

## weather report

42°  
at noon



### Today

• Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:46 a.m.  
• Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 37 degrees  
• Humidity 38 percent  
• Sky partly sunny  
• Winds north 19-28 mph  
• Barometer 30.13 inches and rising  
• Record High 72° (1932)  
• Record Low -12° (1952)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 50°  
Low 26°  
Precipitation none

### Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, low 20, north winds 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Sunny, high 45, low 25-30, south winds 5-15 mph.

### Extended Forecast

Thursday: dry, high 55, low 25-30. Friday and Saturday: dry, high 45-55, low 20s.

(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 — \$2.69  
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢  
Corn — \$1.89 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.81  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 18¢  
Milo — \$3.07 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.40 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.24  
Loan deficiency payment — 66¢  
Millet — no posted price; ask.  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$5.60 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.11  
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.

## Israel sets early election

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ehud Barak, his government shaken by two months of violent conflict with the Palestinians, yielded Tuesday to demands by the hard-line opposition and said he was ready for early elections.

Polls have shown that elections would be a risky proposition for Barak, as his minority government has been steadily losing support from many Israelis who perceive him as ineffective. However, a vote would give him time for a last-ditch effort to forge a peace agreement with the Palestinians and then use elections as a referendum on the agreement.

The date of the elections was expected to be set in the coming days through negotiations. The opposition has recommended they be held in May, two years after Barak took office in 1999.

# Tax bills arriving at homes

## Property owners to find little change

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

Property tax statements have been mailed out in Sherman County and most people can expect to see little change in their bills, officials say.

The statements were mailed out on Nov. 14 and 15. The first half of the bill is due on Dec. 20 and the second half on June 20.

Tax rates for Goodland property owners will be up slightly, .082 of a mill.

The property tax levies are expressed in mills, or thousandths of a cent, and levied at \$1 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation. With the city rate up slightly, rates in most rural areas were down. However, none of the changes were significant enough to change the amount of taxes each property owner is going to have to pay very much.

For example, a house in Goodland with a resale value of \$100,000, the actual bill would go up only about a dollar for this year's property tax.

Levies for each area are figured by adding together state, county and school district levies, which are figured by the total valuation of those entities. If you live in a city, the city levy will be added, and in some areas a library levy is added.

"Some areas raised and some decreased, depending on where you are," said County Clerk Janet Rumpel.

Even within the same township, she said, different amounts will appear for the mill levy depending on which school district or rural fire district you are in.

For example, Iowa Township's total levy decreased by .276 for people in the town who were in the Goodland School District and the Sherman County Rural Fire District.

For those in the Brewster School District but still in the same fire district, the rate only decreased .056. Bills for people in the Brewster School District but in the Logan County Rural Fire District will show an increase of half a mill.

Overall, the state levies stayed the same at 1.5 mills.

The Sherman County levy went from 51.869 to 51.845 for a decrease of .024. The Goodland city levy decreased .295 from 46.749 to 46.454 but in Kanorado the city levy increased 3.629 from 41.928 to 45.557.

"The change in the levy in Kanorado is due to a change in the valuation of the city," said Rumpel.

Four townships, Grant, Logan, Washington and Iowa, eliminated their levies for the year.

"These townships didn't use all the money in their budget last year," Rumpel said. "They didn't feel they needed the levy to raise more money."

Llanos Township cut its levy by .008 from .492 to .484. McPherson Township dropped its levy from 1.519 to 1.512, a cut of .007.

The Goodland School District levy was raised because the district's valuation dropped.

The levy went from 37.548 to 38.049 for an increase of .501 of a mill. The Brewster school levy rose from 33.195 to 33.916 for a total increase of .721 of a mill.

Levies for districts are set based on the budget adopted by the board and the value of the property determined by county appraisal. When the valuation drops, the levy is raised to make up the difference.

The total county valuation this year is \$55,525,679. The valuation of the city of Goodland is \$21,894,445 and Kanorado is \$510,567.

The valuation of the Goodland School District is \$52,399,826 and in Brewster the school district valuation is \$3,125,853.

The Sherman County Rural Fire District is valued at \$33,621,951 and Logan County's Fire District is valued at \$18,283. The Northwest Kansas Regional Library district valuation is \$1,599,380.



## Making summer fun

Steven Sandoval of Kanorado (top left) and Michael McAdams of Vanceburg, Ky., bolted together sections of a water slide this morning at Steever Park. The men work for Aquatic Construction of Garrison, Ky. Randy Clarke (below), owner of the firm, sprayed paint on a concrete foundation to mark where the slide would be attached. Jon Mills with Desco Coatings of Olathe spread a mixture of epoxy and sand on the lower part of a wall in a building that will house showers and bathrooms for the water park.

Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News



# Board sings, dances night away in visit to students at North School

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland School Board spent Monday night dancing with dolls, singing alphabet songs, reading postcards and looking at watercolor paintings of flowers.

It was serious fun for North Elementary School teachers and students, who danced, sang and acted for board members, leading them into classrooms for presentations on activities and projects.

The board devotes its second regular meeting of each month to visiting one school in the district. It was North's turn this week, as nearly 30 teachers, students and administrators packed the school's library, filling the rows of seats facing the board's meeting table that are usually empty.

Vonda Palmer led the demonstrations, with about six of her kindergarten students showing off the inflatable "letter people" that help them to understand and use different sounds.

"I've learned a lot about agriculture in different places. Different equipment that's used, what they grew and how they grew it."

— Tashaya Abbott  
Fifth grader at North Elementary

Conner Gray, son of board member Eric Gray, held up "Mr. H," a long-haired, multicolored, round little man, and said the "H" stands for "happy hair." Students and board members swayed with the letter people as Palmer pushed play on a tape recorder, turning on a quirky little song that repeated words with the same first letters.

Mary Frasier, a fifth grade teacher, took the crowd down a hallway near her classroom, stopping in front of a bulletin board covered in postcards from states including Florida, Georgia and Texas.

Frasier said her class is one of over 300 in the world to participate in "postcard geography," where students learn about different places and cultures by sending each other cards. She said her students buy postcards or make them using brochures from the Chamber of Commerce.

Fifth graders Tashaya Abbott and Derrick Ihrig said the class has sent out dozens of the cards and received cards back from 30 states and a school in Seoul, South Korea. The students, Frasier said, use the pictures and text as fodder for fictional stories. Abbott and Ihrig said they like learning about different ways of life.

"I've learned a lot about agriculture in different places," said Abbott. "Different equipment that's used, what they

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## Bush camp says Gore is wrong

By David Espo

AP Political Writer

George W. Bush's point man in Florida argued Tuesday it was "wrong, simply wrong" for Al Gore to claim that thousands of votes have never been counted in the state's bitterly contested presidential election. Gore's Democratic running mate, Joseph Lieberman, said so anyway, over and over.

"There are more than 10,000 votes in South Florida that have never been counted," Lieberman said in an early morning interview on CBS, following up on Gore's nationally televised appeal for patience while he pursues his unprec-

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