

weather  
report

33°  
noon Tuesday

Today  
Sunset, 4:25 p.m.  
Wednesday  
Sunrise, 6:47 a.m.  
Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions  
• Soil temperature 33 degrees  
• Humidity 57 percent  
• Sky sunny  
• Winds northwest at 12 mph  
• Barometer 30.00 inches  
and falling  
• Record High today 75° (2003)  
• Record Low today 1° (1952)

Last 24 Hours\*  
High Monday 24°  
Low Monday 15°  
Precipitation —  
This month .5  
Year to date 15.96

The Topside Forecast  
Today: Partly cloudy, high  
around mid 30s and low at 18. To-  
night turning partly cloudy with  
winds at 10 to 15 mph.

Extended Forecast  
Wednesday: Mostly cloudy, 20  
percent chance of snow, high in  
the mid 30s and lows around 15.  
Thursday: Partly cloudy, high mid  
30s and low around 15. Friday:  
Partly cloudy, highs in lower 40s  
and the low around 18 with in-  
creasing clouds.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets

Noon  
Wheat — \$3.20 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.13  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c  
Corn — \$1.67 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.61  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 33c  
Milo — \$1.35 bushel  
Soybeans — \$4.70 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.99  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0.00c  
Millet — \$5.75 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$7 cwt.  
NuSun crop — \$8  
Confection — Call  
Pinto beans — \$17 (new crop)  
(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



‘Ranger’ gets  
final touches

Bryon Wilson helped his  
children Riley (center), 7,  
and Avrie, 1, put the finish-  
ing touches on “Ranger”  
Sunday in front of their  
home at 906 Montana Ave.  
See Photo on Page 10a

# Storm blast strands hundreds

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Snow blasted northwest Kansas  
and northeast Colorado on Sunday  
and Monday, closing roads and  
stranding hundreds of Thanksgiving  
travelers.

Wind-driven snow began to fall in  
Goodland about 10 a.m. Sunday,  
and Interstate 70 was closed about  
2 p.m. The interstate did not reopen  
until 5:10 a.m. Tuesday, but most  
stranded motorists had headed west  
by 6:30 a.m.

Sunday night, motels filled up  
quickly. Shelters were opened at the  
Goodland Activities Center, the  
United Methodist Church, the Na-  
tional Guard Armory and Max Jones  
Fieldhouse. There were people  
huddled in the lobbies of the Buffalo  
Inn and Howard Johnson Hotel.

Power went off Sunday after-  
noon. It was off for about two hours  
in parts of the city. Monday morn-  
ing. The power downtown went off  
about 6:30 a.m. and was off for  
about three hours before coming  
back on for about an hour. Then the  
whole city went down again at 11  
a.m. Power to parts of town was re-  
stored within an hour, but it took  
until 7 p.m. to restore everyone.

Power plant and electric crews  
were putting a priority on keeping  
power on in the residential areas,  
and they were working to overcome  
equipment problems. The high



If Ann, a traveler on her way home to Denver, could just convince her dogs to get out of her sport utility vehicle Monday morning, she could take them into the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

winds slapped line together and  
knocked some transformers out.

Because of the power problems  
and lack of heat, people at the Field-

house were moved to the high  
school gym Monday afternoon.

Those at the Methodist Church and  
Activity Center were moved to the

high school for the same reason.

I-70 was closed at Colby about  
2:30 p.m. Sunday and by the  
evening was closed to the west of

Salina because of the blowing snow  
and poor visibility. In Colorado,

See STORM, Page 9a

# People huddle, play games at Max Jones



Pastor Scott Grimshaw of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church was scooping the walks and driveway at the parsonage Monday morning. He had started scooping before he learned the memorial service that morning had been postponed and figured he may as well finish.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

It was a mixed bunch. People of  
all ages, several races and from  
many places, headed every which  
direction, ate breakfast, played bas-  
ketball or snuggled under blankets  
trying to stay warm Monday morn-  
ing at the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Some were from far away, others  
were so close to their destinations it  
hurt to be stuck. Even dogs found  
refuge.

Ann from Denver said she was on  
her way home from visiting friends  
in Kansas and had stayed in the Wal-  
Mart parking lot Sunday night. When  
she heard there was a place to stay  
indoors at the fieldhouse, she went  
over. She soon found she could even  
take her dogs in.

