

weather report

43°

noon Thursday

Today
•Sunset, 4:29 p.m.
Saturday
•Sunrise, 6:36 a.m.
•Sunset, 4:29 p.m.

Midday Conditions
•Soil temperature 45 degrees
•Humidity 93 percent
•Sky cloudy
•Winds north 17 mph
•Barometer 30.23 inches
and steady
•Record High today 80° (1996)
•Record Low today 4° (1937)

Last 24 Hours*
High Wednesday 55°
Low Wednesday 41°
Precipitation .44
This month 1.87
Year to date 21.13
Normal 19.08

The Topside Forecast
Today: partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow after 10 p.m., high near 48, low near 28, winds north northwest 5-11 mph.
Saturday: cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow, high near 31, low around 20, winds blustery north northeast 14-21 mph.
Extended Forecast
Sunday: mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow showers, high around 31, low around 20.
Monday: partly cloudy with a slight chance of snow showers.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon
Wheat — \$3.28 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.37
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$1.94 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.77
Loan deficiency pmt. — 18¢
Milo — \$1.57 bushel
Soybeans — \$4.89 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.86
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$12.55 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
NuSun — \$12.65 cwt.
Confection — \$19/\$13 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$25
(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Mustangs lose to Colby

Kade Sheldon of Grant Junior High's eighth-grade boys basketball team headed down the court during the fourth period of Tuesday's C team game against Colby. Story, photo on Page 10.

New sheriff in town

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

There is a new sheriff in town, but a familiar face.

Kevin Butts, Sherman County undersheriff since 2001, and sheriff-elect, assumed the duties of sheriff with the resignation Monday afternoon of Doug Whitson.

The Sherman County commissioners met in special session at 4:30 p.m. Monday to accept Whitson's resignation.

"It was time to get out of there and go onto other things," Whitson said Tuesday. "After 20 years is enough time, and I need to do something different."

Whitson said he hopes to stay in the area, but is not sure what he will do at this time.

"I would like to do something involving investigations," he said, "and may pursue a private detective license."

Butts said he was prepared for Whitson's resignation.

"I was not surprised at the resignation," he said, "and I do wish Whitson the best in the future."

Looking at changes in the office.

See SHERIFF, Page 7a

Stabbing suspect in court

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

A Utah man accused of attempted murder and aggravated assault of a law enforcement officer was escorted into District Court for his first appearance Thursday morning.

Michael D. Whitaker, 34, was brought before Judge Jack Burr to hear the charges against him. He is being held in the Sherman County Bastille on \$500,000 bond.

Whitaker is charged with attempted second-degree murder after allegedly stabbing Rustin Leiker, 21, Goodland, after an altercation on Nov. 8. First reports indicate the stabbing was over a "female acquaintance."

Judge Burr read the charges, noting that the murder charge alleged

See STABBING, Page 7a

Christmas season kicks off

There will be \$400 hidden in *The Goodland Star-News* beginning on Tuesday, Nov. 23, and a few people with the right numbers can win part of it.

Let's hope you're one of those who find your ticket number hidden in the "Christmas on Us" advertising inside the Tuesday paper.

The holiday season is gearing up in Sherman County, and so is Goodland merchants' seventh annual "Christmas on Us" promotion, which will spread a total of \$2,500 around to 12 lucky shoppers over the next month.

The Christmas season kicks off at 6 p.m. on Saturday with the arrival of Santa Claus in a parade of lights.

