

weather report



31°

10:30 a.m.
Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 7:01 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 35 degrees
- Humidity 75 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds west 6 mph
- Barometer 30.26 inches and rising
- Record High today 74° (1962)
- Record Low today -4° (1964)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	48°
Low Wednesday	28°
Precipitation	none
This month	0.34
Year to date	19.26
Below normal	0.16 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 41, winds out of the west at 10 to 15 switching to the north and a low around 21. Saturday: Sunny with a high near 50, winds out of the west at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 25.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny with a high near 48 and a low around 25. Monday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of rain and snow showers, a high near 37 and a low around 20. Tuesday: Sunny with a high near 41 and a low around 21.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local markets



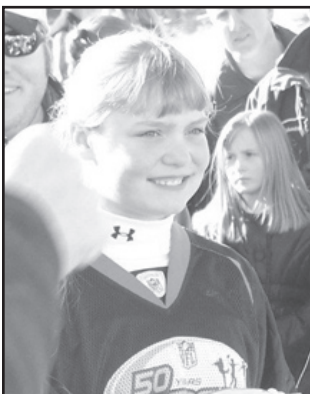
10:30 a.m.

- Wheat — \$5.94 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.01
 - Corn — \$5.63 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$5.70
 - Milo — \$5.34 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$9.72 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$10.47
 - Millet — \$11.50 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$28 cwt.
 - Confection — no bid
 - Pinto beans — \$28
- (Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today



More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Goodland girl is third

Goodland's Ellee McDaniel, placed third at the Denver Broncos Team Punt, Pass and Kick Championship held Sunday morning at Broncos headquarters at Dove Valley. See story, photos on Page 8A.

Church presents living Nativity scene



People can see the Nativity Scene brought to life on Sunday night from 5 to 7 p.m. at Harvest Evangelical Free Church, 521 E. Highway 24. The scene was brought to life by the church members last Sunday evening also. Other members provide music for the occasion. If viewers need to be warmed up they can get hot drinks and cookies inside the church. The scene is populated by Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, Angels, the three wise man, shepherds along with sheep, goats and a horse. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Postal changes delayed to May

By Kevin Bottrell

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Just one day after a public meeting in Colby, the U.S. Postal Service announced it will not close any more processing plants or post offices before May 15.

The meeting in the Colby Community College student union Monday was to discuss moving Colby's mail processing from Salina to Denver. Roy Reynolds, senior plant manager in Omaha, said all local mail — incoming and outgoing from all of the 677 zip code area of northwest Kansas — would go to Denver and back under the plan being studied.

The service has been losing \$9 billion a year, partially from the decline in first class mail, he said. "2006 was the heaviest year," Reynolds said. "We've lost 40 billion pieces of mail since then. We've seen ups and downs over the years. We don't expect to come back up this time."

To combat this, Reynolds said the current plan is to have less than 200 processing centers by 2013, after which the service would no longer be able to have overnight mail. First class mail would go to a two- to three-day delivery standard. Reynolds said the remaining centers would be those that are already big hubs: located centrally and with good access to transportation routes and airports. The plan would save \$3 billion and reduce postal service jobs by 35,000.

However, Tuesday's announcement could signal a change in the plan. The service said it will delay any closures until May 15 to allow congress time to work on a plan for the service's future.

"The Postal Service hopes this period will help facilitate the enactment of comprehensive postal legislation," it said in a statement.



Rep. Rick Billinger spoke at the U.S. Postal Service meeting in Colby on Monday and asked the agency consider the hardships their plans to delay First Class Mail could be on the elderly who depend on the mail for medications.

Congress has been considering the 21st Century Postal Service Act, which would reduce operating costs and return \$11 billion in pension overpayments along with numerous cuts and ways to raise revenue, such as allowing the service to ship beer and wine.

The service said in the meantime it would continue to conduct studies on moving around mail processing, such as the one for Colby.

