

weather report

27°

noon Monday

Today

•Sunset, 4:37 p.m.

Wednesday

•Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.

•Sunset, 4:38 p.m.

Midday Conditions

•Soil temperature 34 degrees

•Humidity 92 percent

•Sky cloudy

•Winds southwest 3 mph.

•Barometer 30.19 inches and steady

•Record High today 70° (2001)

•Record Low today -19° (1959)

Last 24 Hours\*

High Sunday 30°

Low Sunday 18°

Precipitation none

This month none

Year to date none

Normal .02

The Topside Forecast

Today: cloudy with periods of sleet and snow after 9 a.m., temperature falling to 16, 80 percent chance of snow with accumulations of 2 to 4 inches, low near 8, winds east northeast 9-29 mph.

Wednesday: cloudy and cold with 70 percent chance of snow, high around 9, low around -6, winds north northeast 7-14 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday - Friday: mostly sunny, high 31-34, low 14-20.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.06 bushel

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$1.80 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.74

Loan deficiency pmt. — 21¢

Milo — \$1.48 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.55

Loan deficiency pmt. — 61¢

Soybeans — \$4.73 bushel

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$6 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$12.65 cwt.

NuSun — \$12.75 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Confection — \$19/\$13 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$25

(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigoo 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



Good Sam adds red hats

Rick Reeser, administrator at the Good Samaritan Center, donned a red fishing cap when he stopped by a gathering of the Chatter Hatters chapter of the Red Hat Society last week. See story, photo on Page 3.

# Icy storm leave drivers slipping

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Freezing rain left an invisible coat of slick stuff on cars, porches and roads overnight Sunday, causing dangerous conditions for drivers Monday morning, with another winter storm on the way today.

Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts said the weather was causing a string of accidents, keeping his deputies busy. Today, the National Weather Service is expecting more ice and up to 6 inches of snow.

“The freezing rain is making everything slick,” he said.

The Weather Service office in Goodland put out a Winter Weather Advisory around 2 p.m. Sunday.

Patrick Burke, a meteorologist at the office, said freezing drizzle started around 7 p.m. east of Goodland, from Leoti to Hill City. He said the weather didn’t move into Goodland until 4 a.m. and only a trace was reported.

When the ground is cold, Burke said, freezing rain creates a slick surface immediately as it hits roadways.

“We are advising people to drive defensively,” he said, “as a combination of black ice and fog will make for hazardous conditions.”

Butts said the sheriff’s department and the Kansas Highway Patrol started working accidents on I-70 early Monday. He said there was only one trooper on the road, he said, so everyone on the sheriff’s schedule was out working accidents.

Butts said he worked an injury accident around 8:15 a.m. at mile marker 19 where two 10-year-old boys from Winfield were taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center by ambulance.

He said the boys were on the way home from a Denver Broncos football game when their grandfather lost control on ice near the bridge at the east Goodland exit and the car

hit the guard rail. He said broken glass scratched one of the boys in the cheek and neck.

Deputies and troopers worked accidents at mile markers 18, 24, 22 and 27, all before 9 a.m. Monday. One report said three vehicles were off the road at mile marker 19.

A semi-truck with its brakes on fire was reported around 6 a.m. near the Brewster exit on I-70.

“It’s a really difficult situation,” Burke said, “where you can’t see the ice. It’s black ice.”

Butts said Sunday night, most of the traffic problems were east of town in Thomas County as the ice storm started.

Burke said he expected more drizzle last night and conditions to worsen into this morning. He said the storm today should start as a mixture of heavy freezing rain, snow and sleet and then change over to snow tonight.

Snow accumulations should reach from 4

to 6 inches with higher amounts in some places.

“We’re expecting the second and more powerful storm to come through Tuesday,” he said, adding that snow may continue into Wednesday morning.

Highs today are expected to remain in the 20s with an overnight low in the single digits. Burke said for Wednesday, he expects the temperature to stay around 10 degrees with an overnight low at 5 to 10 below zero.

“People should definitely prepare themselves for a winter storm,” he said.

Butts advised people to skip travel today and just stay home.

“If they do have to be out,” he added, “just be aware that the roads are slick. It’s just a big sheet of ice.”

In Kansas, travelers can to call 511 for road conditions and weather information. Outside of Kansas or if you have trouble with 511, call 1-866-511-KDOT.

## Top 10 stories of 2004

# Dust storms, accidents, rescue lead list

Highway accidents killed seven people in five mishaps, but a woman involved in another survived a night under the stars before she was rescued.

