

weather
report

40°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:47 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 37 degrees
• Humidity 30 percent
• Sky clear
• Winds variable 6 mph
• Barometer 30.33 inches
and falling
• Record High 72° (1932)
• Record Low 1° (1952)

Last 24 Hours*

High 44°
Low 24°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 25-30,
southwest winds 10-20 mph. Tomorrow:
Partly sunny, high 55, low 20-25,
northwest winds 20-30 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday: dry, high 30s-40s, low 20-25.
Saturday and Sunday: 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 — \$2.77 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.65
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
Corn — \$1.88 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.81
Loan deficiency pmt. — 18¢
Milo — \$3.05 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.43 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.29
Loan deficiency payment — 61¢
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 to hold
new elections

JERUSALEM — In the midst of a bloody conflict with the Palestinians, Israel has been plunged into political turmoil by an overwhelming parliament vote to hold new elections, two years ahead of schedule.

With his political future and Mideast peacemaking on the line, Prime Minister Ehud Barak agreed Tuesday to hold an early vote in a surprise move to take the initiative from the hard-line opposition.

Israeli-Palestinian violence persisted. An Israeli motorist was critically wounded in a West Bank shooting ambush. In the Gaza Strip, Israeli soldiers fired on Palestinians trying to cut through a border fence. The army said there were fatalities, but that it did not know how many.

In recent days, there had been a lull in Israeli-Palestinian violence.



Linda Quint kissed her African gray parrot, Whisper, while Scooter the miniature macaw sat on her shoulder. Both birds were rescued by Linda and her husband Casey. Whispers likes to kiss Linda, and can make a

kissing noise while doing so, but Scooter bites too much to be allowed to do the trick.

Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

Birds rule the roost in this home

Goodland couple rescues homeless, hunchback parrots from sure death

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

Casey and Linda Quint say their house is for the birds.

Meal times are filled with screeches and squawking, and when they pick up the phone, there's a chorus of hellos.

Outside their house, the yard is adorned with a bird bath and wild bird houses. Inside, the ceilings are covered with the bird houses Linda collects and the giant cages on top of which sit the birds that rule their house and their hearts.

The Quints have two African gray parrots, three cockatiels, a miniature macaw and an Indian ring-neck parakeet.

Most of the flock were rescued from homes or stores where they couldn't stay anymore and adopted into the Quints' family.

One of the African grays, Quasimodo, was rescued from a veterinarian in Kansas City. He has a deformed leg that puts a hump in his back, and the breeder who owned him couldn't use him because of that.

The owner took him in to be put to



Scooter

sleep, and Linda said she would take him home.

The Quints have had Quasimodo for over six years and then, this summer, they rescued another African gray. Whisper's owner developed an allergy to the bird after picking out the

egg and then raising it since it was a few days old. The owner, who lived in Denver, just wanted to give it a good home. She gave the bird and cage to Casey and Linda.

"She called the bird Whisper because it was so soft spoken," Linda said. "I keep e-mailing her and asking her where that came from. It's the noisiest bird we have."

The couple took in Scooter, the miniature macaw, which when another Goodland couple was moving out of town. They couldn't take the bird with them, so the Quints bought it.

Harley, a yellow cockateil, was rescued from a Wal-Mart in Hays which was closing. The Quints had to buy Harley to rescue her. They bought two other Cockatiels as a breeding pair, Rico and Bugle Boy.

Finally the Quints have Polly, an Indian ring-neck parakeet, which they adopted when her former owners were moving and couldn't take her with them.

Each bird has its own personality, said the Quints, who have lots of anecdotes about their flock.

If you ask Quasimodo, he will say that birds can't talk, but the fact that he can actually say this is testament to the lie.

Casey said Quasimodo, their favorite, has a vocabulary of 60 to 70 words. He can say a wide variety of things, from the standard "hello" to "get a life," "I love you," and "where's the duck?" after which he will quack like a duck.

The bird likes to play with the two Scottish terrier dogs the Quints have. He will call the dogs, saying "come here girls." When the dogs come over, Quasimodo will throw seed at them through the wire of his cage. He will start chanting "hut, hut, hut, hut," and the dogs will run around the divider in the living room in a circle until he stops.

Quasimodo won't just perch on anyone, Casey said.

"I think he is insecure about his footing because of his deformity," he said.

Whisper doesn't have the vocabulary.

