

**weather report**

**39°**  
at noon



**Today**

- Sunset, 4:38 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 6:24 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:37 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil Temperature 36 degrees
- Humidity 19 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds north 15
- Barometer 29.92 inches and falling
- Record High 83° (1934)
- Record Low 16° (1955)

**Last 24 Hours\***

- High 33°
- Low 17°
- Precipitation none

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: Most clear, low 20, south winds 10 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, high 50-55, low 25, southeast winds 15-25.

**Extended Forecast**

Friday: dry, high 45, low 25. Saturday and Sunday: chance of rain or snow, high 30s, 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 — \$2.87 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$2.66
  - Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
  - Corn — \$1.98 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$1.83
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 16¢
  - Milo — \$3.23 hundredweight
  - Soybeans — \$4.24 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$4.06
  - Loan deficiency payment — 84¢
  - Millet — no posted price; ask.
  - Sunflowers
  - Oil current crop — \$5.45 cwt.
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.49
  - Confection current — \$15/\$6 cwt.
  - Pinto beans — \$15
- (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

**afternoon wire**

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

**Leader makes peace offer**

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak made the clearest offer yet of an independent Palestinian state but said it must be the result of negotiations that would resume only after the violence abates.

The violence continued Wednesday. An Israeli customs agent was killed in an attack that Barak said called into question Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's intentions on the eve of meetings with President Clinton aimed at reviving peace talks. Israeli soldiers shot and killed two Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Three Palestinian gunmen opened fire on an Israeli vehicle heading to an Israeli-controlled crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, killing the customs agent and lightly injuring her male colleague.

# Write-in snatches commission seat

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

For the first time in anyone's memory, a write-in won a contested race in Sherman County as Mitch Tiede, a Democrat, ousted the incumbent Sherman County commissioner in District 2 with 61 percent of the vote, or 583 votes.

Commissioner Kenneth Davis, also a Democrat, came in with only 365. Davis resigned his position this morning, effective immediately, saying he wanted to let Tiede get involved right away.

The race, which sprang up in the wake of commissioners' unpopular decision this year to rip out the pavement on the Nemecheck Road north of town, surprised many courthouse observers.

In the other write-in race, for the register of deeds, incumbent Carol Armstrong, a Republican, took 90 percent of the votes — 2,202 compared to 244 for her opponent, Lynn Swayne, also a Republican.

After waiting up until 1 a.m. for all the votes to

## Commissioner quits job today

Sherman County District 2 was left without a commissioner this morning as incumbent Kenneth Davis resigned, leaving the newly elected candidate to fill the position a few weeks early.

"I turned in my letter of resignation this morning," said Davis who lost the election to write-

in candidate Mitch Tiede. The letter simply stated Davis was resigning from his position as Sherman County Commissioner of the second district, effective immediately.

He said that he had quit because there is a

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# Bush claiming victory

By Mike Feinsilber

Associated Press Writer

Texas Gov. George W. Bush claimed cautious victory Wednesday in the unresolved presidential race. The outcome of his race with Democrat Al Gore hung on Florida and the uncertain fate of its 25 electoral votes.

"This morning brings news from Florida that the final vote count shows that Secretary Cheney and I have carried the state of Florida," Bush told reporters in a midday appearance. "If that result is confirmed in an automatic recount, as we expect it to be, then we have won the election."

Gore, for his part, slept past noon and remained cloistered with advisers or relatives in Nashville. He planned to thank campaign workers later in the day and then escape for several days to Center Hill Lake in Smithville, Tenn., not far from the Gore family farms in Carthage.

Asked whether the Gore campaign would mount a court challenge if the Florida recount did not go Gore's way, campaign chairman William Daley replied: "I doubt it."

Americans cast some 100 million votes Tuesday — 48,591,357 for Gore and 48,421,815 for Bush. That left the Bush-Cheney ticket and the Gore-Lieberman ticket tied at 48 percent.

Despite Bush's assertion of a complete vote in Florida, a small number of absentee ballots remain uncoun- ted. Fewer than 1,800 votes separated the two men at last count, with Bush having the edge.

Bush, with running mate Dick Cheney at his side, seemed matter-of-fact as he spoke with reporters outside the governor's mansion on the morning after a nail-biter of a night. Earlier, during a lunchtime photo session inside the mansion, Bush was more animated, even venturing a few jokes.