Currently, Reynolds said, incoming mail to Colby comes into Wichita first, is sorted into delivery order and then sent to Salina and then on to Colby. Once it arrives, carriers can take it right off the

trucks and go deliver. The service is studying moving that operation, along with outgoing mail, which is sorted in Salina, to Denver.

Trucks will go out in the evening, but processing in Denver won't get started until 8 a.m. the next day. Reynolds said the service would have a 20-hour processing window.

However, he said, the mail set to come back to Colby from the previous day will be ready when the truck gets there.

Reynolds said he'd been told the changes would not affect departure times for mail trucks leaving Colby and delivery times at homes and



Roy Reynolds, senior processing plant manager from Omaha conducted the meeting and made the presentation on Monday about the proposed processing changes for Northwest Kansas.

Photos by Kevin Bottrell/Colby Free Press

businesses would be unaffected.

Moving Colby's mail would save about \$14,000 after transportation costs are factored in. Reynolds said the number is comparatively low because Colby's processing — and much of the equipment used to do it — has already been moved out.

Express mail from within the 677 zip codes should remain a same-day service, he said. Priority packages that are too large to fit in mail sacks will be handled manually in Colby, just like they are now. Newspapers that are sorted down to the five-digit zip codes will go out with that day's mail as long as it is brought in by 4 to 5 a.m. Newspapers not sorted to the five zip code numbers will be sent to Denver to be sorted into delivery order.

Reynolds said although the study supports moving Colby's process-

ing to Denver, the service hasn't made a decision yet. The service has gone to great pains to say they do not make final decisions before the public meetings. In a Thursday release, the service said there had been inaccurate reports in the media that a list of studies was a list of offices slated to close.

"Let's be very clear," the release said. "Our studies are still in progress."

Reynolds said feedback from community meetings is included in the material sent to the Postal Service area headquarters in Denver for those who make the final decisions.

From 1970 to 2006, he said, the service expanded its operation. Now with the decline in volume, it

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Christmas on Us grand prize drawing location changes

One \$50 instant prize remains available and someone can be the winners in the Christmas on Us merchant drawing if their ticket number matches any of the numbers printed in the special merchant ads in today's *The Goodland Star-News*.

People need to check the numbers of the tickets they have received from the participating merchants and compare them to the ones in the ads in today's *Star-News*.

A total of nine instant winners of \$50 have collected their prize so far with one more instant prizes to be given out before the grand prize drawing at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, for \$1,000 and second place of \$500. The grand prize drawing will be

Christmas on Us Grand prize drawing 4 p.m. on Tuesday at Central Elementary!

held in front of Central School. The site has been moved from 12th Street to get the drawing off the street, and with the schools on vacation the Central School seems a better location and affords people more park-

ing spaces, said Tom Betz, Editor of *The Goodland Star-News*.

Irma Romero was the ninth instant winner and picked up her \$50 prize on Tuesday. She got her winning ticket at Cowboy Corner

Express.

A winner will have until noon on Tuesday to claim the final \$50 prize at the Star-News office at 1205 Main. All the last minute tickets will be collected on Tuesday afternoon to be included in the grand prize drawing that afternoon.

The last set of instant winner numbers are printed in the Christmas on Us merchant ads in today's *Star-News*.

All the tickets that have not been drawn for instant prizes will be in the large tub of tickets for the grand and second prize drawings on Tuesday. Winners must be present with their ticket to win the \$500 second prize or the \$1,000 grand

prize. If the final instant \$50 prize has not been claimed by Tuesday afternoon a ticket will be drawn to give that away before the grand prize drawing.

Participating businesses are: Garcia's Home Furnishings and Appliance, Elliott's, Cowboy Corner Express, Jacque's Hallmark, Olde Westport Trading Company, Cochran Farm Supply, Gambino's Pizza, Casey's General Store and the Star-News.

Participating businesses will hand out one ticket for every \$1 up to \$10 a customer spends, and one additional ticket for any portion over

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