

**weather
report****24°**

noon

Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 4:27 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 7:04 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:27 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 34 degrees
- Humidity 84 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds northwest 30 to 35 mph
- Barometer 29.86 inches and steady

- Record High today 69° (1964)
- Record Low today -27° (1989)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	31°
Low Thursday	28°
Precipitation	.85
This month	1.89
Year to date	23.31
Above normal	3.66 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy. High in lower 30s. Low around 13.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Partly cloudy, high in the lower 30s and low around 12. Northwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Sunday: Partly cloudy. High lower 30s, low around 17. Monday: Partly cloudy in the morning. High mid 40s, low around 18. Tuesday: Mostly clear. High mid 40s, low around 18.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local
markets****Noon**

Wheat — \$4.33 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.67
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$3.57 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.26
Loan deficiency pmt. — 00¢
Milo — \$3.16 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.73 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.26
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0.00¢
Millet — \$7 hundredweight
Sunflowers
NuSun crop — \$13.20
Confection — Call
Pinto beans — \$19 (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

**Band plays;
choir sings**

Clarinet players Lea Shores (above left), Jillian Parker and Kylie Buller contributed to the holiday music that the Goodland High School singers and instrumentalists played at a concert Monday. See story, photos on Page 3.



Semitrailer rigs filled the parking lot at the Valero truck stop Wednesday ,waiting morning, and was not expected to be reopened until late Thursday or possibly for westbound I-70 to open into Denver. The Interstate was closed early Tuesday this morning.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Ice, snow close schools, highways

By Tom Betz*The Goodland Star-News*

School kids got two days of early holiday vacation with a snow storm that started with freezing rain on Tuesday and dropped seven inches of snow in Goodland through Thursday.

The rain started at midday Tuesday and changed to snow about 1:30 a.m. on Wednesday. Goodland received .44 of an inch moisture on Tuesday and .85 on Wednesday, including about seven inches of snow by midnight.

The snow was slowly clearing out Thursday, but blizzard warnings remained in effect until noon.

Goodland schools cancelled sports events Tuesday evening and closed schools on Wednesday and Thursday. The Northwest Kansas Technical College closed Wednesday, but held classes on Thursday starting an hour later at than usual at 8 a.m.

Police Chief Ray Smee said there were no major accidents in the city, nothing but a couple of fender benders in the Wal-Mart parking lot.

The Sherman County courthouse was closed on Wednesday, and people who were needing to pay their taxes — due Dec. 20 — were advised they could pay Thursday without any penalty. The Sherman County Health department was closed on Wednesday, but was to reopen today.

The snow storm was not the largest on record, but started out similar to a storm Dec. 20, 1911 that dropped 14 inches in one 24-hour period, said Brad Mickelson, a meteorologist at the Goodland National Weather Service office.

“We might be close,” Mickelson said on Wednesday, “but we won’t make it in 24 hours.”

As the icy rain changed to snow, accidents began piling up on I-70 about 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday with a rollover reported by the Kansas Highway Patrol about four miles east of Goodland. A 1996 Ford Explorer driven by Juan Carlos Mar-



Trucker Kim Conner (above) said she had puzzles and games to keep herself occupied while she waited for the Interstate to reopen. Odis Partin (right) put his dog Maggie back in his truck heading back to Tennessee when he learned the firm he was delivering to in Denver wouldn’t be open.

Photos by Tom Betz and Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Winter storm halts all travel in area

By Tom Betz*The Goodland Star-News*

Mother Nature spun up a huge storm Tuesday that closed highways, schools and businesses from the Rocky Mountains to western Kansas for nearly three days.

Roads were closed west, south and north of Goodland, with the snow on top of a layer of ice from freezing rain which fell at the start of the storm.

The storm began to move northeast Thursday morning, and the National Weather Service in Goodland forecast periods of snow with

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tinez, 22, Houston, was westbound when the driver lost control after crossing an icy bridge and went off an embankment, rolled, and landed on its top on a fence.

A backseat passenger, Rosenda Gonzales, 20, Houston, was ejected

into the barbed wire fence. The driver and front seat passenger, Maria Del Rosario Lopez, 23, also of Houston, were using seat belts. All three were taken to the Goodland hospital for treatment.

Another rollover was reported

just east of the Colorado line at milepost 1 about 6:10 p.m. when a sport utility vehicle rolled, blocking both eastbound lanes. There were no injuries, but traffic was backed up about half a mile before the vehicle was pulled off the highway.

At 6:15 p.m., there was a rollover at the east Goodland exit with another car on its top in the ditch. Goodland rescue personnel were dispatched, but there were no injuries.

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Man in Bastille after damaging store

By Tom Betz*The Goodland Star-News*

The phone rang at 2:30 a.m. Tuesday, and the woman on the line said there was a great story because someone had driven into the front windows at Dollar General.

A few minutes later, Tom Rohr of Dependable Glass and Josh Ford and Mike Yarger were cleaning up the front and removing damaged panels to put up a temporary wall to cover a gaping hole. The car was nowhere in sight.

Rohr said he thought the driver was trying to create a drive-thru — or maybe was out celebrating.

Police Chief Ray Smee said the car, driven by Daron Hovis, 27 of 1016 Syracuse, apparently crashed into the front window about 11:45 p.m. on Monday.

The chief said Hovis backed out of the store and drove his car until he hit a Geotracker owned by Chantel Richers at 402 Grand more

than a mile away.

Hovis was in the Sherman County Bastille on Wednesday, charged with leaving the scene of two accidents, reckless driving, driving under the influence and criminal damage to property, Smee said.

The chief said he had no estimate for the damage to Dollar General or to the car Geo, but expects the total to be in the thousands of dollars.

Sue Siruta, assistant manager at Dollar General, said the store reopened by 3 p.m. on Tuesday.

She said four employees worked on the mess from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. so they could open.

“He pushed the cash registers back from where they were sitting,” Siruta said, “but it didn’t damage the registers.

“The force pushed the first three isles back against the next one, and we have gotten them back in place

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Tom Rohr of Dependable Glass cleaned up the damage to the front windows of Dollar General caused by a car driving into the front about 11:45 p.m. on Monday, and filled the gaping hole with a plywood wall. Workers at Dollar General cleaned up the inside damage and had the store reopened by 3 p.m. on Tuesday

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News