Larry Conrad didn't have so far to  
go to get home. A Sherman County  
resident, he had been on the way to  
his home on County Road 10 when  
his truck broke down. He called  
Sheriff Kevin Butts, who was going  
to take him home. The road was too  
bad, so the sheriff took Conrad to the  
fieldhouse instead.

Nikki Turner of Colorado Springs

tried to keep track of her three chil-  
dren, Kayla, 9, Sidney, 6, and Bella,  
2, as they scampered around the  
building, full of doughnuts and  
juice.

Yolanda from Aurora, Colo., was  
there with her daughter Paola; her  
husband, who speaks Spanish but  
little English; her nephew; her  
brother; and “Poppy,” who was hid-  
ing under the bleachers.

They had been visiting their son  
in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and  
were on their way home Sunday,  
when the storm forced them to stay  
the night. Yolanda said she was  
missing work at Loreal, a cosmetics  
company, and Paola was missing  
school. Paola didn't seem to feel she  
was missing anything.

The family did have some trouble  
sleeping. Kids were going all night  
with the basketballs, Yolanda said,  
pointing at some boys. Not that the  
boys were the only source of noise.

“Our dog barked all night,” she  
said.

Kenny and Amber Knudsen of  
Salt Lake City were traveling with

See STRANDED, Page 9a

# Storm grinds things to a standstill

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

The halls filled with people sit-  
ting, laying or sleeping on the floors  
in sleeping bags, moms and dads,  
children and pets.

The howling winds and blowing  
snow Sunday stranded hundreds of  
travelers in Goodland until Tuesday.

People took refuge in Goodland  
Activities Center and the Method-  
ist Church Fellowship Hall after the  
motels filled up. Intermittent elec-  
tricity made lights and heat iffy.

Electricity went off at the Good-  
land Activities Center and the Meth-  
odist Church at 6:30 a.m. Monday  
and was on and off during the day.

Verla Terry at the Goodland Ac-  
tivities Center said they provided  
shelter for around 120 people when  
I-70 was closed and the motels filled  
up. Food was brought in, she said,  
but they were really not prepared for  
all the people.

At the center, people passed the  
time sleeping, playing pool and read-  
ing. People were calm and trying to  
make the best of things. Travelers  
used cell phones to check on condi-  
tions and keep in touch with family.

David Bieberman and his wife  
and children were headed home to  
Denver when the weather changed  
their plans.

Bieberman said the kids were in

hog heaven with the various things  
to do at the activities center. He and  
his son Zack were playing pool.

Owen Larsen, Goodwill, Okla.,  
was spending his time covered up  
and reading a book. He said he had  
spent Thanksgiving with his dad in  
Wyoming and his mother was to  
meet him in Goodland

Matt Murphy with his wife and  
two dogs had been to Arkansas and  
were on their way home to Lafey-  
ette, Colo. His mother-in-law from  
Hays told them on the phone the bad  
weather happens at Thanksgiving,  
not at Christmas.

At the Methodist hall, Eddie  
Gomez played with his infant daugh-  
ter, Isabella, while his wife slept.

“The weather really began to  
freak me out, so I got off the Inter-  
state,” said Gomez adding he found  
all the motels were full in Goodland.

Randy Topliff said there were be-  
tween 170 and 190 people at the hall.  
He was trying to get alternate heat  
arranged at 10 a.m. The Salvation  
Army bought food for the people to  
eat and volunteers helped.

Tracey Trujillo said she and her  
children, Athena and Adam, had  
been to their grandmother's in Ne-  
braska and were on their way home  
to Denver. Athena and Adam occu-  
pied themselves playing a board  
game.



Eddie Gomez, Denver, played with his infant daughter, Isabella, at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall Monday.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

## Wind causes power outages

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Wind was the major cause of  
power outages in Goodland  
from Sunday afternoon until  
Monday night, city electrical  
crewmen said, blowing lines  
together and shorting breakers.

“We had a lot of things going  
on,” said Rod Blake, power  
plant superintendent. “The  
main problem was the wind  
slapping lines together and tak-  
ing out our switches and break-  
ers.”

Blake said the city lost its  
connection to the Sunflower  
Electric Power system about  
2:30 p.m. on Sunday. It was  
down for about two hours while  
they tried to bring it back and  
bring the city power plant on  
line.

“We got things back up,”  
Blake said, “but we were losing  
so many feeder lines it opened  
another breaker with Sun-  
flower and dropped our system.”

“We never lost the whole city  
after the original outage, but we  
had problems with the north,  
south and central loops which

See POWER, Page 9a