

weather report

9°

noon Thursday

Today
• Sunset, 4:28 p.m.
Saturday
• Sunrise, 7:04 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:29 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil temperature 33 degrees
• Humidity 73 percent
• Sky partly sunny
• Winds north 17 mph
• Barometer 30.44 inches and rising
• Record High today 77° (1955)
• Record Low today -16° (1929)

Last 24 Hours*
High Wednesday 27°
Low Wednesday 18°
Precipitation trace
This month .02
Year to date 21.38
Normal 19.67

The Topside Forecast
Today: partly cloudy, high near 33, breezy with winds west southwest 8-11mph changing to northwest 19-22, low near 25. Christmas Day: mostly sunny, high around 54, low around 21, winds west northwest 10-15 mph.

Extended Forecast
Sunday: mostly sunny, high around 57, low around 23. Monday: mostly sunny, high around 57, low near 23. Tuesday: partly cloudy, high near 43, low around 16. Wednesday: high around 40. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.17 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.27
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$1.86 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.74
Loan deficiency pmt. — 21¢
Milo — \$1.54 bushel
Soybeans — \$4.86 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.90
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$6 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



Raymer gets high honor

Senior quarterback Derrick Raymer, who has been honored as a standout, picked his route downfield during Goodland's 41-13 victory over Andale on Nov. 6 at Cowboy Stadium. Story, photo on Page 10.



Storm ensures a white Christmas

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland apparently has beaten the one-in-five odds against a white Christmas, as two inches of snow blanketed the town Thursday with more falling.

People woke up to find cars covered in snow drifting and a sharp wind, with hopes of having their first white holiday since a tenth of an inch fell four years ago.

The winter weather began with light flurries throughout the day Wednesday.

Matt Mehle, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service here, said heavier snow started falling at around 11 p.m. and continued into Thursday morning.

The service was expecting the snowstorm, he said, and Wednesday issued a winter weather advisory predicting 3 to 5 inches of snow.

He said the accumulation by 7 a.m. Thursday was at 2 inches with snow still falling. He added reports from west of town were higher, around 3 inches.

Forecasters were expecting one to two more inches, Mehle said, adding, "After it stops today, our forecast is dry."

Wind kept visibility down on Thursday, with snow blowing at around 18 miles per hour with gusts up to 29.

Temperatures on Thursday, Mehle said, started around 18 degrees at midnight and dropped throughout the day, eventually bottoming out around 5 degrees. The low temperatures sent the wind chill down to around -9.

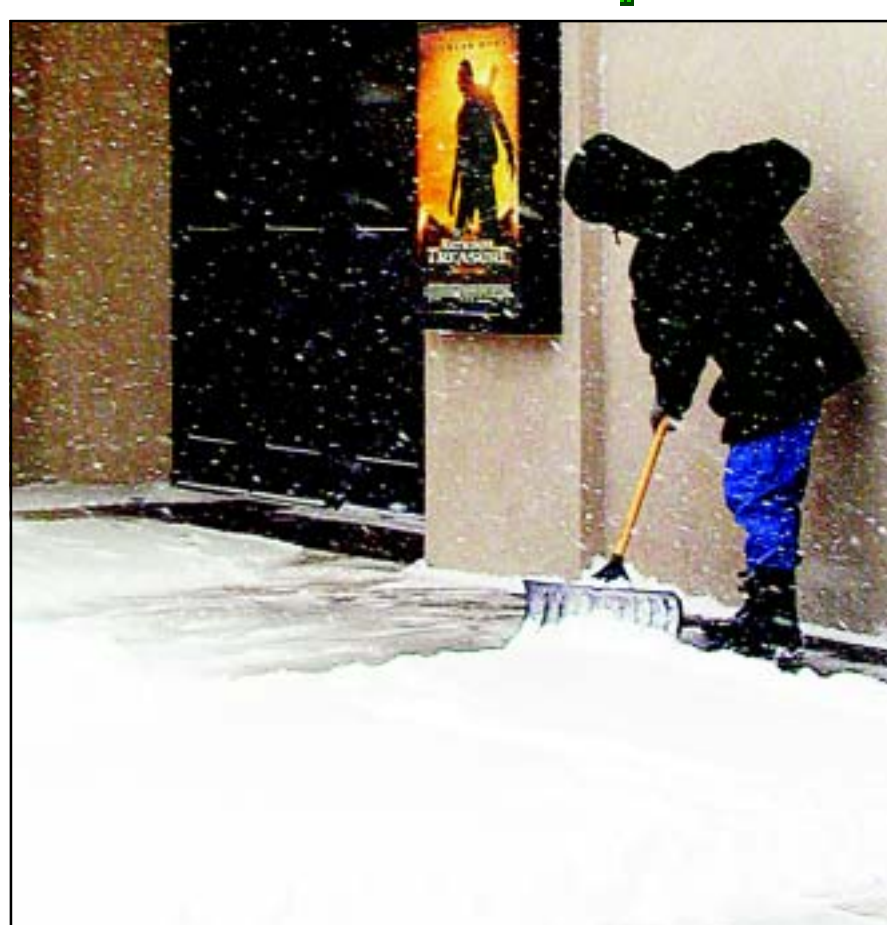
"It's pretty cold," Mehle said.

