

weather report

38°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:29 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:37 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:28 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 31 degrees
• Humidity 46 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds northwest 18
• Barometer 30.04 inches and steady
• Record High 75° (1955)
• Record Low 4° (1929)

Last 24 Hours*

High 41°
Low 22°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, low 20-25, west winds 10-20. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, high 50, low 20-25, north winds 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: dry, high 45-55.
Thursday: dry, high 50, low 15-25.
Friday: dry, high 45-55, low 15-25.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.81 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.61
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Corn — \$1.93 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.82
Loan deficiency pmt. — 17¢
Milo — \$3.14 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.32 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.15
Loan deficiency payment — 75¢
Millet — no posted price; ask.
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.65 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.24
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.

Clinton ends historic trip

WASHINGTON — President Clinton returned home from Vietnam early Monday, ending his historic mission by telling the communist foe of a generation past that Americans “wish to be your partners.”

“I am going home determined to continue the partnership we have, for a better future for the people of Vietnam, for the people of the United States,” Clinton told the Chamber of Commerce in Ho Chi Minh City.

After a week abroad, the president went back to the White House still uncertain who will succeed him there in just two months, Vice President Al Gore, his candidate, or Republican George W. Bush.

“This is not a crisis in the American system because it will come to an end,” he told CNN. “It will come to an end in plenty of time.”

Student numbers dropping

Junior high might move to high school

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

With Sherman County’s population declining, the Goodland School District is trying to figure out how to fight the problem.

Superintendent Marvin Selby says he thinks there are two things that the district will have to do within the next five years: consider combining the high school and junior high, and add vocational programs to encourage graduates to stay in Goodland.

The county’s population dropped by 403 people over the past decade, according to a preliminary census assessment last year. The count fell from the 6,926 people in 1990 to 6,523 people in 1999, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The drop extends to children also, and classes will continue to shrink over the next five years, Selby said.

The school district’s facility committee met several weeks ago to talk about the problem caused by the declining population. The mission of the committee is to find a way to meet the needs of the current high school students, said Selby, but with the thought of combining the high school and junior high at the back of their minds.

There was only a 6 percent decrease in the population of school aged children—in the 5 to 17 age group—from 1,306 in 1990 to 1,228 in 1999, according to the census.

There is a significant drop, however, in the group of children who will be entering school within the next five years.

In the last 10 years, the 0-4 age group had a 16 percent drop, from 540 in 1990 to 456 currently, down 84.

Out of this group, the 3 year old population dropped 19 and 4 year olds dropped by 17, projecting a decrease in the grade-school classes.

“Enrollment has been going down about 1 to 2 percent every year,” said Selby.

Looking at the number of births—which decreased by 10 over the last 10 years according to the census—enrollment should continue to drop over the next five years, he said.

This year’s third-grade class, with 70

See CENSUS, Page 7



Shyanne Austin, 4, (above) talked with Mrs. Claus on Saturday, while Alex Goodwin, 2 1/2, studied a candy cane from Santa. After participating in the annual holiday parade, the couple from the North Pole

stayed on Main Street in Goodland to visit with children. For more photos, see Page 4.

Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Kids greet Santa and his wife

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Some snuggled against his furry red coat, tugged at his white beard and whispered into his ear. Others ran in fear as Santa pulled a candy cane from a black bag.

The jolly old fellow tried to lure little ones with soothing words and the red-and-white candy, but some still ran away with tears in their eyes. Their parents walked out of the old department store looking just as disappointed.

The older children knew better. They hopped on Santa’s lap with expensive requests. A compact disc player, a new bicycle, a yellow scooter.... Santa listened intently but

See WEEKEND, Page 4



A year later, winner still in disbelief

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

A year after winning Goodland merchants’ Christmas on Us grand prize, Violet Phillips still can say only one thing.

“I still can’t believe that I won,” said Phillips, who won the grand prize of \$2,000 in gift certificates from the merchants and The Goodland Daily News last year.

Phillips said her truck had caught on fire a couple of days before she won the prize, so half of it went to fixing the vehicle. With the other half, she spread Christmas cheer to all of her family by buying them gifts.

“It couldn’t have come at a better time,” she said, noting that her truck catching on fire was a major expense.

Phillips and her husband own their own trucking business and the repairs to the truck were costly.

“I really couldn’t believe that I had won,” she said.

Phillips got her winning ticket last year from Frontier Equity Exchange.

The Daily News and merchants are holding the Christmas on Us cash giveaway again this year. The program started on Wednesday and will end with a grand prize drawing for \$2,500 on Saturday, Dec. 16.

The contest, in its third year, will offer \$1,500 grand prize, a \$500 second prize and 10 instant winners who



Violet Phillips

will each get \$50 a piece.

Sponsoring businesses have already started to give out the tickets and will give one for every \$10 worth of merchandise or services that they buy. There is no limit to the number

of tickets a person can collect, but retailers are limited to giving out no more than 250 tickets per purchase. Anyone can get a free ticket by stop-

See CHRISTMAS, Page 7

Election comes down to Florida court’s will

TALLAHASSEE (AP) — A transfixed nation turned its eyes to Florida’s Supreme Court, where armies of lawyers for Al Gore and George W. Bush laid claim to the presidency Monday even as weary election workers recounted votes, wondering if their labor would be for naught.

After 13 days of suspended political animation, lawsuits and countersuits, “chads” and “pregnant chads,” the marathon presidential election may come down to this: Seven justices, all appointed by Democratic governors, were asked to determine whether the Republican secretary of state can certify Bush’s minuscule lead without accepting votes recounted by hand.

Miles from the legal wrangling, hundreds of workers in three Democratic-leaning counties continued manual recounts that have yielded Gore surprisingly few new votes. In one county, at least, Bush appeared to be holding his own. “There’s been very little change,” in the margin between the two men, said Judge Charles Burton, the head of the Palm Beach County canvassing board.

Down the coast, Broward County elections supervisor Jane Carroll said the long-count recount was taking its toll on workers.

“I feel like I’m incarcerated,” she said, “with lunch and dinner brought

into me and six attorneys sitting across from me the entire day.”

The candidates, too, are prisoners to the stalemate in Florida, where the winner gets 25 electoral votes and keys to the White House. Aides said the presidents-in-waiting were anxious, but focused on this critical legal step—with little discussion under way about what might happen if they lose the Supreme Court fight.

“Feeling great!” the Texas governor told reporters summoned to the Capitol in Austin to watch him head to work.

Gore opened a satellite address to a family-policy conference with a scripted glibness. “I appreciate this chance to speak to the Florida Supreme Court,” the vice president said.

The conference was scheduled for the summer, but Gore moved it to avoid conflict with the campaign season. “I just assumed by Nov. 20 the election would be over with,” he said with a forced chuckle.

At the Supreme Court, a carnival atmosphere prevailed outside the domed and columned court building. Protesters, some whose causes seemed utterly unrelated to the presidential election, wandered past television cameras. Bush supporters carrying signs such as

See RECOUNT, Page 7