

## weather report

54°

at noon



### Today

• Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:01 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 41 degrees

• Humidity 28 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds north 9 m.p.h.

• Barometer 29.83 inches

and falling

• Record High 74° (1962)

• Record Low -4° (1964)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 68°

Low 24°

Precipitation none

### Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, low upper

20s, winds southwest 10-20 m.p.h.

Tomorrow: becoming mostly cloudy,

high 55-60, low mid 20s, winds

southwest 10-20 m.p.h.

### Extended Forecast

Wednesday: partly sunny, high 40-

45, low near 20. Thursday: mostly

clear, high mid 30s. Friday: mostly

clear, high upper 40s, low upper

teens. Saturday: partly cloudy, high

mid 40s, low near 20.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHZ.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$3.75 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.65

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$2.46 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.24

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Milo — \$2.23 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.20 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.14

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Millet — \$13.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$12.00 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Confection current — \$17/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$16

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco

Sun, 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.

## Complex checked for nuclear bombs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.N. weapons inspectors searched a sprawling complex where Iraqi scientists once worked on a nuclear bomb, one of at least six sites they visited this morning.

A day earlier, Hollywood star Sean Penn spoke out in Baghdad in support of the Iraqi people caught up in an international crisis, and the U.S. military reported U.S. and British warplanes on routine patrols over Iraq fired on two installations after coming under fire.

The United Nations offered few details about today's inspection at al-Qa' qaa. During their Sunday visit to al-Qa' qaa, inspectors said a chemical team updated information about a sulfuric acid plant, an explosives production plant and storage areas.

At a news conference in the Iraqi capital Sunday, actor Penn called for restraint and reflection.

# Cowgirls, Cyclones win Topside

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

It was an east vs. west shootout Saturday, as the Cyclones from Ottawa faced the Cowboys and Cowgirls in the championship games of the 14th Annual Topside Tipoff at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Goodland came away with half the hardware.

The Cowgirls claimed the trophy for the girls championship, defeating Ottawa 76-69. But the Cyclones went home with the boys championship trophy, defeating the Cowboys, 71-59.

Cowboy Lance Tedford set an individual tournament record for the most 3-point baskets in a single game as he hit eight Friday night against Burlington. The entire Cowboy team leaped to their feet midway through the third quarter when Tedford sank his seventh to tie his record. At the time the Cowboys were leading 61-24 over the Burlington Cougars in the semi-final game.

Cowboy Coach Jon McLean said they were keeping track of Tedford's 3-pointers, and knew when he had tied the record. Tedford came out the game at that point to the high-fives from all his teammates.

"I knew Tedford had tied it," McLean said, "and put him back in later to give him a shot at the title. It took him about a minute to break it."

McLean said he did not expect the Cyclones to leave Tedford as open Saturday, and he was correct. Tedford took only one 3-point shot and it missed.

The Cowgirls were declared the winner of the girls team free-throw shooting title, and Jayci Stone and Jessica Osborn set a record for the most 3-point baskets in a tournament, each hitting nine and eclipsing a record of 8 set by Amanda Bordon of Holyoke in 1998.

In the girls bracket, Morrill won the consolation championship, defeating the Wray Eagles, 44-31. The McCook Lady Bison finished, third defeating



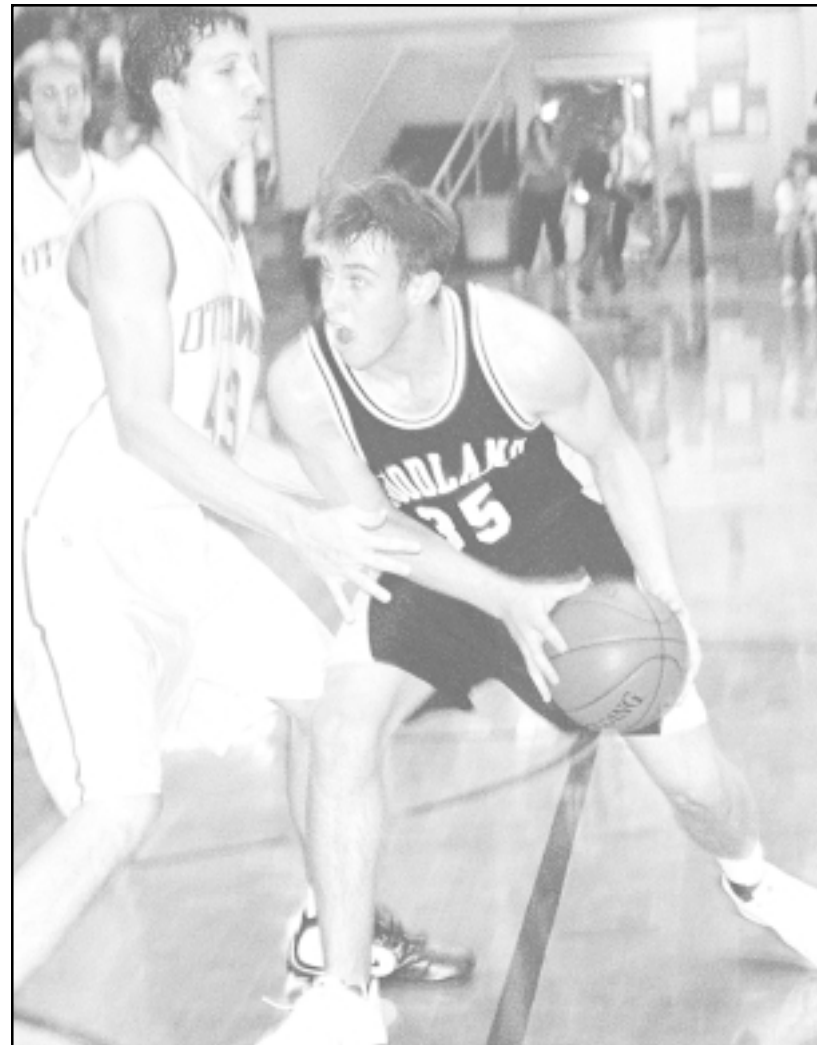
Jayci Stone led the team in scoring Saturday as the Cowgirls won the Topside Tipoff championship, 76-69. She had 24 points in the game, and with teammate Jessica Osborn set a tournament record with nine 3-point baskets each over the three days.