For today, temperatures are expected to hit around 33 for a high with a low of 25 overnight. He said those numbers should keep the snow from melting before Saturday.

"We're not expecting a lot of melting," he said.

Melting may start on Christmas day, with temperatures reaching a high of around 54.

He said that even with the wind and warmer weather, we should still see snow on Christmas morning.



Dave Branda, owner of the Sherman Theatre, was out early Thursday to shovel the three inches of snow an Arctic storm dropped, giving Goodland a chance at a white Christmas. Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

Genesis volunteers help fill holiday food boxes

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Good will was in the air as more than 30 people showed up to help pack Genesis Christmas boxes last Thursday night.

Volunteers started filling the boxes at the Fellowship Hall at the First United Methodist Church well before 5 p.m. It took less than 45 minutes for the legions of helpers to pack the 109 boxes with donated food.

They filled bright orange carts, separating the green beans, mashed potatoes and corn to make sure the boxes had one of each. Since there weren't enough carts to go around, some volunteers filled their hands or extra cardboard boxes with the food.

Working in pairs to get the job done faster, volunteers old and the young carefully placed each item in the boxes.

One young helper picked up boxes of pasta seven at a time, squeezing them between his arms to hold them up. Other little tikes passed out small items or helped

their parents with bigger boxes.

Along with the traditional holiday foods, the boxes included cereal, rice and pasta. To drink, the boxes had juice and hot cocoa or cider.

Desert included marshmallows, pumpkin pie mix and candy. Fresh foods, including a dozen eggs, a pound of butter and bags of oranges, apples and potatoes, were put in each box.

Saturday when the families came to pick up their baskets, everyone got to pick out a turkey or a ham to complete their Christmas dinner.

After the boxes were packed, Pat and Clark Jordan, Genesis directors, said it looked like they would only need to pick up a few more items. Pat said any extra food would be added to the program's pantry, which helps Goodland's less fortunate families year around.

Genesis has provided the Christmas baskets through donations of food and money for the past 15 years. This year, several food drives contributed to the boxes, including

a major citywide drive where members from 4-H Clubs, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts picked up food left in front of people's homes.

Jordan said food also is collected through special matinees at the Sherman Theatre, events at the Northwest Kansas Technical College and individual donations. She said throughout the year, Picnic in the Park Chester Fried Chicken contributes chicken to the pantry.

Along with food, Genesis includes toys in the baskets. Jordan said an "angel" tree set up at Wal-Mart collects most of the toys. Shoppers pick up an ornament and then buy an appropriate toy for a girl or boy who need a gift. Genesis volunteers pick up the toys and make sure they are ready for the kids.

Most of the helpers Thursday were experts at filling the boxes and said they pitch in every year. After all the work was done, the volunteers met for a meal at Wendy's to talk about this year's success and start planning for next year's boxes.



Genesis volunteer Kathryn Wedermeyer joined in the fun last Thursday to help sort through and pack donated food for Genesis Christmas baskets. Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

Churches plan holiday services

Goodland churches are planning services this week to celebrate Christmas. So far, these have been reported to *The Star-News*:

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 13th and Center, will have a family Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. Friday and a midnight service at 11 p.m. Friday. A Christmas Day service will be at 10 a.m. Saturday.

The church's lessons for Christmas come from Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20).

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 222

W. 13th, plans a Christmas Eve candlelight communion service at 6 p.m. Friday and a Christmas service at 9 a.m. Saturday.

The Calvary Gospel Church, Fourth and College, will have a Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. Friday.

The First United Methodist Church, 12th and Sherman, will have a candlelight carols Christmas Eve communion at 5 p.m. Friday.

The First Christian Church, Eighth and Arcade, will have Christmas Eve services at 5:30 p.m. Fri-

day and will begin Sunday services with breakfast at 8:30 a.m., Sunday school at 9:15 and worship at 10:30.

The Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, 307 W. 13th, Goodland, will have Christmas Eve services at 5 p.m. Friday and at midnight. Holy Ghost Catholic Church, 403 N. Main, Sharon Springs, will have Christmas Eve Mass at 7 p.m. Friday and Christmas services at 8 a.m. Saturday.

Most churches will have their regular Sunday services.

Goodland pair on television tonight

The A Cappella Choir of Southwestern College, near Winfield, will be one of the featured performers during a Christmas Eve television special at 9:30 (Mountain Time) tonight.

Sophomore Alyssa Mason and freshman Josef Felver, both of Goodland, are members of the choir.

Alyssa, the daughter of Jeff and Nona Mason of Goodland, is a 2003 graduate of Goodland High.

She is a philosophy and religious studies major.

Josef, the son of Jon and Elaine Felver of Goodland, is a 2004 graduate. He is studying physics.

The performance, a production by the Kansas West Conference of the United Methodist Church, will be broadcast by Wichita Television KAKE, Channel 10, which can be seen on S&T cable channel 6 or Eagle Communications channel 4.



Mason

Felver