

weather report

26°  
at noon

Today

• Sunset, 4:32 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:33 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:31 p.m.

Middy Conditions

• Soil Temperature 31 degrees

• Humidity 63 percent

• Sky mostly clear

• Winds north 20 mph

• Barometer 30.07 inches and rising

• Record High 80° (1941)

• Record Low -3° (1955)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 34°

Low 16°

Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 10, south winds 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, high 35, low 15-20, north winds 15-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: dry, high 25-30, low 15-20. Sunday and Monday: dry, high 35-45, 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 — \$2.77 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.59

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$1.91 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.78

Loan deficiency pmt. — 21¢

Milo — \$3.10 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.18 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.11

Loan deficiency payment — 79¢

Millet — no posted price; ask.

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.60 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.

President is first in Hanoi

HANOI, Vietnam — Offering “a new page in our relations with Vietnam,” President Clinton on Thursday became the first U.S. president to visit Hanoi, capital of the communist country that America could not defeat 25 years ago.

Although the official welcoming ceremony would not occur until Friday morning, 200 to 300 Vietnamese gathered outside his hotel downtown to get a glimpse of Clinton. At the airport, where security was tight, U.S. and Vietnamese flags, hanging side-by-side, flapped in an autumn breeze.

About a dozen military officials lined a fringed red carpet to greet their guest.

Clinton and his daughter, Chelsea, each were handed a bouquet by a woman in a traditional tunic called an ao dai.

# Board votes down seeding

## Official says it won't be back

By Rachel Miscall  
*The Goodland Daily News*

The groundwater district board voted today to kill the Northwest Kansas Weather Modification program in the wake of a 2-1 loss at the polls last week in Thomas County.

After three years of debate, public polls, elections and squabbles over the weather-changing process, the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District board pulled the plug at noon central time.

At its monthly meeting at the main office in Colby, the board started talking about cloud seeding at 11 a.m. After less than an hour of discussion, the board voted 6-2 with one member abstaining to suspend operations, citing “lack of finances and expertise.”

Weather modification, or cloud seeding, has been a controversial issue since coming to northwest Kansas in 1997 as an extension of a 25-year-old program in southwest Kansas. Opposition has been steadily building and in this year’s general election 64 percent of Thomas County voters said they wanted the program to end.

In the past year, Cheyenne, Decatur and Rawlins counties have banned the program’s planes, with commissioners in Decatur and Rawlins counties declaring the process — where airplanes fly chemicals into storm clouds to increase rain and reduce hail — illegal. Sherman County commissioners discussed holding a straw poll similar to the one in Thomas County, but said they didn’t have time to put it together for the November election.

Though the Thomas County election was labeled “non-binding” and “advisory,” the results were enough to make board members, who otherwise support cloud seeding, think twice about continuing a program that has little public support.

# Grain elevator gets a new general manger

Collingwood Grain of Goodland has a new general manager, Ed Cook, who comes to Goodland from McPherson. Cook replaced Brad Cowan, who was general manager for the grain elevator for over 4 1/2 years, as of Oct. 31.

Cook said he has been involved in agriculture for nearly 27 years. He is a native of southwest Kansas and farmed near Meade for 15 years before he went to work for Collingwood, a unit of food industry giant Archer-Daniels-Midland, in January 1989.

“My farming experience ... helps me relate to the farmers,” he said. “Probably what helps me the most is my (nearly) 12 years of experience with Collingwood.”

Before taking the position in Goodland, Cook managed elevators at Conway and Canton, east of McPherson.

In Goodland, he is in charge of elevators at Goodland and Kanorado.

“I have excellent employees,” he



Ed Cook

said, “and I’ve met some very nice farmers so far and am looking forward to meeting the rest.”

Cook said one of his goals is to continue the service that has been provided by Collingwood in the past.

He started as assistant manager at Collingwood’s Plains elevator, but later took a job as a field man there.

Then he moved to Marquette, where he was a field man at that elevator.

Eventually, he was promoted to the manager’s job at the Conway elevator and later the company added the Canton elevator to his responsibilities.

