

weather report

62°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:47 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:05 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:48 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil Temperature 33 degrees
- Humidity 21 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds southwest 13 mph
- Barometer 30.19 inches and falling
- Record High 63° (1990)
- Record Low -15° (1979)

Last 24 Hours*

- High 46°
- Low 19°
- Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy; low 25-30; winds west 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny; dry; high 60-65; winds west 10-20 mph; low 25-30.

Extended Forecast

Sunday through Tuesday. Sunday: dry; high 65; low 25-30. Monday: dry; high 55-60; low 30. Tuesday: dry; high 50; low 20-25.

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

local markets



Noon

- Wheat — \$2.31 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.07
- Loan deficiency payment — 38¢
- Corn — \$1.71 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.82
- Loan deficiency payment — 17¢
- Milo — \$2.66 hundredweight
- Soybeans — \$4.16 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.14
- Loan deficiency payment — 75¢
- Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$6.15 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.80
- Confection current — \$13/\$8 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$13 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire



Late news from the Associated Press
1 p.m.
Wal-Mart head to step down

NEW YORK — Wal-Mart Stores Inc. president and chief executive David Glass, who is credited with building the company into the world's biggest retailer, will step down from his post.

Glass, 64, succeeded Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton 12 years ago. Lee Scott, who is chief operating officer and vice chairman of Wal-Mart for the past year, will succeed Glass as CEO and president.

The Bentonville, Ark.-based company said Glass will remain full-time with Wal-Mart for at least the next year as chairman of the executive committee of the board of directors.

Under Glass, the company expanded its presence greatly in the United States and abroad.

Wal-Mart increased its annual revenues from \$16 billion in 1988 to an estimated \$165 billion in the fiscal year that will end on Jan. 31.

It's a boy! First baby of 2000

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

It's a boy! He's the first baby of 2000 in Sherman County to be born at Goodland Regional Medical Center. His name is Jesus Alfredo Diaz.

His proud parents are Jesus and Yesenia "Jessie" Diaz. Jesus is their first child. He was born at 10:02 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 11. He weighed 6 pounds, 11 1/2 ounces and measured 19 inches long.

He was delivered by Cesarean section by Dr. Greg Bongers.

When Jessie was asked if she had wondered if their baby might be the first baby born in 2000 in Sherman County, she said she didn't care when the baby was born. She just wanted to be a parent.

Jessie said that from a sonogram done earlier in her pregnancy, her and her husband were told that the baby would be a girl. So, it was quite a surprise for both of them, to find out in the delivery room that the baby was a boy. But the surprise was a pleasant one, especially for her husband as he really wanted a son.

Goodland Regional Medical Center and Goodland businesses had sponsored a "First Baby of the Year" contest, and the new boy will receive a number of supplies and gifts from the hospital and the businesses for being the first baby of 2000.

The gifts received from Goodland Regional Medical Center were formula, diapers, baby care products, a baby book, an engraved feeding spoon, a tote bag and a Rock, Talk, and Read packet, which was donated to the hospital by West Elementary School and the Goodland Public Library.

Gift certificates were donated by Aten's Department Store, J. C. Penney, and Wal-Mart. Savings bonds for \$50 were given by Mr. Jim's His Shop, First National Bank of Goodland, St. Francis, Sharon Springs, Colby, and Quinter.

The parents received floral arrangements from Cobblestone Floral and Garden Center and the Blossom Shoppe.

Prizes from Goodland businesses included a baby cup from B-E's Jewelry; a "Precious Moments" figurine from Knott Just Books; a smoke detector from Rasure Lumber Do-It-Center; a quilt from the Methodist Church Quilters; a "Star is Born" baby bunting from Collage, Ltd.; a discount on baby furniture at Garcia's Home Furnishings; a baby picture frame from Shanagan's; a six-month subscription to The Goodland Daily News; an Armetale alphabet plate from Elliott's Inc.; free movie rentals from Pied Piper Video; and free pizza for the parents from Pizza Hut.



