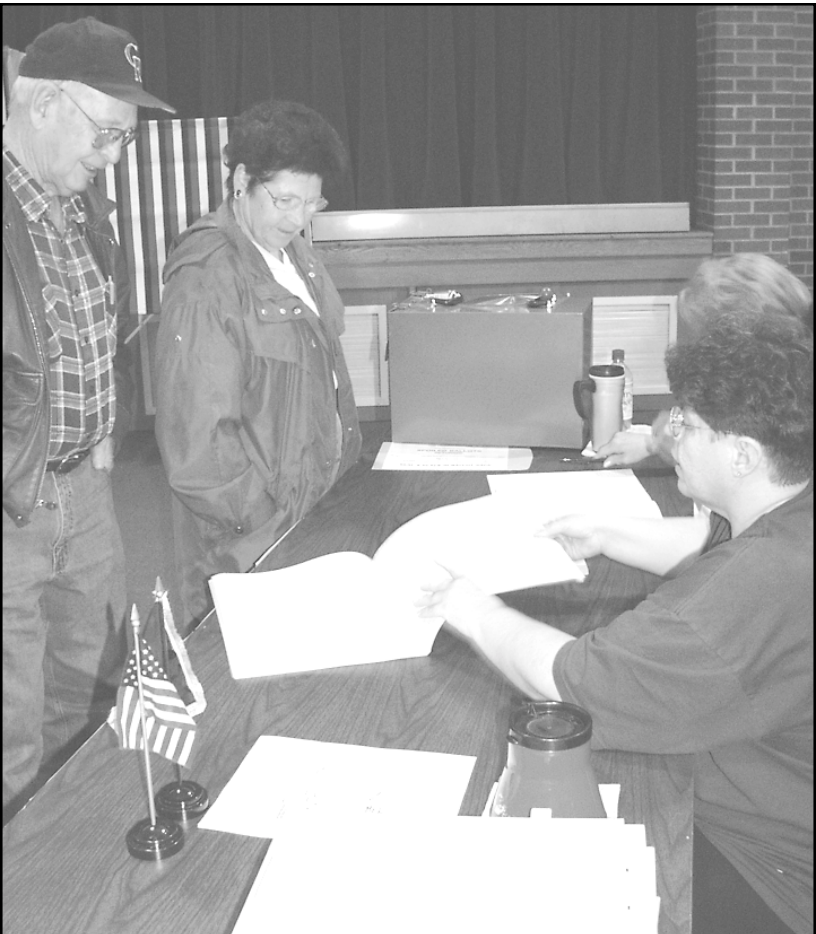


# Election poll numbers low with lack of candidates



Voting was slow in city and school elections Tuesday, with most of those who turned out at the Methodist Fellowship Hall voting in the city election. That offered the only race of the day. Kathy Wolak (foreground) and Darla Spence handled those voting in Ward 2 under the supervision of Carol Farris.  
Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

## Ex-member returns

SCHOOL, from Page 1

he said he advertised on cable and in the newspaper because he thought it was his duty to ask people for their vote, even though the race wasn't contested. "People don't have to vote for you," he said. "It's a privilege to serve the people. I think it's the candidate's responsibility to ask for the vote." Short said he was "tickled." "I thank the voters," he said. "We'll continue to work hard for our kids and Goodland." Schilling said he appreciated everybody who supported him. "I'll do my best to represent the stu-

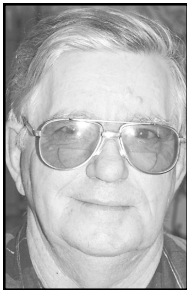
dents and taxpayers of this district," he said. Mayor Estes said the voter turnout seemed small, but didn't know how many registered voters there are in Kanorado. "There were no write-ins," she said. She said the council will have two incumbents and one new member, adding, "We ought to have a good council." Siruta said only three people had voted when he went in at 8:20 a.m. Tuesday. He said he heard voting was slack throughout the county. "We'll go another four years and hopefully move forward," he said.

CITY, from Page 1

thoughts and concerns about the city. The 74-year-old said he planned to go home, make a cup of coffee and e-mail the results to his children. Lutters, the Goodland School District building and grounds supervisor, said Blume, who moved here in 1964, will be a good addition to the commission because he's involved and aware of problems the city is facing. Lutters, who thanked people for voting, said being a commissioner is a tough job, but he enjoys improving the city and helping people. "Sometimes you make people mad," he said, "but sometimes you make people



McCants



Nichols

happy. You just have to put personal stuff aside and do what's good for the city." The commission appoints one of its members to the job of mayor each April. Lutters has had the job for two years, but said he's ready to give it up.

