have looked for food and financial aid through Genesis.

"Genesis means new beginning," said Pat Jordan, a founding member, co-director and board member of the agency. "It helps them get a new beginning."

The basic concept of Genesis is to provide temporary help when people need a hand, she said. Although they help people throughout the year, for the past 15 years, the

group has held major food drives around the holidays to fill Christmas baskets.

Jordan said they normally give out about 100 baskets with food and toys to needy families.

The baskets include canned foods, pumpkin pie mix, stuffing and even fresh meat, maybe a turkey or ham. Genesis president Jeff Mason said they normally ask for canned foods, but the make exceptions for the holidays.

"We're calling for things related to seasonal foods," he said, adding that they buy the fresh meat themselves.

To fill the baskets, food drives are

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Hannah Dechant (right), her brother Caleb and their mom Koren of Goodland checked out the "angel tree" at Wal-Mart on Thursday morning. The tree is a way for people to buy gifts anonymously through Genesis for children in need. Dolly Irvin, store support manager, said shoppers just pick up an angel, buy an appropriate gift and then take it up to the service desk along with the angel. She said Genesis volunteers then come to the store to pick up and deliver the toys. Irvin said this year there are about 250 kids on the list, more than they have seen in recent years.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

## Food collection Saturday

The Salvation Army and Genesis try to make it easy to donate food, money and toys. If you want to donate, here's how:

- For Saturday's food drive volunteers are asking for holiday foods. Put food in bags in front of your house where it can be seen. Volunteers will pick up from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., or take bags at the First United Methodist Church, 12th and Sherman.

- Bring a toy or a can of food for admission to matinees Saturday and Sunday at the Sherman Theatre.
- Toss some dough into the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle at Wal-Mart.
- Put a check in the Salvation Army envelope stuffed in today's paper.
- Volunteer for bell ringing, filling Genesis Christmas baskets or make a donation. Call Pat Jordan at 899-5073.

# County has money to help control prairie dogs

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

Declaring at least a temporary victory in the war on prairie dogs, Sherman County commissioners decided Tuesday to continue control efforts over the winter, cost sharing with farmers and ranchers at a 50 percent level.

In November, the county prairie dog committee told the commissioners the program begun last year had done a good job on the rodents, but wanted the commissioners to keep the program to help keep the little pests under control.

After getting complaints, commissioners held a public meeting in July 2003 to discuss the prairie dog problem. After hearing from landowners from all over the county,

they agreed to put up to help control the dogs.

But the end of that year, the county had spent \$90,568 for prairie dog bait, and about \$22,000 was reimbursed by the landowners, who were billed for 25 percent. This year, though, the county plans to spend less than half that, no more than \$40,000 total.

Tuesday, commissioners decided to continue the program at 50 percent, using what is left from \$35,000 they had in the budget for this year.

Daryl West, head of the noxious weed department, which handles the prairie dog program, said he had purchased \$11,514 in bait this year and had some left. He said some is spoken for, but he expected more landowners to buy more once the

commissioners decided on the cost share.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said the special prairie dog fund is supposed to be self sustaining and that bait sold through that program is to be paid back.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the money for the larger program came out of the county general fund and money from the bait sold was paid back to the general fund.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked West if all the landowners who bought bait last year had paid.

West said that nearly all had paid, and that the few who were left did not owe much. He said they probably owed for a bucket or two of bait which would be about \$37. The bait was costing about \$52 per bucket.

Rumpel said \$1,758 has been paid back to the prairie dog fund this year.

"We need a cap figure," Commissioner Kevin Rasure said, "of \$15-20,000 for this year."

The commissioners agreed to a cap of \$20,000 in county money, and with the cost sharing at 50 percent, this would be a total of \$40,000 in bait.

The labor cost for West to apply the bait remains the same at \$25 an hour, and this goes into the special prairie dog fund.

Rasure said it would help the prairie dog fund if more of the landowners had West treat their dogs.

Tiede said he agreed, especially since West has a new four-wheel rig

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# Christmas winner gets \$50

Chelli Smith of Kanorado found her winning number in Tuesday's *Goodland Star-News* and collected a \$50 instant prize in the "Christmas on Us" contest.

There will be \$450 hidden in the paper on Tuesday, and a few people with the right ticket numbers can win a chunk of it.

The instant winners of \$50 are part of the Goodland merchants' seventh annual "Christmas on Us" promotion, which will spread a total of \$2,500 around to 12 lucky shoppers over this month.

Smith

Smith, who got her winning ticket at Frontier Equity, said she was not sure what she was going to spend it for.

Participating businesses are handing out tickets to customers, and the contest continue until the grand prize drawing at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 11th west of Main. Ticket holders must be present to win the grand prize of \$1,500 and second prize of \$500 will be given away.

Shoppers have plenty of chances to win smaller \$50 prizes along the way by finding their numbers in the ads of participating Christmas on Us business in each Tuesday's *Star-News*.

Participating businesses will hand out one ticket for every \$10 a customer spends, with a limit of 250 tickets per transaction. If you ask at *The Star-News* office, we'll give you one free ticket each week.

The customer takes half of each ticket and the other half is dropped into gift-wrapped collection boxes, which are emptied once a week into a large barrel. The *Star-News* staff will pick tickets each week.

Instant winners have four days, until 5 p.m. Friday, to bring their tickets to *The Star-News* office, 1205 Main, and collect \$50 in scrip, which can be spent at participating businesses.

Ten \$50 instant prizes will be

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today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News

Cowboys open season

Senior Brock Lohr scored during Monday's scrimmage as junior Derek Fenner tried to defend. The Cowboys are in action tonight at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Story, photos on Page 11.