

weather report

53° at noon

Today

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:48 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 36 degrees

• Humidity 34 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds north 18-36

• Barometer 29.93 inches and falling

• Record High 73° (1970)

• Record Low -3° (1985)

Last 24 Hours*

High 43°

Low 17°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, low 20, northwest winds 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 35-40, low 15-20, north winds 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: dry, high 40, low 15-20.

Sunday: dry, high 45-50, low 20.

Monday: dry, high mid 50s, low 25-30.

(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 — \$2.60

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$1.89 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.79

Loan deficiency pmt. — 20¢

Milo — \$3.07 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.44 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.29

Loan deficiency payment — 61¢

Millet — no posted price; ask.

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.65 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.

Gore battles in two courts

TALLAHASSEE — Al Gore battled in two supreme courts, one state, one federal, on Thursday as he waged an overtime struggle for Florida's all-important electoral votes. George W. Bush was meeting with retired Gen. Colin Powell as he worked conspicuously on a transition to power.

One of the oddest episodes of the 2000 election campaign played out along Florida's highways as a rental truck, in convoy with police cars, ferried nearly a half-million ballots from Palm Beach County to the state capital in case they're needed for a recount.

A second convoy is to set out Friday from Miami-Dade County, also bound for Tallahassee on the order of Circuit Judge N. Sanders Sauls, who is presiding over Gore's legal challenge of Bush's certified victory in Florida.



Dixie Chatfield used a soldering iron to fuse two pieces of stained glass together with lead. Soon her stained glass windows will be installed in the half-moon-shaped openings above the three doors in the Sherman County courthouse. Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Widow finds peace in stained glass

Former clerk makes new courthouse windows dedicated to mate's family

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

Dixie Chatfield says that when you lose your husband, you can lose your aim in life.

The 73-year-old said she felt that way when her husband Oliver died in a traffic accident on Eighth Street 12 years ago.

"I was at a loss," she said. "You know, asking myself, 'What's going to happen to me now?' I needed some kind of aim, a challenge, something to work my brain."

A year after the accident, though, she started taking classes from a Goodland woman on how to make stained glass windows. Chatfield said she figured she could keep her mind busy by keeping her hands busy.

It worked. She made gifts for her friends and relatives and decorations for her home. Instead of dwelling on the past, she said, she would focus on her next stained glass project.

Her hobby even started to occupy her mind at work.

As Sherman County clerk of the district court — a job Chatfield held for 18 years before retiring in 1992 — she said while climbing the stairs to her office each morning, she would look out the half-moon shaped windows above the three doors at the courthouse's entrance.

"I would look at those windows," Chatfield said, "right there where you walk up to the second floor, and I was thinking, 'You know, wouldn't they be pretty with some stained glass in



Dixie Chatfield held a stained glass piece she made that reminds her of a lake she and her husband, killed in a car accident 12 years ago, visited. Stained glass windows she made for the courthouse will be dedicated to her husband's grandfather.

replace the three windows with stained glass.

They gave her money for supplies and she went to work, but it was a long

process. Working on and off, Chatfield said, it took her over five years to finish.

She was experienced at using solder to fuse the stained glass, she said, but hadn't worked much with lead — the metal she was using to make the courthouse windows.

After a couple of years, she said, she found herself at a dead end where she was scared to continue because she wasn't sure if she was doing it right.

"I had a snag," Chatfield said.

Her old instructor had moved out of town, she said, so she signed up for stained glass classes at the Northwest Kansas Technical School and started on the last leg of her project.

Chatfield said if she forced herself to work, she didn't get anywhere.

"You kinda have to be in the mood," she said, "to really work on it and accomplish something."

She tried when she wasn't in the mood, she said, but came out of the workshop in her apartment's garage with broken glass and cuts on her fingers. She wouldn't work on the windows until her cuts healed to avoid lead poisoning.

Carrying her half-moon, multicolored windows, Chatfield met with commissioners in October to discuss having them installed. She caught them by surprise because all of the members have changed since she started the project.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel, who

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Citizens question car theft

Officials accused of ignoring crime

By Patty Decker
The Colby Free Press

BREWSTER — More than 75 people turned out for a special school board meeting here Tuesday night, hoping to hear an explanation of how the board had handled an incident in September where students apparently stole a school suburban and caused damage inside the school.

No charges were ever filed in the case, however, and it was never publicly acknowledged by the school district until people started asking questions. Even at the meeting Tuesday, the board never said what was taken, what was damaged or how many students were involved.

School Board President Gregory Mills told the crowd that the board called the meeting in response to a letter signed by about 50 people delivered at the last board meeting. The letter charged that the board had covered up the incident, pointing out that because no official statements had been made, people had only rumors to go on. It also charged that punishment may have been unfair or uneven.

Mills read a prepared statement, then adjourned the meeting with no further discussion. However, most people stayed for a "public forum" led by Mike Baughn, Brewster mayor and Thomas County undersheriff, who is a former principal of the school.

The letter to the board, signed by 50 Brewster residents, asked about the school property that was allegedly stolen and then returned, and asked what action the board had taken to discipline the youngsters involved.

In part, the letter read:

There have been some recent situations as well as ongoing problems in our school that have disturbed the community, and there are many circles of discussion concerning the way these situations have been handled. This discussion is very difficult because some of the individuals involved are our friends and neighbors, and we want to maintain good relationships with them.

Our youth are our responsibility, and we must lead by example because they are watching us all the time. We do not feel we should compromise the integrity of our community because of some poor choices of our youth. However, we should also not compromise our integrity because of some poor choices of

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Official takes seat in district

Mitch Tiede was sworn in as Sherman County commissioner at the beginning of the 8 a.m. commissioner's meeting today at the Sherman County courthouse.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel swore Tiede in to replace Kenny Davis, who was chairman of the commission until he lost to Tiede in the Nov. 7 general election.

Tiede, a Democrat, ran a write-in campaign against Davis, also a Democrat, who had served one four-year term as county commissioner.

Davis resigned his seat right after the election, but the position had remained empty while Democratic party members organized to select a replacement under state law.

Rumpel received a fax from the governor Wednesday afternoon about Tiede's appointment to fill the vacant commissioner's seat.

After Tiede was sworn in, he took his place behind the table for the regular end-of-month commissioners' meeting.

Hundreds of hams to fill air

By Dana Sulsberger
The Goodland Daily News

Friday night and all day Saturday, the low-frequency air waves will be filled with hundreds of ham radio operators taking to the air, trying to see how many people they can contact and how far away their signals can reach.

National Weather Service offices, here in Goodland and at 80 offices across the nation, will be teaming up with the amateur operators. Scott Mentzer, meteorologist in charge of the office here, says they want to show their appreciation to the "ham" operators, who often help in weather emergencies.

Ham radio operators serve as storm spotters and provide emergency communications, Mentzer said. When there are reports of severe weather, the operators go out in their cars to report to the weather service from different loca-

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Darel Graves, president of the Sunflower Amateur Radio Club, sat in front of his "ham" radio equipment and pointed out official call numbers that he had been given while on a trip to England. The call numbers make it legal for him to broadcast in England. Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News