Cook said he and his wife Tracy are looking forward to meeting people and becoming involved in the community.

“It seems like a very nice town,” he said. “My wife and I like it very much so far.”

There will be an open house at the Goodland elevator from 9 to 11 a.m. on Wednesday to meet the Cooks and have coffee and rolls with them.

# Gore and Bush battling for victory in the courts

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Al Gore battled George Bush in the courts of law and public opinion on Thursday, saying the 2000 presidential race could be “short-circuited” if hand recounts are shut down in Florida’s fiercely contested balloting.

“The entire nation is witnessing the disintegration of a process that was designed to elect America’s president,” Bush’s lawyers countered in court papers seeking to halt the recounts.

Nine days after the nation voted, manual recounting resumed in one heavily Democratic county around Ft. Lauderdale and Republicans ferried fresh political troops to the state.

Bush began the day with a 300-vote margin statewide, with about 2,500 overseas absentee ballots to be counted Friday night. Gore hoped the additional hand recounting would vault him ahead

“If it goes, it’s not coming back. It’s just another program. The district isn’t going to fail just because this fails.”

— Wayne Bossert  
water district manager

”

## A silent cheer



Kindergartners Jazzmin Weis, Jayme Davis, Carly McCracken and Idalia Martinez gave a silent cheer on Tuesday afternoon for National Children’s Book Week. The kids had been listening to sixth grader Whitney Dautel read a story, “The Sun is our Favorite Star.”

Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

# Democrats to meet tonight

By Tom Betz  
*The Goodland Daily News*

Two Sherman County Democrats plan to get together tonight to begin the party’s organization process and elect a county chairman.

Donna Hurd and James “Smitty” Smith have the distinction of being the only elected Democrat precinct committee people in the county, and the state party rules say they are responsible for holding an organizational meeting.

Then the party can comply with Kansas laws to allow Mitch Tiede to be appointed to the county commissioner vacancy created with the resignation of Kenny Davis after the general election.

Hurd said today that she and Smith hope to get together tonight to elect a chairman, and to get a meeting set to

appoint Tiede to fill the vacancy.

She said they expect to try to move as quickly as possible to get the appointment process completed so Tiede can be a voting member of the commission. He has been attending as an observer; Davis quit the morning after the election after discovering he had lost to Tiede’s write-in campaign.

Smith said he was told by Chris Galoway, executive director of the state Democratic Party, that they needed to meet and organize a county committee, which would be officially notified by County Clerk Janet Rumpel of the vacancy.

“I think we’ll write to Florida to get a description of what we are supposed to do,” Smith said, kidding just a little.

“We are not totally sure about the process, but we want to get Tiede in there.”

Hurd said another meeting will be held after the official notification is received to nominate Tiede and have his name transmitted to the governor for the actual appointment.

Smith and Hurd both said that they are concerned about being the only Democrats in Sherman County who have shown interest in holding party office.

“I don’t know why people aren’t interested,” Smith said, “We are the only two who showed interest in the Democratic Party, and without more interest, I don’t think we’ll have much of a party.”

“I am afraid that if we wait until we can fill all the county committee positions, it would take us until January,” Hurd said. “We are hoping more people come forward to help.”

## Holiday reflections



You know that Christmas is coming when reindeer start appearing. This one was found in the front window of Mr. Jim’s on Main.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

# Regents delay plan for merger

By Tom Betz  
*The Goodland Daily News*

Those expecting the Kansas Board of Regents to make a decision on the future of the Pratt Community College and Fort Hays State University merger proposal were disappointed Wednesday afternoon, but the proposal was kept alive by a call for negotiations with a special committee.

Regent Fred Kerr said he wanted to find a way to support the proposal, and wanted to find a way to make it work. He listened to the other regents give their reasons for not supporting the merger, and then made the motion to continue the negotiations.

The board met in Goodland on Wednesday and Thursday, approving Wednesday the Northwest Kansas Technical School’s request to become a college. The state Legislature will have to give its OK next year before the school officially can become a college.

There was some discussion about delaying any decision on the Hays-Pratt merger until a statewide higher