

weather  
report

38°  
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:23 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:55 a.m.  
• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 40 degrees  
• Humidity 59 percent  
• Sky partly cloudy  
• Winds south 17 mph  
• Barometer 30.15 inches  
and steady

• Record High 70° (1970)  
• Record Low -11° (1978)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 61°  
Low 27°  
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy with areas of fog, low 25, south winds 15-25 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 50-55, low 25-30, light winds.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: chance of snow, high 50, low 25-30. Monday: chance of snow, high 15-20, low 10. Tuesday: chance of snow, high 15-20, low 0.

(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.75 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.61  
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢  
Corn — \$1.88 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.79  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 20¢  
Milo — \$3.03 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.50 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.32  
Loan deficiency payment — 58¢  
Millet — no posted price; ask.  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$5.85 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.96  
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.

Two arrested  
for murder

WICHITA—Two Wichita men were arrested Friday in the deaths of four people who were found shot to death in a house.

Police would not release the identity of the 18- and 20-year-old suspects, nor would they discuss the men's relationship to the victims or a possible motive for the murders.

The two men were booked with four counts of first-degree murder at the Sedgwick County jail. Police said it will be early next week before they are formally charged.

Wichita police Capt. Robert Lee said the investigation was continuing but he could not say if further arrests were possible.

Raeshawnda Wheaton, 18; Quincy Williams, 17; Odessa Laquita Ford, 17; and Jermaine Levy, 20, were found dead Thursday morning.

Well pumps  
below hopes

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

In the last leg of a water improvements project that Goodland started in 1998, the city commission has run into a slight roadblock.

The commission found out Monday that the city has three options when it comes to a well that hasn't been pumping enough water.

City Manager Ron Pickman told the commission several months ago that Well No. 4, located at 10th Street and Colorado Avenue in Phillips Park, was not producing as expected.

The well is pumping 170 gallons per minute, though test pumping had indicated it would pump about 300 gallons per minute. That is what the city was hoping for, since the well it was replacing pumped 450 gallons per minute.

"A hundred and seventy gallons sounds like a lot," said Pickman, "but the usage is almost not worth putting the well in. We do have a definite need for the water."

He said a layer of sand slows down the pumping. It isn't a matter of the water not being down there, he said, just a matter of not being able to pump it.

The commission decided to file with the state for an extension on when the well was supposed to be up and operating — Dec. 31 — and once the extension comes through, the city will have more time to decide what to do.

The first option is to complete Well No. 4 where it is and live with the lower

pumping capacity.

The second option, which Pickman said they will probably take, is to do some test drilling at other sites. If they can find a better site, then a temporary well will have to be placed at the current site for Well No. 4.

"In order for the city to get a permit to move the well," he said, "we have to have a pump operating at the site."

But, he said, it would be pointless to put in the temporary well if water can't be found.

And the final option the commission has to consider is to set up the well at its current location with plans to move it later if they can acquire another site and if test drilling indicates a better water flow. The old wells had to be replaced, said Pickman, because traces of nitrate were found and one was pumping more air than water.

"The south side of town seems to collect some contaminants in the water table," he said.

Whatever the city decides to do, as part of the improvements project which included replacing water line, adding new water lines, building a new water tower and replacing two wells, Pickman said they should do it quickly as possible because it is going to get more difficult as time proceeds.

"With some new water rules the state will be considering," said Pickman, "I have a feeling it is going to make it extremely difficult for Western Kansas to get water."

Former officer asks  
to fly doctors about

Businessman tells board he'll start airline

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland Regional Medical Center owns an airplane which it uses to fly doctors in from Denver, and could be part of a program to build commercial air service here.

Mike Skyler, president of Sky Co. Air and a former state trooper here, talked to the board Tuesday about the possibility of either purchasing the hospital's plane and Federal Aviation Administration certificate or working under the hospital certificate to improve and expand the air service in

Goodland.

Skyler said he has been working on getting an FAA certificate to start a scheduled air service from Goodland to Denver and possibly Hays. He said he was approaching the hospital board to speed the process up and to reduce the current costs of flying the doctors to Goodland. He said he expects it to take up to a year to get an airline certificate from the FAA.