Burlington, 73-28. Holyoke won seventh place over the Garden City junior varsity, 33-30.

In the boys bracket, the Wray Eagles won the consolation championship defeating the Garden City junior varsity 80-50. McCook finished third, defeating Burlington 86-52. Holyoke won the seventh-place game over Morrill, 67-46.

The McCook boys won the team free throw shooting title.

When the McCook boys lost to Ottawa on Friday night in a double-overtime thriller, 75-73, it broke the Bison's string of being in the championship game going back to 1994 when they won their first Topside Tipoff title, and cut off their opportunity to win five in a row.



Cowboy Bobby Miller looked for a teammate because of the tough guarding of the Ottawa Cyclones, who defeated the Cowboys, 71-59 to win the Topside Tipoff boys championship.

Photos by Skiland Boland / The Goodland Daily News

In that game, the Bison had led 39-31, and 53-49 at the end of the third quarter, but the Cyclones came back and sent the game into overtime, where they were able to hang on, scoring 10 in the second overtime to edge the Bison by 2 points.

The Cyclones used the same effort Saturday against the Cowboys in the

championship, as they battled back from an early first-quarter deficit to take the lead at halftime on a last second 3-point basket, 35-33. The Cowboys keep it close in the third and there were several lead changes, but the Cyclones were able to hold onto their lead,

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# GOP senators will meet to decide Lott's fate

By David Espo

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans will meet early next month to settle the fate of Sen. Trent Lott as party leader in the wake of a racially charged controversy, GOP sources said today.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the meeting would be called for Jan. 6, the day before the Senate convenes for a new session under Republican control.

The decision came as White House spokesman Ari Fleischer criticized Lott's comments anew, and a key GOP senator issued a statement that pointedly refrained from saying Lott should remain as leader.

"My Republican colleagues and I are actively engaged in deciding what is in the best interests of the Senate as an institution and the country," said Sen. Bill Frist of Tennessee, who chaired the GOP campaign effort over the past two years.

"I am confident a consensus will emerge, but no decisions have been made yet," Frist said, "and I have en-

dorsed no specific proposal at this time."

Lott spent the day preparing for an appearance on Black Entertainment Television, part of an effort to overcome controversy stemming from racially charged comments he made at Sen. Strom Thurmond's 100th birthday party earlier this month.

Lott said Mississippians were proud to have supported Thurmond for president when he ran as a segregationist in 1948. "And if the rest of the country had followed our lead, we wouldn't have had all these problems over all these years, either," he said.

The Mississippi Republican has since apologized repeatedly for his remarks, but the original utterances set off a furor that poses a strong threat to his grip on power.

A few Republicans, including Sen. Don Nickles of Oklahoma, called over the weekend for a meeting of the rank-and-file to consider Lott's fate. Nickles, a potential rival, said new elections should be held.

Sentiment for a meeting grew during

the day, when Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., issued a statement endorsing the idea.

"It is not fair for us to leave the Sen. Lott's future as Senate majority leader uncertain, nor is it helpful to let the issue go unresolved," Burns said in a statement. "There needs to be some closure very soon."

At the White House, spokesman Ari Fleischer called Lott's original comments "offensive and repugnant," but later added, "The president does not think he needs to resign."

On Sunday, Nickles became the first GOP senator to call for new leadership elections.

"I am concerned that Trent has been weakened to the point that may jeopardize his ability to enact our agenda and speak to all Americans," said Nickles, who flirted with a challenge to Lott earlier this fall and could run if new elections are held.

"There are several outstanding senators who are more than capable of effective leadership and I hope we have an opportunity to choose," said

Nickles.

Lott did not respond to Nickles' comments. Spokesman Ron Bonjean said the Mississippi Republican was preparing for a 30-minute appearance on Black Entertainment Television today night, part of a campaign to save his leadership post. Lott intends to use the time "to discuss the serious issues of diversity, opportunity and race in America," Bonjean said.

