

## weather report

**60°**

noon Monday

### Today

• Sunset, 4:27 p.m.

### Wednesday

• Sunrise, 7:04 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:27 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 37 degrees
- Humidity 17 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds northwest 27 mph
- Barometer 29.63 inches and falling

- Record High today 69° (1933)
- Record Low today -17° (1989)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Sunday	53°
Low Sunday	19°
Precipitation	none
This month	.02
Year to date	21.38
Normal	19.64

### The Topside Forecast

Today: mostly cloudy, high near 34, low near 10, winds northwest 5-7 mph. Wednesday: mostly cloudy, high around 21, low around 9, winds north northwest 6-9 mph.

### Extended Forecast

Thursday: cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow, high around 17, low around 8. Friday: mostly cloudy, high near 38, low near 16. Christmas: mostly sunny, high 51.

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

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$3.18 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.29  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Corn — \$1.85 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.74  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 21¢  
Milo — \$1.53 bushel  
Soybeans — \$4.83 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.96  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Millet — \$6.75 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$12.75 cwt.  
NuSun — \$12.85 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
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.)

## inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



## Cowboys 6-1 at break

Senior Lane Winter tried to score over Quinter's Craig Finger during the first half of Friday's 74-67 Goodland win over the Bulldogs at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The Cowboys are 6-1 at the holiday break. Story, photos on Page 10a.

# Goodland man wins \$1,500

By Kathryn Burke

*The Goodland Star-News*

What would you do with an extra \$1,500? Go shopping, of course.

That's just what Melvin Rall, winner of the Christmas on Us \$1,500 shopping spree, did Saturday.

The crowd on 11th Street between Main and Center started swelling around the stage in front of Mad Hatter's Music Emporium a half hour before the drawing.

At 1 p.m., emcee Tom Betz, editor of *The Goodland Star-News*, stopped the holiday music and got the program started.

First some young volunteers, Page Seeger, Erica Hernandez, LeAnn Croker and her brother Bobby, reached in and stirred the tub full of tickets.

Fifth-grade volunteer M'lynn Hinger then drew numbers for an eight-piece Chester Fried Chicken meal from Picnic in the Park. Reiley Floodin of Goodland collected the prize for her parents, Edward and Ashleigh with a winning ticket from S&T Communications.

Next, Page Seeger drew a number for the \$500 First Prize shopping spree. Sandy Smith of Goodland was excited to see her number and rushed on stage to claim her prize.

"I've never won anything before," gushed Smith, smiling from ear to ear.

She said her ticket had come from S&T also, and she planned to spend her money on presents for her family.



Melvin Rall handed over his winning Christmas on Us ticket to Editor Tom Betz and received the \$1,500 top prize. Rall's ticket came from Garcia's Home Furnishing and Appliance, and he went there after the drawing to window shop and to thank them for being one of the merchants in the program.

Photo by Kathryn Burke / The Goodland Star-News

After the smaller prizes, the crowd geared up for the big shopping spree giveaway.

Third-grader Jarod Lake drew the tickets and called the numbers out on the microphone.

Some people had made lists of their numbers for easy access, and

scanned the pages as each number was called out. After the first number 072977 from the Medical Arts Pharmacy was called, Betz waited five minutes before calling another one.

On the second try Rall's number came up and, prompted by his



Sandy Smith spelled her name and address for Advertising Coordinator Doug Jackson after her ticket number was drawn for the \$500 Christmas on Us prize.

Photo by Greg Stover / The Goodland Star-News

daughter Kristin, 21, he made his way to the stage.

"I'm so excited you won," she said. "I never win anything."

Rall, a driver for FedEx Freight, and his wife Rita, who works at Wheat Ridge Acres, live in Goodland.

He said the winning ticket came from Garcia's Home Furnishings and Appliance, where he bought a surround sound system for Christmas.

After winning, he went straight

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# Schools want community involvement

By Greg Stover

*The Goodland Star-News*

At last Monday's meeting of the Goodland School Board, Mike Campbell briefed the other members about the Kansas Association of School Board's convention held Dec. 3-5 in Wichita.

Campbell said one focus of this year's convention was an exchange of ideas about what districts do to enhance their relationship with the communities they serve. Campbell handed out copies of the packets and other materials that listed and described the activities and events other districts take part in to accomplish that goal.

Campbell, the board's voting delegate to the convention, was chairman of the nomination committee for next year's association president. He made the nomination speech for Judy Lair as the president-elect for 2005-2006.

Board member Dick Short, who

## Charges dropped against former coach; district board accepts resignation Friday

Arson charges against former Goodland High School football coach Tony Diehl were dismissed Thursday and the school board accepted his resignation as a teacher and coach Friday afternoon.

Diehl was arrested on Aug. 29 by Goodland police on charges of suspicion of arson relating to a fire at his home. He was facing level 6 person felony charges of arson on a dwelling when the dismissal was signed by Judge Jack Burr.

The next afternoon, the Goodland School Board voted 7-0 at a special meeting to accept his resignation from all employment effective immediately.

After calling the meeting to order, the board went

into closed session with Superintendent Marvin Selby and the district's attorney Jeff Mason, for about 10 minutes. Once back in open session, the board voted unanimously to accept Diehl's resignation and the meeting was adjourned. It lasted less than 20 minutes.

The school board had already voted 7-0 to suspend him, with pay, as a high school English teacher and football coach after he was arrested in August.

On Sept. 13, the board voted unanimously, with two members absent, to terminate Diehl's supplemental contract, which covered positions as football coach,

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also attended the convention, said Campbell did a "wonderful job" there representing Goodland. Campbell returned the compliment,

noting that Short, the association's past president, served as chair of the legislative committee which met during the convention.

The board voted unanimously to allow Miranda Johnson to graduate early under the "senior option" program. Under this option, students

who have an approved plan to complete their required credits can attend one of the programs at the Northwest Kansas Technical College for their senior year. Selby said both high school principal Harvey Swager and counselor Nancy Farris recommended approval.

Short asked if it was possible for the district to check on early graduates from the past five years to see how successful they have been since they left high school.

In his report, Selby said Swager and Karla Murray, the high school's technology coordinator, visited a high school in Omaha where each of the 1,500 students had their own laptop computer. Selby said both told him they were impressed by what they saw there and will brief the board on their visit at the next school board meeting.

Selby said the Topside Tip-Off

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# Seniors enjoy music, dinner, time together

By Kathryn Burke

*The Goodland Star-News*

Goodland High School seniors — and freshmen, sophomores and juniors — mixed with senior citizens from throughout the county Wednesday to share the spirit of the season at the school's 10th annual Christmas dinner.

Starting around 10:30 a.m., seniors poured into the school gym. The room was decked out in holiday decorations with red and green tablecloths, sparkling Christmas trees and hand-made centerpieces.

They were given first class treatment, with valet parking and personal escorts. Walking arm in arm, the students from the National Honor Society, the Girls Athletic Association and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America led guests into the gym to find a seat.

Walking in, seniors were serenaded by members from the high school choir.

"I like the music," said Lucille Fenner, who along with her husband Elroy, is a regular at the event. "The music is great."

In the hour before dinner, members of the school's four choirs — the Black and Gold Choir, Men's Chorale, Les Chantes and the X-Pressos, filled the gym with songs of the season, from the upbeat

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Goodland High School's annual senior citizen dinner brought students and seniors together for food and fun. Before dinner was served, students Jarrod Goodman (left), Megan Sheldon and Brett Bahe scooped whipped cream on top of pieces of pumpkin pie. Heidi Keith (left) served a drink to visitor Beulah McClung (right).

Photos by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News