Jesus and Jessie Diaz, Goodland, held their son, Jesus, in Jessie's hospital room on Thursday afternoon. Jesus, who was born Tuesday, was the first baby of 2000 in Sherman County.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Senator proposes tax hike to fund education plan

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas should set an educational example for the nation, Senate President Dick Bond says, and he wants a \$100 million sales tax increase to help the state become one.

"I'm going to introduce a tax bill for education, and it will pass sometime," Bond, R-Overland Park, said Thursday before a joint meeting of the House and Senate Education committees.

Bond, who is not running for re-election this year, said he would introduce a tax increase bill next week. The extra money would go into an education fund and could help pay for Bond's broad, 10-point education plan, which he unveiled in September and described Thursday to the committees.

Called First in Class, the plan includes a proposal requiring school districts to consider making students wear uniforms.

It also would lengthen the school year, require students to have a speaking knowledge of Spanish and demonstrate basic skills mastery before graduating from high school, and would establish all-day kindergarten statewide.

The plan also includes abolishing tenure for teachers and ensuring that all schools have access to current technology.

Bond said he did not know how much his plan would cost, although he noted that a proposal to have all-day kindergarten would cost \$69 million a year. He also said connecting schools to a

statewide computer network would cost \$10 million.

He acknowledged that parts of his plan are costly but said they were necessary to provide students with quality education.

"I believe that Kansas can have the best educational system in the nation," Bond said.

The House and Senate committees introduced bills on Thursday incorporating some of Bond's proposals.

Although several committee members said they liked the plan, Bond probably will face a tougher challenge from other legislators, who are considering ways to cut spending.

Legislators find themselves in a budget bind because state general fund revenues are running \$9.3 million below projections this fiscal year, while fiscal 1999 ended with revenues \$73.4 million below estimates.

House Appropriations Chairman David Adkins, R-Leawood, said he likes most of Bond's proposals but the revenue shortfall rules out extra spending. He also said legislators don't support a tax increase.

"The fiscal reality makes this a year for small ideas," Adkins said. "It isn't a year for big visions."

Senate Ways and Means Chairman Dave Kerr, R-Hutchinson, also said a tax increase is unlikely.

"I've not heard any support for that," he said.

Gates steps aside at Microsoft

REDMOND, Wash. (AP) — Investors sent Microsoft Corp.'s stock higher in early trading today, apparently comfortable with Bill Gates' decision to relinquish his chief executive job to company president Steve Ballmer.

Microsoft announced after trading hours Thursday that Gates will remain chairman and take on the role of "chief software architect," devoting his time to plotting out new software products and services. He said he was returning "to what I love most — focusing on technologies for the future."

Several big brokerage firms said in reports to investors today that they were pleased by the move, in part because it assured continuity in the company's leadership and placed both executives in positions that would help Microsoft grow further.

Microsoft stock was up 2 percent in morning trading, rising \$2.06 1/4 at \$109.87 1/2 on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

The executive switch formalizes more than a year and a half of changes at the software company, both in man-

agement and vision.

Microsoft has made Gates the world's wealthiest person, with a fortune estimated at more than \$80 billion. His company has become the dominant force in the software industry, with its Windows operating systems on more than 90 percent of all personal computers.

Gates said he planned to dedicate his time to fashioning and promoting Microsoft's flagship operating system. The latest version, Windows 2000 for business computers, is scheduled for release on Feb. 17.

"Clearly, Gates is bored," said Michael Gartenberg, vice president of the Gartner Group, a technology research firm. "He loves innovation, and he loves to play with the technology. This will let him do that."

Ballmer, 43, was appointed Microsoft president in July 1998 after being brought into the company eight years before by Gates. The two met while attending Harvard University. Ballmer was Gates' best man when he married Melinda French in 1994.

After Gates hired Ballmer, the two reportedly had some rocky times. One anecdote says that in the spring of 1985, as Microsoft's deadline to produce Windows slipped further and further behind, Gates called Ballmer into his office and threatened to fire him if Windows wasn't on the shelves by the end of the year (though few people believe Gates, with a notoriously bad temper,

was ever serious about firing Ballmer). Windows was ready by that November.