The White House steered clear of Nickles' remarks as Bush's advisers said the president would not try to save Lott's job. Fleischer steadfastly declined to be drawn into any discussion of the potential leadership race among Senate Republicans. "The White House isn't commenting on that," he said. But Fleischer condemned in sharpened tones the comments last week that landed Lott in trouble.

White House officials have told Republicans that Bush is willing to accept the consequences if Lott loses the majority leader position, quits the Senate and allows Mississippi's Democratic governor to replace him, GOP officials

say. Sens. John Warner of Virginia and Chuck Hagel of Nebraska said they supported a hurry-up meeting of the rank and file in view of the controversy swirling around Lott.

Republicans "must either reconfirm their confidence in Senator Trent Lott's leadership or select a new leader," Hagel said. "In the interest of the Republican Party, the president's agenda and the nation this issue must be resolved quickly."

Nickles quickly found himself under attack from critics thus far choosing to remain anonymous. Lott's allies circulated material Sunday night designed to show the two men had voted alike on key civil rights issues and that the Oklahoman had long thirsted for the top leadership post.

The material also included a fraternity magazine article from last spring quoting Nickles as speaking favorably about Sen. Strom Thurmond.

"Strom is my idol. He's 99 years old and his kids are younger than mine," Nickles, 54, was quoted as saying.

# Gore's departure means Democratic race will be wide open

By Will Lester

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Al Gore left the field of potential 2004 Democratic presidential candidates in a surprise move that immediately raised the stakes for a half-dozen others pondering a run for the White House.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman, Gore's running mate last time around, said today he'll announce early next month whether he plans to run.

Gore made his announcement Sunday on CBS' "60 Minutes," taking the nation and party faithful by surprise. Some close aides had expected him to start making calls to political and financial advisers to test the waters and then make a decision over the holidays.

While saying he still had the energy and drive to run again, Gore, 54, noted "there are a lot of people within the Democratic Party who felt exhausted (by the 2000 race) ... who felt like, OK, 'I don't want to go through that again.' And I'm frankly sensitive to that feeling."

President Bush's spokesman called the developments an internal Demo-

cratic Party matter, but couldn't resist taking a poke.

"Someone will emerge from the Democratic pack who seeks to raise taxes on the American people. ..." White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said.

Many Democrats said they were surprised by the timing of the decision, which came after Gore spent several days in New York discussing his plans with family members.

Potential rivals moved quickly to praise Gore, who still has a considerable following among Democratic voters.

"I want to simply say thank you to Al Gore for his leadership, for his service and for the opportunity he gave me to be his running mate in 2000, which makes possible the decision that I'm going to make in the next couple of weeks," Lieberman said late this morning. "I said I probably would run if Al Gore doesn't run and that remains the case."

Lieberman is taking a trip this week to the Persian Gulf and Middle East and will visit U.S. troops in the region.

Gore won the presidential popular vote by a half-million votes in 2000 but conceded to Republican George Bush after a tumultuous 36-day recount in Florida and a 5-4 Supreme Court vote against him.

Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle, Missouri Rep. Dick Gephardt, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, Vermont Gov. Howard Dean and North Carolina Sen. John Edwards promptly praised Gore as an important force in the party who was certain to contribute more in future years. All are possible Democratic standard-bearers next time around.

After seeking the presidency or vice presidency every four years since 1988, Gore said Sunday he'll probably not have another chance to run for the White House.

And he said a rematch with President Bush "would inevitably involve a focus on the past that would in some measure distract from the focus on the future I think all campaigns have to be about."

Ron Klain, who was Gore's vice presidential chief of staff, said today he thinks the party now will have "a much more competitive primary. He said he

believes Gore would have been the front-runner had he decided to run again.

Party activists were critical of Gore for losing in 2000 despite a booming economy and eight years of a Democratic administration. Gore even lost his home state of Tennessee though a victory there would have given him the White House.

Gore disappeared from public view after the 2000 election. Gradually re-entering politics over the past year, he campaigned for selected candidates this year, made trips to Iowa and New Hampshire, then spent the last month promoting a book on the family that he wrote with his wife Tipper and giving interviews.

A year ago, Gore accepted the job of vice chairman of Metropolitan West Financial, a Los Angeles-based financial services holding company. He has been juggling that job with his duties as college professor, speaker and author.

Gore ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1988 and then, while a senator, was surprised to be picked as Bill Clinton's

running mate in 1992.

Clinton said Sunday night: "Al Gore was the best vice president America ever had. He would have been a fine president had history taken a different course two years ago."

Despite the praise Sunday night, not all Democratic activists spoke kindly of Gore over the last year. Many, both nationally and in key early primary and caucus states, said they were anxious for a fresh face.

Associates have said Gore was getting more comfortable with the idea of life as a private citizen. He made an appearance on NBC's "Saturday Night Live" this weekend that might have been considered risky were he seeking the presidency.

In one SNL sketch that must have had a special poignancy for him, Gore visited the set of NBC's "West Wing," a popular TV show about the president and his staff.

Gore sat at the desk in the mock Oval Office as if he belonged there, then told cast members to go to dinner without him because he wanted to linger a little longer.