

Band enjoys trip to Alamo Bowl

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By 5:30 p.m., the band was in full uniform in the stands waiting for the game to begin and their opportunity to entertain the crowd.

Wirth said many of the students made signs, hoping to get on television during the game, which was broadcast on ESPN.

On the field, all went well as the band joined 11 bands and flag squads from Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, West Virginia and Kansas, playing a medley of tunes.

"My favorite part was being able to help pull a giant American flag across the field," said Andrea Fenner, a Goodland senior. "It covered the entire field."

Although their bowl game debut was complete, the instruments were not packed away to come home just yet. Sunday, the music festival was held at Burbank High School. Both the jazz and concert bands did well, said Wirth, especially since they hadn't reviewed their music since the winter concert. Ratings of gold, silver and bronze were given out to participants. The jazz band picked up a silver rating while the concert band brought home a bronze.

After a bit more sightseeing and shopping, it was time to head home.

"The kids didn't want to come home," Wirth said. "They had so much fun. Some of them asked if we could spend another day."

Wirth said she's like to see the band go to a bowl game regularly, maybe every other year.



Goodland band members (above) enjoyed a formal dinner on Friday night. They were joined by all the participants of the Alamo Bowl halftime show. Goodland students (right) lined up on the side line prior to half-time.

Photos by Deandra Wirth
Goodland High School



Bush's new stimulus plan draws objections

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush won't unveil his latest economic stimulus proposal until next week but already it is drawing fire from Democrats who say they are putting together a rival proposal that will be fairer and do less harm to the budget.

House Democratic leaders met today to work on their alternative to Bush's plan and promised to unveil the measure soon.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the new Democratic leader in the House, called their discussions an "emergency meeting" because of the fact 800,000 laid-off workers lost their unemployment benefits on Dec. 28 because of an impasse between the

administration and Congress over the best approach to extend federal unemployment assistance.

Pelosi told reporters the Democratic alternative to Bush's proposal would be "fair to the American people and will be fiscally responsible."

In an effort to pre-empt those arguments, Bush on Thursday had branded the objections of critics as a false effort to pit different income classes against each other.

"Some would like to turn this into class warfare," he said after giving reporters a tour of his Crawford, Texas, ranch. "That's not how I think. I think about the overall economy and how best to help those folks who are looking for work."

While Bush refused to disclose details of the plan he will unveil in a speech in Chicago Tuesday, the plan is expected to have three major components — an acceleration of tax relief already included in the 2001 tax act but not scheduled to take effect until later years, a reduction by half in the current tax on corporate dividends paid to investors and an increase in tax breaks for businesses investing in new plants and equipment.

Rep. James Oberstar of Minnesota, the top Democrat on the Transportation Committee, said the House Democratic alternative may well include an acceleration in government spending on aviation and highway projects as a way to create

jobs. Rep. John Spratt of South Carolina, the top Democrat on the Budget Committee, said the plan would be front-loaded, with Democrats pushing for a quick vote on extending unemployment benefits.

One acceleration of tax relief from the 2001 act the administration is considering is a speedup of the individual rate cuts scheduled to take effect in 2004 and 2006.

Because higher income individuals, who pay more taxes, get the biggest benefits from rate cuts, the administration had considered not accelerating the scheduled reductions in the top tax rate, currently at 38.6 percent, but focus just on the three lower rates.

Board appointments

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final bills of the year, totaling \$126,658.

After talking to Selby, the commissioners approved a motion to assign the county interest in the Gibson's Discount Center bankruptcy to Atlantic National Trust, on the condition the outstanding taxes will be paid. Selby said the bank wanted to pay the taxes by the end of the year, but the commissioners felt it would be good to give them until the end of January. If the taxes are not paid by then, the agreement would be void.

The commissioners delayed approval of a contract with the Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas because of er-

rors in the document. The agency assists the mentally challenged in Sherman County, and receives \$40,000 a year from the special health services sales tax fund.

The commissioners approved writing off three old noxious weed accounts from 1991 and 1994 totaling \$906. The two accounts belonged to Clyd Miller, who is dead, and Elmer West and Jerry Winter.

Frankenfeld made the motion, seconded by Rasure and the vote was unanimous with Commissioner Mitch Tiede voting in favor.

The next commissioner meeting will be 8 a.m. Tuesday in the commissioner room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse, 813 Broadway Ave.

Sebelius brings desk to new office

TOPEKA (AP) — Desks will be swapped when Kathleen Sebelius leaves the insurance commissioner's office to become the state's 44th governor.

Sebelius prefers the smaller desk in her office at the Insurance De-

partment to the larger one in the governor's office on the second floor of the Statehouse.

"It's got a lot of character to it, because it's got nicks," said Sebelius spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran-Basso.

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