

weather  
report

30°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 4:33 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:30 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:32 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 31 degrees  
• Humidity 63 percent

• Sky clear

• Winds southwest 7 mph

• Barometer 30.09 inches  
and falling

• Record High 75° (1975)

• Record Low -4° (1940)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 27°

Low 9°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Chance of freezing rain or sleet, 50 percent chance for precipitation, low 10-15, southeast winds 10 mph. Tomorrow: Chance of freezing rain or snow, 50 percent chance for precipitation, high 25-30, low 15, north winds 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: dry, high 25-30, low 15.  
Friday: dry, high 25-35, low 10-20.  
Saturday: chance of snow, high 25-35, low 10-20.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.79 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.57

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$1.91 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.80

Loan deficiency pmt. — 19¢

Milo — \$3.11 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.18 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.02

Loan deficiency payment — 88¢

Millet — no posted price; ask.

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.50 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.28

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.

Country has  
huge surplus

WASHINGTON — The next president and Congress could have hundreds of billions of additional dollars to use for tax cuts and spending increases under preliminary estimates of economic growth being considered by the Congressional Budget Office.

Preliminary estimates — which are likely to be scaled back — are that the economy would grow by an average 3.3 percent per year over the next decade, said budget specialists who spoke Monday on the condition that they not be named. The office is Congress' nonpartisan budget analyst.

Though that would match the projections of many economists, it would be an increase over the 2.7 percent average annual growth that office envisioned and would impact the agency's budget surplus forecasts.

# Officials swarm for school's request

By Janet Craft

*The Goodland Daily News*

The Northwest Kansas Technical School will be swarming with state education officials as the state Board of Regents gathers there Wednesday and Thursday to consider the school's request to become a college.

Expected at the meeting along with the Board of Regents will be seven university presidents, 19 community college presidents and the 16 directors and presidents of technical schools and colleges in Kansas, along with many aides and

assistants.

Another issue to be discussed at the meetings will be the merger or alliance of Fort Hays State University and Pratt Community College.

Larry Keirns, director of the technical school here, said he and the school's board decided last spring to look into college designation after the state reorganized higher education and put the school under the regents for the first time.

Technical schools used to be handled by the state Board of Education, which oversees public schools, but in 1999 the Legislature decided to

have the Board of Regents oversee all of the state's higher education institutions.

When the law went into effect in July 1999, the technical schools and community colleges were grouped in with the state's six universities, which the board was already responsible for.

"Now that we are under the Board of Regents," Keirns said, "it's just logical that we become a college, being able to issue degrees puts us on a more level playing field."

Students will be able to earn Associate of Applied Science degrees in the school's 13 programs

by completing general college courses.

Right now, graduates of the technical school receive a diploma and a "credential" which shows the courses they have completed and their grades. Keirns said the school wants to give students the option of getting a higher level of education.

"Statistics show a person with an associate's degree will earn more on average than someone with just a high school diploma," he said.

Keirns said old or new students won't be forced

See COLLEGE, Page 9

## Building group ends idea

*Official says district may build new space*

By Rachel Miscall

*The Goodland Daily News*

A committee the Goodland School Board formed to study building has scrapped plans to build in the high school's courtyard because it would be too expensive, Superintendent Marvin Selby said Monday.

Instead, Selby told school board members, the committee has discussed a new addition on the northeast corner of the school, near the band room.

The addition would extend north toward 12th Street and east towards Cowboy Stadium, he said, covering an area where a modular classroom now sits. Selby said the modular building, which houses a program for students who dropped out before graduating, would be removed and the program held elsewhere.

After deciding that expanding the high school's science program was a priority, the board asked the district's architect last year to design plans to build new science classrooms and labs in the high school's 7,000-square-foot courtyard.

Glen Strait, owner of Strait Associates in Colby, presented the plans last month, noting that the \$1.5-million project would be 25 percent more expensive than building new space.

Board members discussed moving the cafeteria into the courtyard to free up space for other programs and eventually moving the junior high into the addition if enrollment drops enough to warrant the move. They decided to form a committee to study options and look into air conditioning the district's five schools.

At the committee's meeting last week, Selby said, Strait told members that it would be an additional \$25 to \$30 per square foot to build in the already-enclosed courtyard. The committee started talking about building onto the high school, he said, and discussing how much land is available.

Mike Campbell, school board member, said he'd like the committee to continue looking at moving the lunchroom to a bigger area and establishing a commons area for students. Dick Short, board president and a member of the committee, said the group also discussed rearranging high school departments.

See SCHOOL, Page 9



## City decks street for holidays

Goodland City workers spent Monday afternoon decorating Main Street with wreaths and replacing leaf-decorated fall flags with holiday banners. Dustin Bedore (above and left) did his job from a bucket raised above the street while fellow workers helped from below. Abel Ontiveroz, who was wrapping garland around light poles, said the decorations will stay up until the end of the year.

Photos by Rachel Miscall  
The Goodland Daily News

## Democrats reject Bush proposal

By David Espo

*AP Political Writer*

George W. Bush's campaign floated a compromise plan to bring an end to the contested presidential election on Tuesday, but a top aide to Al Gore swiftly brushed it aside.

The two White House rivals sweated out the uncertainty of Florida court rulings and slow-moving hand recounts in the campaign that refused to die.

Former Secretary of State James A. Baker III said Republicans would agree to accept the results of any hand recounts completed by a 5 p.m. deadline set by the secretary of state if the Democrats would drop their insistence on prolonging the counts. At the same time, he envisioned the two sides agree-

ing to drop dueling lawsuits.

Otherwise, he said, "When is it going to end? I ask you, when is it going to end?"

Within an hour, Gore campaign chairman William Daley spoke dismissively of Baker's suggestion.

"It truly was not a proposal. It was strictly, in my opinion, an inaccurate description of the laws of Florida," he said at the Capitol, where he met with Democratic leaders of the House and Senate. "I think we've got to not try to usurp the courts of Florida."

The rejection swiveled the focus of the controversy to a state courtroom in Tallahassee, where judge Terry Lewis was preparing a ruling on a lawsuit challenging the 5 p.m. deadline for vote

certification set by Secretary of State Katherine Harris.

As important as that loomed, it was only one of a mushrooming series of events popping up around the state that stands to pick the next president. Bush held a 388-vote in an unofficial tally by the Associated Press, although the vote totals will change with the recounts as well as with the tally of overseas absentee ballots set for Friday night.

Florida has 25 electoral vote and the candidate who wins them stands to become the nation's 43rd president after one of the closest elections in history. Top state officials issued conflicting legal opinions. Lawsuits proliferated as the post-election campaign neared the end of its first week.

## Book week brings fun events

By Dana Sulsberger

*The Goodland Daily News*

The Goodland Public Library and the libraries at North, West and Central Elementary schools will be full of games, prizes and excitement in addition to the books this week.

The week before Thanksgiving has been National Children's Book Week for 81 years to promote reading and literacy.

"Anyone who works with kids and books," said Marsha Smith the head librarian of the elementary schools, "knows that the two should be inseparable."

She said reading is the foundation of kids' education and without it kids

have a very hard time learning.

At the public library, many new books will be on display during the week and children will receive bookmarks and stickers. Kids who go to story hour on Wednesday and Thursday will have a Thanksgiving feast.

Ruth Ontiveroz, library technician at West Elementary, said their school library will celebrate this week with a Reading is FUNdamental program, a big way in which the schools celebrate the holiday.

The program is held three times throughout the year for the kids at all

See BOOKS, Page 9