

The Goodland Star-News

MIDWEEK

**Tuesday, Nov. 21
2006**

\$1

Volume 74, Number 93

Twelve Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather report

58°

noon Monday



Today

• Sunset, 4:29 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:37 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:28 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 42 degrees
- Humidity 26 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds southwest at 24 mph
- Barometer 30.21 inches and falling

- Record High today 74° (1974)
- Record Low today 4° (1929)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	55°
Low Monday	18°
Precipitation	—
This month	.01
Year to date	21.97
Above normal	2.86 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny, high near 72, low around 28.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high near 70, low near 32. Thursday: Mostly sunny, high near 70, low near 31. Friday: Mostly sunny, high near 50, low near 22. Saturday: Mostly sunny, high near 53, low around 25. Sunday: Mostly sunny, high near 55.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.



Young members and their adult sponsors of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Sherman County wore stocking caps and waved and threw candy to the crowds that lined both sides of Main as part of the annual holiday parade Saturday afternoon. Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Santa, parade open holiday season

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Crowds lined Main Saturday afternoon for the annual parade that kicks off the Christmas shopping season and the arrival of Santa Claus.

Santa arrived on the newest Sherman County Rural Fire Department truck as the end of a parade that started with about 40 area bikers.

The parade went up Main from 17th to Eighth, and then the Sherman County sheriff and Goodland police escorted Santa to the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce office in the Centennial Building, where kids got to tell him what they wanted for Christmas.

About 100 children piled on the old gent's lap, said Chamber Executive Director Andi Nelson.

Santa had to work his way through the line of kids and strollers to get inside, but kids who talked to him were rewarded with candy and cookies.

The room was crowded, Nelson said, but they managed to get everyone who wanted to talk to Santa through in good time.

Nelson said Santa would be at the Chamber office from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Saturday for the next three weeks. Photographer Chelsea Sheldon will be at the Chamber office to take pictures of Santa with the kids.

Brad Schields of the Goodland Kiwanis Club and the Goodland Motorcycle Club said the Toys for Tots program collected about 1,000 items with the help of the 170th Maintenance Unit of the Kansas National Guard.

The toys were gathered in a National Guard truck that was part of the parade and then took the toys to the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. The toys will be given out with Christmas food baskets from Genesis Food Bank.

The parade included floats by Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Sherman County, High Plains Office Supply, the Knights of Columbus and Western State Bank.

The Nu Phi Mu Craft Fair at the Max Jones Fieldhouse and the "We Did It" craft fair at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall drew crowds of people looking for holiday decorations and gifts.

People on Main got carriage rides from John and Janna Eisenbart, who had their white carriage and horse decked out for the holidays. Nelson said the horse carriage will be in town every Saturday while Santa is talking to kids.

She said merchants plan holiday activities over the next few weeks beginning with a home-based business show from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on

See PARADE, Page 7a



Santa Claus (above) made his first appearance of the holiday season Saturday afternoon, arriving at the end of the annual Chamber of Commerce parade on the newest Sherman County Rural fire department truck. Santa will be at the Goodland Chamber of Commerce office, 104 E. 10th, each of the next three Saturdays to talk to children. Linda Quint and her "little sister," Alexis Franklin, 6, (right) rode in the Christmas parade on Saturday as part of the Toys for Tots drive.



Christmas tickets good for \$50 prize

Eight lucky numbers appear in the ads for Christmas on Us sponsors on Page 3b of today's *Goodland Star-News*, and if you have a ticket with one of the numbers, you could win \$50 in scrip to spend at participating merchants.

Merchants have been handing out the tickets since Thursday. The ninth annual "Christmas on Us" promotion will spread a total of \$2,500 around to 12 lucky shoppers over the next month.

The contest will end on Saturday, Dec. 16, when the grand prize of \$1,500 and second prize of \$500 will be given away downtown.

Shoppers will have plenty of chances to win ten \$50 "instant prizes" along the way.

Participating businesses will hand out one ticket for every \$10 a customer spends, with a limit of 250 tick-

See CHRISTMAS, Page 7a

Plea entered in cruelty case

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

The story of a couple who allegedly left 14 horses without food or water last winter is drawing to an end.

Tim Armknecht has pleaded guilty to three counts of cruelty to animals, a Class A nonperson misdemeanor.

His wife, Shauna Armknecht, according to court records, is close to coming to an agreement with the county attorney.

Tim Armknecht said he had accepted the plea agreement because he admitted he hadn't called a veterinarian for three sick horses. He said he had been feeding the horses.

"I chose to plead guilty to three counts of cruelty based on the fact that three horses were sick and hadn't received care from a veterinarian," he said. "That part of the Kansas statute doesn't require in-

tent to establish neglect. I did provide reasonable care to the animals, including feed, but they were sick."

Tim Armknecht was placed on supervised probation for a year and unsupervised probation for another two. If he violates probation, he could spend 30 days in jail for each of the three counts. He appeared Monday, Nov. 6, in front of Judge Jack Burr in Sherman County District Court. Cal Williams of Colby was his attorney.

He will have to pay court costs of \$128, his attorney's fees, a fine of \$3,000 and a probation fee of \$25. Under the agreement, Armknecht cannot own, lease or board horses for 10 years.

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, a man called the sheriff's office to report that horses in a pasture owned by the couple north of town at 6975 K-27 appeared to be mal-

nourished. Four had died and their bodies had been left in the pasture.

Deputy Jason Showalter and Under-sheriff Roger Studer went to the Armknecht place, about five miles north of Goodland.

Showalter said he found 10 horses with no food or water. He said from their appearance the horses had no water or food for several weeks. He also found four dead horses, including a mare and her foal.

"From the way two of the dead horses were sinking into the ground, they appeared to have been dead from three to four weeks," Showalter said.

Sheriff's officers loaded the hungry horses into trailers and took them to Prairie-rieland Animal Clinic, where they recovered.

See HORSES, Page 7a

inside today

More local
news and
views from
your
Goodland
Star-News



Mustangs lose to Colby

Stephen Buller fought through a flock of Colby Middle School Eagles on Tuesday in the junior high gym. The Mustangs fell behind in the fourth quarter, then fought back to within one point, but lost 33-32. See photo on Page 8a.