

Democrats let go of presidential contest

PRESIDENT, from Page 1

Democrats struck a different note, some openly expressing anger at the Supreme Court, others muting their reaction. Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, senior Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he accepted the recount ruling but the "majority has dealt the court a serious blow by taking actions many Americans will consider to be political rather than judicial."

Former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, speaking for the Republican camp, had said Tuesday night that Bush and Cheney were "very pleased and gratified" by the court's ruling. That was an understatement of historic proportions given the furor since Election Day — a saga of counts, recounts, lawsuits by the dozens and two trips to the highest court in the land.

Bush's inauguration on Jan. 20 would give Republicans greater control over the government than at any time since Dwight Eisenhower sat in the White House. The GOP retained control of the House in the November elections. The Senate is split 50-50, but Cheney's election as vice president will give the GOP at least nominal control there, as well.

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling Tuesday night triggered a fast-paced series of events.

Members of Gore's own party urged him to concede the race, but the vice president went to bed Tuesday night without telling aides what he would do.

After meeting with his wife Tipper and several advisers, Daley among them, Gore authorized the statement on Wednesday saying he would not

press the recount any further for Florida's pivotal electoral votes.

A Gore confidant said the evening speech would make clear that he had conceded to Bush and that the country should unite behind the next president. Gore also planned to explain why he fought for five weeks after the election, returning to his theme that every vote should be counted.

Though Gore has told advisers he considers the 5-4 ruling the act of a partisan high court, the confidant said the vice president will not criticize the justices in his speech.

In Tallahassee, the court ruling and the vice president's decision seemed to render moot the action by the Florida Legislature to appoint a slate of electors loyal to Bush. The House approved the measure on Tuesday, and the Senate had been on track to follow suit on Wednesday. Leaders said they would listen to Gore's speech before making a final decision.

Democratic leaders who had stood with Gore throughout his recount fight made no attempt to prod him to the exits.

"The Supreme Court has made its decision. We support and respect Vice President Gore's right to respond on his own time schedule. Until he does so, we will have no comment," said the party's congressional leaders, Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri and Sen. Tom Daschle of South Dakota.

Not all Democrats were as sanguine. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., D-Ill., urged Democrats to abide by the Supreme Court decision, but said that "with every bone in my body and every ounce of moral strength in my soul" he disagreed with the high court.

Santa Claus



The Carnegie Arts Center is displaying Christmas items including one of several Santas (pictured above) made by Linda Foster from Kanorado. She makes the faces out of paper mache and dresses them in outfits and with trinkets that she has bought at second-hand stores. The Santas, along with other Christmas items, including wreaths made by area artist Linda Milton an upside down Christmas tree and hand made Christmas cards by Michelle Shoff, will be on display through Christmas.

Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

Veterans honored

VETERANS, from Page 1

a veteran of the Korean War. "I think it's a wonderful idea. Many veterans gave up their life or several years of their life to give us the freedom we enjoy."

This summer, Selby said, the commission asked school districts across the state to find and honor veterans who were snatched from classrooms and put on battlefields.

All honorably discharged veterans from Kansas who served between Sept. 16, 1940, and Dec. 31, 1946, are eligible, even if they don't still live in the state.

Veterans who graduated but went to war before the ceremony were also eligible, he said, along with those who got General Educational Development degrees later. Selby said it didn't matter if the diplomaless veteran was still living.

JoAnn Wahrman — National Honor Society sponsor and Veterans of Foreign Wars district president in Goodland who helped the school district find veterans — said family members will accept honorary diplomas at

the Christmas dinner for seven veterans who have died or live outside Kansas.

Selby said he and board president Dick Short will hand out the certificates.

He said the Goodland district is awarding a diploma to Nowak, who probably should have gotten his from Brewster High School, because Brewster decided not to participate.

Nowak said he'll take it either way. "The state offered it to us," said the 79-year-old veteran. "I thought I might as well take advantage of it. I may want to go to college yet. Study to be a doctor or something. Do you think I'd make it?"

Other veterans living in Sherman County who will receive diplomas include, Maurice Daise, Eugene Elliott, Pete Jensen and Harold VanVleet. Those who have died include Carl Nemechek, Dee Gotchall, Oliver Elliott and Dale Way.

Ann Braun will be accepting diplomas for her three brothers Lowell, Theodore and Billy Ray Daniels. Wahrman said one brother has died and two live out of town.

matters of record

Sherman County Traffic Nov. 27 — Michael A. Kramlich, 29, Northglenn, Colo., speeding 95/70, \$99.

Lauren A. Purvis, 22, Encinitas, Calif., speeding 96/70, \$102.

Robert R. Schuster, Jr., 30, Las Vegas, Nev., speeding 91/70, \$87.

Joel D. Frittz, 20, Warrenburg, Mo., speeding 96/70, \$102.

Shelly R. Benson, 37, Leavenworth, speeding 92/70, \$90.

Nov. 28 — Jeffrey D. Stewart, 26,

Bryn Athyn, Pa., speeding 94/70, \$96.

Nov. 30 — Yakup Akkas, 26, Clifton, N.J., speeding 90/70, \$84.

Dec. 1 — Robert L. Orr, 62, Grand Junction, Colo., speeding 91/70, \$87.

Divorces Granted

William Mark Acuff and Kimberly M. Acuff, both of Goodland.

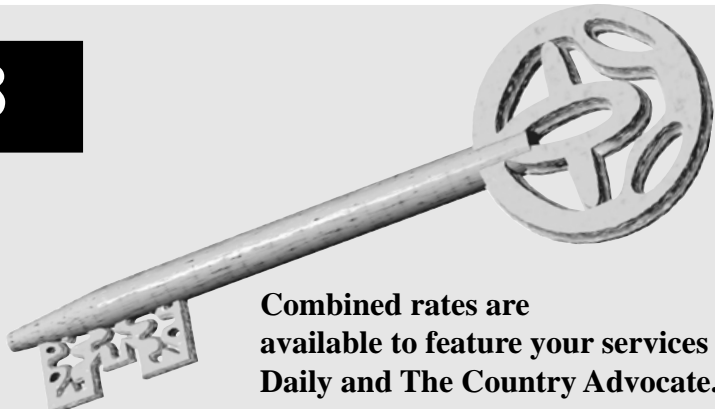
Rick A. Reitz, Gering, Neb., and Jane L. Reitz, Goodland.

Charles M. Pace, Kanorado, and Charlotte K. Pace, Fruita, Colo.

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