With Ballmer at the helm, Microsoft will likely become more aggressive as it enters new technology markets with its new Internet strategy. As Ballmer announced Thursday, the company will market new software that can be accessed through any device — from personal computers and handhelds to cell phones and toasters — via the Internet.

Ballmer is seen as rather loud and blustery — he didn't bother with a microphone at Thursday's news conference announcing his new role — but his business credentials are impressive. As Microsoft's longtime vice president of sales, Ballmer helped make Windows a household name through the 1990s.

Like Gates, Ballmer has already staked out a position against breaking up the company, which may be sought by the federal government and 19 states suing Microsoft over alleged antitrust violations.

Ballmer said a breakup would be "absolutely reckless and irresponsible" and "the single greatest disservice that anybody could do to consumers in this country."

David Wu, a financial analyst at ABN Amro in San Francisco, said few differences exist between Ballmer and Gates. "Other than the fact that Steve Ballmer is less rich than Bill Gates, those two are Siamese twins," Wu said.

City to review pool bids Monday

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

The new water park plans may be on a slide of their own, and there has been another delay from the state on the Cherry Street project which City Manager Ron Pickman will explain during the regular city commission meeting 5 p.m. Monday.

Bids were opened Thursday on the water park and Pickman said they would be presented to the commission for review on Monday.

When asked how they looked he said he was not pleased with the figures he was seeing, but that there were some negotiations being pursued with the bidders.

The city commission had established a funding level of about \$2.4 million for the water park and new ball field project.

"I don't know what to think at this point, but it looks like we may have to revise the plans," Pickman said. "We will present all the bids to the commission on Monday and see what can be done."

If the pool project is delayed because of cost problems it should not affect the new ball field project which can be built whether the pool is ready or not.

On another somewhat sour note Pickman said the city received a letter from the Kansas Department of Transportation saying the Cherry Street project bidding would be delayed from April to June. This is the second delay as the bidding was originally to be in February, but in December the city was notified the bidding would be delayed to April.

This will probably create a problem because the city was hoping to coordinate the replacement of the railroad crossing at Cherry and 18th Street with the straightening of Cherry Street so it would only be closed one time for the construction.

"This delay by the state will make it difficult as the railroad was planning to do the replacement of the crossing this summer, and we probably will not be ready to do Cherry Street at the same time," Pickman

said. One of the items on the agenda is a resolution to enter into an agreement between the city, Kyle Railroad and the Kansas Department of Transportation for the replacement of the Cherry and 18th Street crossing.

The commission will also consider a resolution to designate the City of Goodland as "The Sunflower City of the Sunflower State."

In other business the commission will:

- Consider a request from Virgil Baumfalk to vacate the city right of way for a portion of 17th and Cherry.
- Review the roofing project for the airport administration building.
- Review bids on a 1 1/2 ton flat bed truck for the solid waste department.
- Consider board appointments for the Housing Authority (1), and the Cemetery Board (2).
- Purchasing a used vehicle for the fire chief.
- Extension of the water improvement project.

President wants \$10 credit for electronic tax filing

WASHINGTON (AP) — To entice more Americans to abandon postage stamps for computers, President Clinton is proposing a tax credit up to \$10 for people who file their income tax returns electronically.

"It's good for them. It's good for the IRS. It's good for the system," Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers said Thursday in announcing the proposed credit at a conference on modernizing the nation's tax collector.

The president will ask Congress in his fiscal 2001 budget to approve a \$10 credit for people who file returns electronically, either on their home computers or through a tax professional. For people who use the IRS telephone

fees are usually many times the cost of a 33-cent postage stamp.

The proposed tax credit would eliminate the cost factor, said Bob Weinberger, government relations vice president at H&R Block Inc., the nation's largest tax preparer.

"People are comfortable doing it a certain way," he said. "This is likely to push a lot of people across the line who might have been saying, 'What's in it for me?'"

But Rep. Bill Archer, chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, poked fun at the proposal and added that it leaves out millions of people who still file paper returns.