A second part of the proposal would be to have an air ambulance service

See HOSPITAL, Page 4

Can't touch this



Cowboy Nate Thompson jumped for a shot over Morrill's Tony Schuler in the opening round of the Topside Tipoff on Thursday. Goodland won the game 75-55. For a story and more pictures, see Page 8.

Photo by Roxie Yonkey/The Goodland Daily News

Alumni mourn loss of group

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

A Goodland native who is president of a commercial management company in Denver said he attributes his success to Up With People, the feel-good youth entertainment program that announced this week it is shutting down.

Jeff Smith said the Colorado-based organization, which allows young folks to travel the world performing, introduced him to new people and places. He

said it molded him into who he is today.

Before turning 21, Smith, now 42, visited 49 states and nine countries with the cast and staff of Up With People. He stayed in touch as one of over 20,000 alumni around the world until six years ago, when a business associate asked him to become more involved.

Smith, president of Fuller Management Services, became the vice-chairman of the Up With People foundation — a fund-raising arm — and in 1998

joined the international organization's 42-member board of directors.

"The organization Up With People has made a huge impact on my life," he said. "I don't think I'd be where I am today if it wasn't for that experience."

But now, Smith said, he's watching the not-for-profit company drown in debt.

Members of the board — from Japan,

See SMITH, Page 4

Kids can cuddle with bears thanks to sorority

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Kids of all ages will get a teddy bear when they ride in the ambulance or are a patient in the hospital because of a donation by a Goodland sorority.

Beta Sigma Phi Sorority in Goodland donated more than 70 bears to the Northwest Kansas Ambulance Service on Thursday. Several members gathered for the presentation, which Ambulance Director Karen Hooker accepted.

The bears will be given to kids who are picked up by the ambulance or who are in the hospital, Hooker said.

"For kids of all ages," she added, "from 0 to 99."

Nina Mersch, an emergency medical technician and sorority member, said the ambulance crew tries to give a bear to kids who ride with them to help ease a scary situation.

"There's something about a bear," Mersch said. "You should see the kid's eyes light up when we give them a bear."

"It makes a difference," Hooker added.

The donation was a Christmas project by the sorority, which is made of up five individual sororities—Nu Phi Mu, Gamma Rho, Exemplars, Pi Etta, and Rho Beta.

The Rho Beta group hosted the annual Christmas party held Tuesday



night at the Sugar Hills Country Club west of Goodland. All the sororities were invited to attend the party.

Since Rho Beta was hosting the party, they had the idea to collect the bears and used bears as their theme for decorating.

Every woman who came was asked to bring a bear. Some brought more

than one, said Joy Hayden, a Rho Beta member.

"It was fun for all of us to bring them," said another member.

Hayden said the sorority wanted to give something that showed love.

"We're thankful," Hooker said. "The ambulance service wouldn't be able to give the bears to its patients

without this donation."

Teddy bears of different sizes and colors were stacked up in front of a Christmas tree in the dining room of the Goodland Regional Medical Center at Thursday evening's presentation. Afterwards, they were taken down to be kept at the hospital until needed.

Members of Rho Beta Sorority were at the Goodland Regional Medical Center Thursday evening to donate teddy bears to the Northwest Kansas Ambulance Service. Sorority member Nina Mersch (left) tossed a bear to Lisa Lockhart (second from right). Other members, Christie Rasure, (behind, left to right) Elaine Lynott, Amber Johnson and Joy Hayden and Lockhart's daughter, Brooke, (right) arranged bears. Photo by Janet Craft The Goodland Daily News

Court says  
recounts  
must start

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A sharply divided Florida Supreme Court ordered manual recounts to begin in Florida's contested presidential election on Friday, breathing new life into Al Gore's quest for the White House.

"Because time is of the essence, the recount will commence immediately," said the court's spokesman, Craig Waters.

On a ruling of 4-3, the court also added 383 votes to Gore's total.

George W. Bush was certified the winner of the state's contested election by 537 votes, and the court's ruling threw that in doubt. Cheers erupted from the vice president's supporters gathered at the steps of the courthouse where Waters read a statement summarizing the opinion. Earlier Friday, two Florida judges rejected absentee ballot challenges that threatened Bush's hair-line margin as the state Legislature met in special session to assure the Republican governor gets the disputed electoral votes that would give him the White House.

Democrats contested absentee bal-

See ELECTION, Page 4