

weather report

41°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:26 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:03 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:26 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 35 degrees

• Humidity 24 percent

• Sky partly cloudy

• Winds calm

• Barometer 29.96 inches

and falling

• Record High 73° (1981)

• Record Low -13° (1935)

Last 24 Hours*

High 41°

Low 16°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly cloudy, low upper

teens, winds north 10-15 m.p.h. To-

morrow: partly sunny and cool, high

40s, low upper teens, winds north 15

m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: mostly sunny, high near

40, low upper teens, winds north 15

m.p.h. Monday: partly cloudy with

slight chance of snow, high mid 30s.

Tuesday: cloudy with slight chance

of snow during the day, high mid 30s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.66 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.70

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$2.44 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.22

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Milo — \$2.21 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.17 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.06

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Millet — \$12.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$11.50 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.

U.S. claims Iraq coverup

WASHINGTON — The Bush

administration, concluding that

Saddam Hussein is not serious

about disarmament, turned today

to convincing the U.N. Security

Council that it should declare Iraq

in violation and authorize war.

A senior administration official

said today that President Bush has

given the go-ahead to double the

50,000 U.S. troops deployed in the

Persian Gulf region in early Janu-

ary. Defense Secretary Donald H.

Rumsfeld is expected to sign the

formal deployment order in the

next week or two as part of what

another official called "a ramping

up on various fronts."

"This situation cannot contin-

ue," Secretary of State Colin

Powell said Thursday in describ-

ing Iraq's weapons declaration,

submitted two weeks ago, as

12,200 pages of lies, gaps and

omissions.

Lott steps aside in wave of criticism

By Alan Fram

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Bowing to harsh criticism from fellow senators and the Bush White House, Trent Lott resigned as Senate Republican leader today after colleagues lined up behind Sen. Bill Frist to replace him.

"In the interest of pursuing the best possible agenda for the future of our country, I will not seek to remain as majority leader of the United States Senate for the 108th Congress, effective Jan. 6, 2003," said Lott, whose fall was historically unprecedented on Capitol Hill.

President Bush released a statement hailing Lott's service and saying he respected "the very

difficult decision" the Mississippian had to make.

Lott himself stayed away from the cameras. At his Pascagoula, Miss., home, his wife gave reporters a written statement from Lott saying, "My official written statement was released from Washington at 11 EST. There will be no underlying statement to the television media. Please go home."

The note, handwritten on U.S. Senate stationery with "Office of the Majority Leader" across the top, was signed "Trent Lott."

With Lott's departure, Frist, a close ally of Bush, was the only publicly declared candidate to replace him and quickly emerged as the favorite, lawmakers and aides said.

The Tennessee lawmaker, a wealthy heart surgeon, announced his candidacy Thursday evening and had garnered support from several key senators, including Sens. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, No. 2 Senate Republican Don Nickles of Oklahoma, and John Warner of Virginia.

McConnell, a Lott supporter said to be interested in succeeding him, issued a statement saying he would not seek the job and endorsed Frist. GOP lawmakers and aides said Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, another Lott supporter, was considering a challenge, but Frist seemed likely to prevail.

"I think it's pretty much over," said one GOP

lawmaker who asked not to be named. "With McConnell and Nickles behind Frist, I think it's done."

Nickles, a longtime Lott rival, was the first GOP senator to call for new leadership elections.

The 51 GOP senators who will serve in the next Congress plan to meet Jan. 6 to elect their next leader.

Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota called Lott's resignation "the right decision for Sen. Lott and for the Senate."

But he said the new GOP leader must "now do more than merely disavow Sen. Lott's words. He

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Officers discover meth lab

Evening raid nets drugs in Kanorado

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Drug agents raided a Kanorado garage Thursday, seizing what they called an active methamphetamine lab, plus several guns.

The owner was arrested later by Kansas Bureau of Investigation agents in Cheyenne County.

Sheriff Doug Whitson said a search warrant was executed Thursday evening at Scotty's Motor Co., 209 Main St., Kanorado. He said the meth lab was found in the basement.