## Sheriff's department to get new pickup

COUNTY, from Page 1

for a new 4-wheel drive pickup for the sheriff's department from Dan Brenner Ford and Finley Motors. Brenner's bid was \$22,095 and Finley's \$21,624. Both included the trade-in of a 1995 Crown Victoria. Whitson was asked if he preferred either one, and he said that while most of the department vehicles were Fords, he did not have a problem with the GMC. The commissioners unanimously voted to accept the Finley bid. Whitson said his department would install all the lights and radios that were needed, and that there was enough

money in the budget to purchase a lift-up cover for the pickup bed. The commissioners also voted unanimously to accept and sign the contract for fire extinguisher service with Dennis Bentzinger of Med-Enterprises of Goodland. Mary Ann Snethen talked to the commissioners about an offer from Alltel to upgrade the county's cell phone service and expand the number of phones. With the offer, the county would be able to have 20 cell lines and 2,000 minutes per month for a flat \$300. Also, if the county acted that day, they could get eight new free phones and free ac-

tivation of the new lines. After asking Cellularone representatives in Colby about programs they might have available, the commissioners voted unanimously to accept the Alltel program and to get the additional phones and new lines. Good Sam Administrator Paul Rainbolt met with the commissioners to review remodeling plans. He told the commissioners plans for expanding the dining room and building the storage shed have been put on hold. The reason, he said, is the planners want to consider other ways to provide the services. He said they were going ahead with

miss Jim Mull, a 10-year veteran of the commission who decided not to run for re-election this year. "He did a lot for the community," he said. McCants, who said she may run for the office again, said she has faith in those who were elected, adding that Blume deserves the position. "He worked hard," she said. "I don't think I campaigned enough." Nichols, who works for Pueblo Chemical and Supply, said the people elected who they felt deserved the job, adding that he's not as well known in Goodland. "I'm happy for those who were elected," Nichols said.

## Rolling blackouts could threaten California chickens

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rolling blackouts this summer would be a life-or-death proposition for millions of California chickens, which could die within minutes if power needed for ventilation and cooling should fail. Poultry producers say their birds are by far the most susceptible of all farm animals to the effects of rolling blackouts, since they require a constant flow of chilled, fan-blown air to cool them and allow them to breathe. If the power should fail on a hot day, chickens could suffocate almost as soon as air stops circulating in buildings that can house as many as 150,000 birds. "Birds will last 15 minutes to half an hour. That's it," said Richard Matteis, executive director of the Pacific Egg and Poultry Association in Sacramento.

In today's world of mechanized farming, chickens rely on electricity to drive the machines that bring them food and water, collect their eggs, transport their waste and power the lights under which egg-laying hens can bask up to 16 hours a day. Most importantly, electricity powers the fans and swamp coolers that make chicken farming possible in inland counties up and down California. "As hot as it gets in California, the chickens can't live without power," said Bill Mattos, president of the California Poultry Federation. The environments in these chicken houses are entirely artificial. Humidity in the air is critical to a chicken's health because of its respiratory system. A chicken breathes differently than

a human. People force air into their lungs and it automatically comes out. Chickens have to force the air out. When they breathe, they have to have air flow. Agriculture experts have spent the last year recommending farmers add backup generators that can produce electricity needed in a blackout to milk cows, irrigate fields and chill produce before it's shipped to market. For poultry farmers, generators are an absolute must, said Jim Thompson, a cooperative extension engineer with the University of California, Davis bio-

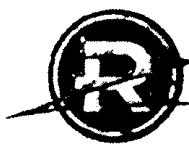
logical and agricultural engineering department. "They simply have to have backup generation," Thompson said. Most larger producers in California, where poultry is a \$1 billion-a-year business, already do. Producers have to always think about the health of the "chickens and make sure we have a backup source," said Sharon Krumwiede, general manager of Chino Valley Ranchers, an egg producer with five ranches in San Diego, San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

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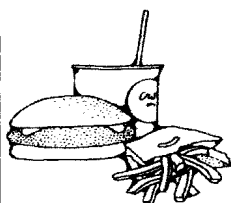
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