Bush said he had dispatched former Secretary of State James A. Baker III to oversee the recount under way in Florida, with final results expected on Thursday. Daley said former Secretary of State Warren Christopher would oversee the recount for the Democrats.

Gore himself thought he had lost Tuesday night, when the broadcast networks projected Bush the winner in Florida — and thus the nation.

The vice president telephoned his congratulations to the Texas governor. Then he called again and took his concession back.

In the wee hours, Daley finally appeared in Gore's stead to tell a crowd of supporters: "This race is simply too close to call."

Standing in the rain, the Nashville crowd chanted, "Recount!"

Bush's hometown newspaper, the Austin American-Statesman, had to stop the presses after printing 59,000 copies with the front-page headline "Bush!"

TV networks and many other newspapers also proclaimed Bush the winner. The Associated Press did not, citing the narrowing vote count. By dawn, it was clear the race was not over.

The AP tally showed Bush leading by 1,784 votes in Florida, and both the Bush and Gore campaigns were sending teams of lawyers to the state Wednesday to keep an eye on the recount.

The election stacked up as the closest race since John F. Kennedy defeated Richard M. Nixon in 1960.

## It's a big job...



Election workers (from left) Kelly Rippe, Karen Gillihan and Deb Snethen counted ballots for the general election Tuesday night. They didn't finish until 1 a.m. this morning. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

# Thomas County votes down seeding

COLBY (AP) — Thomas County voters have made it clear Tuesday they don't want cloud-seeding planes flying over their homes and fields.

Residents rejected the Northwest Kansas Weather Modification Program 1,353-759 in a nonbinding referendum Tuesday. The results will be forwarded to the Kansas Water Office and reviewed by the governor before a deci-

sion is made on whether to include the county in future cloud seeding efforts.

If the vote stands, Thomas County would be the fourth northwest Kansas county to defect from the program. Cheyenne, Rawlins and Decatur counties decided earlier to ban the program.

Those defections cost the program a \$42,000 cut for the 2001 budget, and the agency said in its web page that

nonsupport from Thomas County voters would likely reduce state water plan funds by a proportionate amount. If that occurs the board would have to make up the funds or decide not to conduct next year's program. Sherman County commissioners have been asked to conduct a vote as well, but put off a decision to see what happened in Thomas County.

The program has been fighting an uphill battle to win support since it expanded its flights into northwest Kansas in 1997.

Opponents of the program expressed concern that planes may be redistributing rainfall and hail and that the silver iodide used to seed the clouds is a toxic

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## Waiting for results



As election night lengthened, Lynn Swayne, write-in candidate for register of deeds found herself helping check the computerized totals for Sherman County. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Daily News

# Sheriff keeps his job

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson will get to keep his badge after Tuesday's election, as he beat Under-sheriff Dee Albers by almost two to one.

After the final tally came in, Whitson, who ran on the Republican ticket, had 1,650 votes, while Albers, the Democratic candidate, had 957.

Both men were at a training school in Salina on Tuesday and had to call back to Goodland to find out who won the race.

"I'm very glad that I won the election and I'm glad I will be in office for another four years," Whitson said.

Whitson, who has been sheriff since

1995, said the election came out about the way he figured it would. He said the personnel at the sheriff's department will stay the same, but he wants to move forward on education programs to prevent drug abuse and confidence games.

Whitson said he wants to implement a program to educate parents about drugs, so they can recognize drug abuse in kids, and another to educate elderly people about scams in order to protect themselves.

"Now that we have the election out of the way," he said, "we can get things back to normal and back to business."

Whitson said he and Albers sat to-

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# Senator gets a big win

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Quinter's Billie Hazel Flora lost the 40th District Senate seat race by a landslide Tuesday night, but she said she hopes she sparked an interest in politics.

"I'm glad that I did it," said the 79-year-old Democrat, who challenged Sen. Stan Clark, an Oakley Republican, in the general election. "Maybe some other old gal will come along and say, 'She did it, and I can do it too.'"

When all was said and done, Clark earned 22,039, or 83 percent, of the votes in the district, leaving Flora with

4,590. Clark came out on top in each of the 15 counties, winning in Sherman County with 80 percent of 2,621 votes.

The senator said he wasn't surprised. "I live in a Republican district," he said, "and people want to know who they are voting for."

The six-year veteran of the Kansas Legislature said his general election opponent just didn't have the time or resources to beat him.

In the August primaries, Clark faced a tough competitor who spent tons of money and had the support of major

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