Together, the crashes were Goodland’s top story of 2004

Each year the staff of *The Goodland Star-News* takes a look back at the top stories of the past year and votes on the top 10. This is not a complete list, but rather a selection of the many stories — both good and bad — that happened during the year.

- The top story went to the road deaths, which included three generations of one family and the area’s state senator.

- In second place was the murder conviction of Lanny Bevington for killing his wife Kerrie at the end of last year.

- Third was the arrest and resignation of former Goodland football coach Tony Diehl for attempting to set fire to his own house.

- Fourth was an incident where a man was stabbed and left to bleed to death while the assailant tried to hide from officers and was shot when they tried to arrest him.

- Fifth on the list was the opening of Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp.’s Goodland plant and the delays and rumors that plagued the company for nine months before the first gaskets were produced.

- Sixth, Dr. Robert McCullough deciding to retire after 45 years, and then Wayne and Barb Aten decided to close the doors on their department store after 22 years.

- Seventh is the election of Kevin Butts as the new Sherman County Sheriff after a crowded primary and general election, followed by the resignation of Sheriff Doug Whitson.

- Eighth, the Cheyenne Plains pipeline, which was buried across the southwestern quarter of the county in the fall. The pipeline brought construction workers who gave the county’s economy quite a boost for at least three months, and along with S&T Communications, raised the tax valuation to boost city and county revenues.

- The effort of the Goodland school district to sell the old Edson gym on eBay was ninth.

- The loss of the Greyhound bus stop was story No. 10.

### Top 10 stories of 2004

1. The top story, death on the roads, began when a Goodland banker was killed in an 18-car pileup in a blinding dust storm a mile west of the Kansas border on April 18. About six weeks later on May 29 a Denver man and the area’s state senator were killed in similar storms near Goodland and east of Oakley.

Merlyn Lee Stasser, 52, vice president of Western State Bank, was coming home from church in Burlington with his son Justin when they drove into a dust storm and became part of an 18-vehicle pile-up which involved 46 people. I-70 had to be closed for hours while Colorado State Troopers sorted out the accident and 36 of the victims were taken to nearby hospitals or to Denver.



This dust storm on May 29 cut a dangerous and striking profile as it rolled across the plains. JoAnn Clouse of Goodland said she got the photo of this storm near Colby in an e-mail her sister, Janet

Schild of Spearville. It was taken near where State Sen. Stan Clark was killed when his car hit a stopped semi trailer and was rammed by another semi truck.

Winds up to 90 m.p.h. and dust so thick one lawman reported he couldn’t “see his hand in front of his face” dimmed the sky Saturday afternoon, May 29, killing the area’s state senator and a Denver man in accidents on I-70.

The first wreck, about seven miles east of Goodland just after 5 p.m., killed a Denver man, Hubert Stewart, 72, while the second, about nine miles east of Oakley, killed state Sen. Stan Clark.

Two weeks later, on June 11, three women from the same family were killed on I-70 west of Brewster when their van was struck by a car driven by a young woman who had apparently been drinking as she headed west to Denver. The deaths shook the community, and the driver, Jennifer Adams, 28, is facing three charges of second-degree murder.

The victims were Mary Wyant, 55 a paraprofessional at West Elementary School; her mother, Aline Becker, 85, a retired upholsterer and homemaker; and Mary’s daughter Christine Williams, 35, a science teacher at Goodland High School. Injured in the accident were Williams’ daughter Caylee, 5, and son Garrett, 8.

The funeral for the three women a few days later filled Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Not all the stories had an unhappy ending. A Bird City woman was heading to work at Wal-Mart on Oct. 4, when her car missed a curve on County Road 28 northeast of Goodland, and came to rest in a creek bed. Elizabeth “Debbie” Miller, 51, lost control of her car about 8:30 p.m. The car was hidden by weeds more than 350 yards from the road, and she was not rescued until about 10:45 a.m. Tuesday, more than 14 hours later.

Sheriff’s Deputy Roger Studer



Jordan McCombs, 9, (left) and Nathaniel Smith, 10, played in the overflow after heavy rains passed through the area on 11th. Wet almost to the knee and dripping with damp hair, the pair held a race pitting pieces of paper against each other in the water as it rushed through the gutter. The fall rain put the total for the year ahead of normal for the first time in more than five years.

Photo by Kathryn Gurfinkel/The Goodland Star-News