See BIRDS, Page 4

Food bank holds drive for hungry families

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Genesis, Goodland's food bank, will hold its annual collection drive on Saturday to gather food for needy families this Christmas.

Pat Jordan, coordinator for the bank, said the food is to be picked up by Sherman County Boy Scouts and 4-H members between 8 a.m. and noon.

People are asked to have their donations out by 8 a.m. Saturday where it will be clearly visible from the street. She said porches, driveways and curbs are good places to put the bags.

Jordan said Genesis was established in 1985 when a Methodist minister became concerned about people slipping through the cracks. A board of people was organized and the food bank got its start.

Present board members are Jeff Mason, president; Pat and Clark Jordan, Gordon and Caroline Pettibone, Jim and Kathryn Wedermeyer, Cris Lovington and Mary Ellen Coumerilh. Jordan said the organization is strictly for Sherman County residents

who have lived here for at least six months. She said it operates all year long and has helped 77 families since the first of this year. All the food is from donations of groceries and money from Sherman County residents.

"We have never run out," Jordan said. "We have helped lots of people."

The food is stored at the United Methodist Church, where volunteers organize and put food in boxes before Christmas.

Good items to donate include canned meats, vegetables, fruits and soups, peanut butter, cereals, jelly, cake mixes, canned pumpkin and other pie fillings, macaroni and cheese and crackers.

Nearly 100 families will receive Christmas baskets this year, and they should get a card about a week before the giveaway.

They are to be packed at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall on Thursday, Dec. 14, and will be ready for pickup on Saturday, Dec. 16.

Jordan said Marti and Larry Scott

See FOOD, Page 4

Shaping up



Progress continues on the Northwest Kansas Technical School's fitness center as Efrain Aguirre (right) put a rivet in a piece of guttering this morning after Efrain Rascon drilled the hole. Both work for Miller's Construction of Goodland.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Gore pursuing recount

Bush works toward transition of office

By David Espo

AP Political Writer

Al Gore declared Wednesday "I certainly believe that I did" win the White House, while his lawyers pressed urgently in the courts to let him try to prove it. George W. Bush worked in the privacy of his Texas ranch on a transition to the job he said is his.

Gore, interviewed on NBC, tempered his own claim somewhat, saying, "I understand that there's considerable doubt about" the outcome of the Nov. 7 election — one of the few understatement uttered by either side in the nation's overtime campaign.

Gore was talking privately of potential administration appointments, while Bush was working more publicly on a transition to power.

"We've spent quite a bit of time talking about a White House staff," said Andy Card, Bush's choice to become chief of staff in a new administration, and GOP running mate Dick Cheney scheduled a mid-afternoon news conference to discuss the transfer of power.

Other officials said the Texas governor had been in touch with GOP congressional leaders in recent days to talk about getting down to work. House Majority Leader Dick Armey said he and Bush had talked about an agenda, starting with education. "He speaks of that first," the fellow Texas said, as well as "some good tax relief."

Gore and Democratic running mate Joseph Lieberman talked of possible new-administration appointments at White House lunch meetings with transition director Roy Neel, Labor Secretary Alexis Herman and Kathleen McGinty, former head of the Council on Environmental Quality in the Clinton White House.

Talk of governing blended with continued legal sparring in Gore's challenge of Bush's certified win of Florida on Sunday night.

The vice president's lawyers, turned down on Tuesday in a lower court, weighed whether to appeal to the state Supreme Court in their effort to gain the immediate recount of contested ballots in two counties.

County finishing old project

The Sherman County commissioners plan to sign paperwork on a handicapped accessible grant project Thursday morning when they meet to take care of month-end business.

Amy Griffey of the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission will meet with the commissioners to get things finalized on the project. The county received a grant through the commission to do the remodeling job at the courthouse.

The commissioners are to appoint someone to the City-County Recreation Board. The term of board member Steve Duell is up, so the commissioners will decide whether to reappoint him.

Paul Rainbolt, administrator of the Sherman County Good Samaritan Center, will stop by to talk about improvements to the facility for next year.

The commissioners will discuss the matter of an individual being charged a solid waste fee for a home business.

HealthWave representative Ronda Tibble of Colby is to explain the state-sponsored health care program to the commissioners.

The commissioners also are to sign a lease for a group that wants to use the 4-H Building at the fairgrounds.

In regular month-end business, they will go over claims vouchers and pay bills.