

Pre-holiday events attract big crowds

HOLIDAYS, from Page 1

Geeska bestowing Christmas blessings and kisses from the back of the pickup driven by her grandfather, Jim Wedermeyer.

Royalty from the Sunflower Festival were on a float, including King J.P. McCool, Queen Paige Seeger, plus Tiffany Charron and Amy Floyd. Prince Daniel Phillips was with Christopher Berls and Matthew Smigh. Princess Laramie Farris with Eri Floyd, Cassidi Hickson and Braelyn Hoelting.

Nolan Deeds helped Roger Gibson drive his red 1952 Farmall tractor.

John Mosbarger was driving a red pickup with a back full of singers, Micheal Smith, Jana McCall, Vanessa Crottinger, Sandy Johnson and Ashely Cebula.

Golden West Community Services had a float called "Ma and Pa Kettle has Christmas."

The fifth and sixth graders directed by Char Avila were singing on a trailer from Rasure Lumber and driven by Merlyn Stasser.

Wal-Mart employees had a float with the reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

There were elves driven in a wagon from John Boyington, pulled by Clarence Scheopner.

The elves were Lexie David, Linsy Bauman, Katelyn Coon, Jace Herl, Alexis Bateman, Shelly Herl, Lacy Cowan and Riley Lodine.

A trailer from Wilkens Truck and Trailer was filled with carolers from



The newest of the Goodland Regional Medical Center ambulances was decked out with a larger-than-life Santa as part of the holiday parade Saturday afternoon. The ambulance was driven by Jeff Krall, accompanied by Greg Nemecheck.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

area churches.

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived in the

back of a red convertible owned and driven by Jeff Deeds. Santa was hold-

ing a list and checking it twice as he greeted crowds of children.

Inspectors enter Iraq on edge of war

IRAQ, from Page 1

Iraq wants the inspectors' mission to "prove to the Americans ... that our country is free of weapons of mass destruction."

A front-page editorial in the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al-Thawra called the previous U.N. inspection regime "an American organization to spy on Iraq," and said it hoped the new team would avoid that trap.

Iraq has been under strict economic sanctions since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The sanctions can be lifted when U.N. inspectors declare Iraq free of weapons of mass destruction.

ElBaradei said he hoped for Iraqi cooperation in producing a report to the Security Council that could be "a basic step toward the lifting of sanctions on Iraq."

ElBaradei also said the inspections would be conducted away from the eyes of the international media that had awaited him in Baghdad.

"We hope that when we do the inspection work those inspections will enjoy the necessary privacy," he said. "We will do our job with the maximum objectivity and at the same time the inspections will be thorough."

In London, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said he had "every confidence" in the inspectors, but warned that if Iraq tries to obstruct their work, "the patience of the international community will run out."

Britain has been a chief ally of the United States in the international debate on how to contain Iraq.

Blix and ElBaradei flew from

Vienna to Cyprus over the weekend to join up with about two dozen other members of their team before heading for Iraq. Blix said the team was prepared to meet the challenge of ensuring Iraqi compliance, but he hoped Iraq would not try to hide anything.

"The question of war and peace remains first of all in the hands of Iraq, the Security Council and the members of the Security Council," Blix said Sunday.

The United States is waiting to see Iraq's response to inspections before going to the Security Council for debate on military action, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Sunday.

"It seems to me that what will happen is a pattern of behavior will evolve and then people will make judgments with respect to it," Rumsfeld said.

Sounding a tough line, ElBaradei said Sunday there was agreement on the need for "intrusive verifications—that means we would go everywhere, we will use every means at our disposal to make sure that Iraq does not have weapons of mass destruction."

Blix favors cooperation instead of confrontation with the Iraqis, and the differences in approach could create tension between the inspectors and the Bush administration. U.N. officials said Sunday on condition of anonymity.

Saddam agreed Wednesday to allow the inspectors to return to search for chemical, biological and nuclear weapons after the Security Council approved a toughly worded resolution giving Iraq "a final opportunity".

New military prison offers more comfort

FORT LEAVENWORTH (AP) — The new maximum security barracks at Fort Leavenworth offers more comfort and quiet than the 127-year-old barracks it replaced, but its chief of staff says it is still definitely a prison.

About 450 of the military's most-hardened inmates were moved into the \$68 million U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth last month.

The new prison has a modern climate control system and solid cell doors with a window, rather than the old cells with bars. That helps keep the

prison quieter said Lt. Col. Peter Grande, chief of staff for the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks.

But he said despite the modern amenities, the 515-bed facility is still a prison.

"We're not making it a country club," Grande said. "But you have to make it where it's cost effective and it meets your rehabilitation goals."

"Almost every inmate here will be released back to society, so you want them to go through a rehabilitation program. If you're in an environment

that's not comfortable, he won't try to change."

Some of the changes were made with prison employees in mind, he said.

"If you don't have the working conditions comfortable for the people that work there, they're not going to be happy campers either," Grande said.

The new facility also has a high-tech security system. Rather than relying on guard towers and tall rock walls, the prison is outfitted with closed-circuit television monitors.

The prison is ringed by two 14-foot

fences topped with razor wire. The fences are equipped with a system that will set off an alarm if someone tries to climb or cut through the fence. Cameras will automatically begin recording that sector and guards, who are on roving patrol, will respond immediately.

Last week, 437 prisoners, all men, were at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks. Women are sent to the Navy's consolidated brig at Miramar, San Diego.

Enlisted personnel who are sentenced to seven years or more and all

officers convicted of a crime are sent to Fort Leavenworth. Enlisted personnel with shorter sentences serve their time at regional confinement facilities.

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