

**weather
report****59°**

noon Thursday

Today
• Sunset, 4:33 p.m.
Saturday
• Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:34 p.m.**Midday Conditions**
• Soil temperature 40 degrees
• Humidity 25 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds west 20 mph.
• Barometer 29.76 inches
and falling
• Record High today 64° (1942)
• Record Low today -13° (1927)**Last 24 Hours***
High Wednesday 52°
Low Wednesday 32°
Precipitation none
This month .18
Year to date 21.54
Normal 19.74**The Topside Forecast**
Today: partly cloudy, high around 52, low near 27, winds east southeast 6-14 mph. Saturday (New Year's Day): partly cloudy, high near 47, low around 24, winds northeast 6-14 mph.**Extended Forecast**
Sunday: partly cloudy, high around 37, low around 17. Monday: cloudy with a chance of snow, high around 30, low near 16. Tuesday: cloudy with a slight chance of snow, high around 28, low around 12. Wednesday: chance of snow. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.**local
markets****Noon**
Wheat — \$3.12 bushel
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$1.83 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.72
Loan deficiency pmt. — 23¢
Milo — \$1.51 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.40
Loan deficiency pmt. — 63¢
Soybeans — \$4.84 bushel
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**Miami meet
next for girl**

Junior Rachael Hagerman, a member of the Michigan State University swimming team, will be in Coral Gables, Fla., Wednesday for the Matt Gribble Invitational. See story on Page 10a.

Tsunami news hits close to home

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

A wall of water 20 to 30 feet high washed through Southeast Asia on Sunday, killing more than 110,000 in one of the greatest natural disasters of all time, but sparing three of my relatives.

Dawn Woolliscroft, my wife Ava's mother, and Ava's sister and brother-in-law, Voni and Ken Taylor, live on the southeast end of Phuket, Thailand, an island in the Andaman Sea.

The walls of water slammed into villages and seaside resorts across Asia, killing thousands in a wide arc of countries. The wave was created by a magnitude 9 earthquake centered off the west tip of the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

The tidal waves spread as far as India and Africa, where bodies of people killed by the wall of water



The Woolliscroft and Taylor home near Phuket, Thailand, after the tsunami on Sunday.

turned beaches into open-air mortuaries.

We learned of the waves on the

Internet on Sunday morning. Thailand is a day ahead of the United States because of the International

Dateline, so the tsunami struck Saturday, U.S. time. We immediately checked the e-mail and found mes-

sages from Ken Taylor and Ava's sister, Kittie Woolliscroft, Florida, reassuring us that they were safe. They had tales of incredible devastation, though.

Ken Taylor described the experience this way:

Just a short message to everyone. If you have heard the news today, perhaps you heard that Phuket was hit by tidal waves due to earthquakes in Indonesia. The west coast is heavily damaged. We live on the south end of the island, but slightly north of the tip and on the east side. At the highest tide, the house can be only 20 feet from the water, but the storms always come from the west.

Other than now owning a marina, for smashed up boats and someone's dock, our place is OK. Fortunately, tidal waves rush in, then rush out.

See DISASTER, Page 7a

Red hats becoming new fashion in city

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Red hats with purple outfits and purple and red accessories don't signal a lack of fashion sense, at least not for the "Ha Ha Sisterhood," a Red Hat Society chapter in Goodland.

The ladies who brunch — and travel — together started out as a group of four which was officially not open to membership, but the group has grown to 20 members. They met for a Christmas brunch at Carol Tupper's home on Friday, Dec. 17.

Queen Mum Marsha Smith, so titled because she was the group's instigator, said the women wear red hats and purple and do a lot of nothing.

"We're a disorganization," she said.

See RED HATS, Page 5a

Russell (top right) checked out her hat in a mirror. Linda Pfau, Monica Emig, Margie Richards and Fern Heckman (right) had a Christmas brunch with the Ha Ha Sisterhood chapter at Carol Tupper's house this month.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News



'Miracle dog' survives fire

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

At first glance, as she bounds into the kitchen from the adjoining office, you'd never guess Sadie had been hurt.

Looking a little closer, you notice deep scars on her head. You see that the bright red T-shirt wrapped around her body conceals more.

When her owner, Annette Fairbanks, pulls back the shirt, the black-and-pink scar that runs the length of the large yellow lab's body is striking. Patches of missing hair spot her body along both sides of the scar.

Fairbanks explains that Sadie's scars come from extensive burns from a kennel fire that almost ended her life.

As she jumps around with excitement at a visitor, it's easy to look past her appearance and see a perfectly happy dog with an outgoing personality that makes her seem so full of life.

That life that almost ended at age 3, Fairbanks said, after she and four other dogs were trapped in a fire on



Wrapped in bandages to protect her burns and fresh from the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at Kansas State University, Sadie posed with her owner, Annette Fairbanks.

Saturday, Nov. 22, 2003, at the 4-B Boarding Kennel just west of Goodland.

Fairbanks said she and her hus-

band Jerry left Sadie at the boarding house while they went to a funeral in Wichita.

She is thankful that the accident happened the weekend before Thanksgiving so that there weren't more dogs in the kennel.

"Luckily, we had low numbers that night," said Dennis Bentzinger, who owns the kennel along with his wife Dorothy.

Although the cause of the fire has not been determined, the dogs escaped into an outdoor area while the building burned.

"It was a total accident," Fairbanks said.

"It was just a tragedy," Bentzinger said.

Although the fire was investigated by the Sherman County Sheriff's Department and the Goodland Fire Department, he said, there was nothing left and they never found a cause.

"The building was completely disintegrated," he said.

See SADIE, Page 8a

Ordeal inspirational

The ordeal Annette Fairbanks went through to heal her dog, Sadie, after a kennel fire has inspired her to help others.

"I would like to use her as an educational tool," Fairbanks said.

Sadie was trapped in a fire at the 4-B Boarding Kennel on Nov. 22, 2003. She suffered burns over 40 percent of her body.

After a long recovery, Fairbanks said, Sadie is a happy and energetic dog. Fairbanks wants to use her inspirational story to give hope to others.

"I'm hoping (Sadie's story) will touch somebody to help them," she said.

Originally, she considered taking Sadie to a children's burn unit, but because of the high rate of infection, most hospitals don't allow animals.

Now she is thinking of taking the dog to any part of a hospital to use her story to highlight the power of perseverance.

"She shows that if you've got a

good spirit," she said, "and a will to live, it can all be OK."

Fairbanks thinks Sadie could be a valuable tool for fire prevention, too. She has been in contact with area fire departments and has appealed to a regional fire prevention education board.

She said she just wants Sadie's story to give others hope.

"I just would like to do something," she said, "with the kids, or anybody who's suffering."

Sadie's story is already inspiring others, appearing on the cover of the Fall 2004 edition of *Animal Life*, a magazine for the Kansas State University Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. Fairbanks is pictured with Sadie on the cover and the story of the dog's recovery is featured in a three-page article.

Fairbanks has been contacted by reporters from the *Hayes Daily News* and her hometown newspaper, *The Goodland Star-News*, asking about Sadie.