Scott Baumfalk, 36, owner of the business, was found in Cheyenne County by KBI agents and Doug Murphy, investigator for the Quad County Drug Task Force.

Sherman Whitson said Baumfalk was arrested between 8 and 9 p.m. and was being held in the Sherman County Bastille.

"I expect further arrests to be made," Whitson added, saying that the search warrant was part of an ongoing investigation.

"We have been investigating this man for about three years," Whitson said. "We had suspected meth activity, but it was only with the help of the Quad County Task Force and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation that we were able to get what we needed to execute the search warrant."

Officers of the sheriff's office, KBI, Quad County Task Force and the Goodland Police went to the garage about 6 p.m. and forcibly entered the building.

"We found an active meth lab in the basement," Whitson said. "The KBI agents took it apart, and we seized several weapons during the search."

Whitson said he had no idea about what quantity of meth was being produced.

He said the KBI and Drug Enforcement Agency will clean up the site, and the material will be taken for laboratory analysis.

"We finally got all the pieces put together," Whitson said. "We had some inside information that gave us the information we needed for the search warrant."

"I expect a sizable drop in meth drug traffic because of this action."

The task force includes Sherman, Thomas, Gove, Logan and Wallace counties and the cities in those counties. The group kept its name after expanding to five counties.



Schools, students set table for town's seniors

Cortney Schields (above) served pumpkin pie to Inez DePlata, Mary Spatz, Isabelle Lehman and Lela Davison as more than 400 senior citizens enjoyed the Sherman County Senior Citizen Holiday luncheon Wednesday at Goodland High School. Hosts were members of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, National Honor Society and Girls Athletic Association. Elementary students made the placemats and bookmarks, production I students made wooden ornaments, and the FCCLA made quickbreads. Entertainment included the Goodland High School Jazz Band, Men's Chorale, Les Chantes, X-Pressos, Mass Choir, and solos and duets by members. X-Pressos (below) sang "Grease Lightnig." Saxophone section members including Matt Hurst (right) entertained senior citizens with jazzed-up Christmas tunes.

Photos by Eric Yonkey/The Goodland Daily News



Commissioners clear the table for end of the county's year

Sherman County commissioners took care of housekeeping details Tuesday as they approved amendments to the budget and a boiler insurance policy.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede moved to appoint Carolyn Applegate, new economic development director, to be the Sherman County representative to the Pioneer Country Planning and Development Commission, a regional economic development group. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld and passed unanimously with Commissioner Kevin Rasure vot-

ing in favor. The regional group is headquartered in Hill City, and Applegate said she feels this is an important contact for state and federal grants.

Rasure said he attended a Sherman County Economic Development Council meeting Monday, and that the council is looking at some minor changes in the county resolution which established it. He also said the council would be sending a formal recommendation for reappointment of board members John Garcia and Larry Harper to full three-year terms.

The commissioners discussed sending letters of welcome to new businesses, and will get a list from Applegate. They agreed to do more of this in the future.

The sheriff's department has a couple of computers they were planning to put in storage, but Kenny Griffith, rural fire chief, asked to use one in Goodland and one in Kanorado. Commissioners agreed.

Appointments to the Good Samaritan Center board and the Convention and Visitors Bureau board were put off until the next meeting.

Commissioners reviewed the elevator maintenance agreement for the Good Samaritan Center, and decided they do not want to sign the five-year contract.

They asked the county attorney to see if a two- or three-year contract is possible.

The commissioners asked center officials if they feel it is necessary to spend the money, and ask what is done at the other centers.

The commissioners called Tom Job of the Kansas County Insurance Pool about liability and auto insurance for

next year. Job said this will increase by \$8,038 over the \$73,282 this year. Job said the average increase for boiler insurance was 15 percent, but that Sherman County's was 11 percent.

The workmen's compensation cost for next year will increase from \$48,962 to \$63,546, commissioners were told.

The commissioners renewed their boiler insurance policy through Arthur Gallaher and Co. for \$3,437.

The commissioners will gather at 8 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 30, for their final meeting of the year.