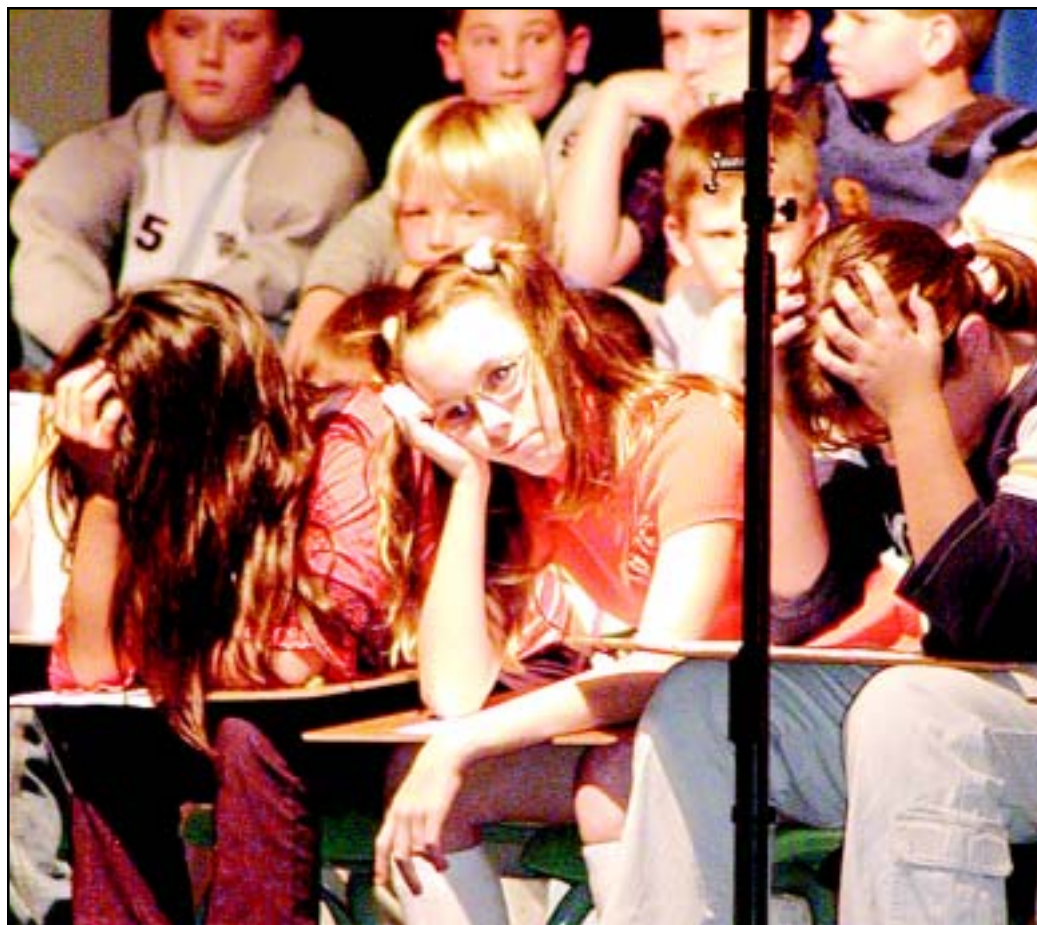
See CHRISTMAS, Page 7a



Central Elementary's fourth graders entertained Monday night with an hour-long concert. Acted in a scene to set the stage for the group to sing "Cafeteria Confusion" were (clockwise from the top) Amy Floyd (left), Holly Wilkening (middle), Paige Ford and Sadie Avila. The girls in the skit thought the boys were looking at them, but they were really admiring the girls' pizza. In a later skit, Aaron Twombly acted out the song "I'm Feelin' Good" by pump-

ing iron on stage. That led into the song "In the Gym." Cy Paxton played a junk food-eating example of someone who should get "In the Gym." Chloe Goodwin (below left) rested her head on her arm as she played one of the students in a history class skit. The students pretended to struggle with the history questions after singing "I'm in a Daze."

Photos by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News



Fourth grade concert about school

The entire fourth grade showed up Tuesday night at the Goodland High School Auditorium to perform in their first concert of the year.

The audience was filled with proud parents as students presented "SchoolDaze," a medley

of school-themed songs. Music teacher Char Avila directed.

The night started with an introduction from Thern Bagley and Victoria Steggall.

In "Toon Time" were Carly McCracken, Sabra Carver, Cortney Cowan, Celia Jenner,

Sadie Avila, Sydni Callahan and Chantel Coates.

The first skit featured Naomi Salinas, Elias Flores, Belen Ledesma and David Rascon.

Lacie Cowan, Brianna Sali-

See CONCERT, Page 7a



Foundation can help cut your tax bill

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Save money on taxes. Leave a living legacy. Help improve the county where you live or where you grew up.

Tax-deductible donations can be made to benefit any organization through the Sherman County Community Foundation. Formed two years ago, the agency is pushing to provide a better future for the area.

With new leadership from interim president Kin Huang, the foundation is reaching out to let everyone know it can provide an opportunity for anyone to improve the community.

Huang said she took the job of president, asking that it be interim for three months, October, November and December. She said she wanted to try the position out and see how it worked for her and for the board. She said it has been a good fit, and she expects to be president for at least the next year.

She said the group needed a

leader, a taskmaster, and found that in her, but she needs the whole board to help. And it has.

"I'm impressed," Huang said. "I have a board that steps up to the plate."

Huang said she is an empty-nester, has time to lead and is glad to do that, believing firmly the foundation will do good things.

It's a way to help people in Goodland build the community and make better use of their money, she said.

"I'm excited," Huang said. "I see another way to help Sherman County."

To that end, Huang helped to design a brochure that will be sent out to potential donors, and she and the board is trying to get the word out about the foundation's future role.

When some look at the brochure, they may wonder why it doesn't have wheat on it, Huang said, but so many brochures in this area have wheat.

"I want it to stand out," she said.

It has an Asian flair and symbolism, she said. The lotus flower

stands for happiness and prosperity, and the brochure includes proverbs and pictures to give people visual aids rather than just words.

Huang said the foundation has not started soliciting money yet but is trying to build people's confidence in the organization. The group had some seed money from when it was formed, she said, and it is being used for the brochures, advertising, postage and so forth.

When the foundation was started in 2002, board member Dave Daniels said, board members donated money to get it started. They also held a Valentine's dance and auctioned things off to raise more money.

Schlyer Goodwin was the first president, Daniels said, and when he left town about 18 months ago to attend law school, the board was without a leader.

Goodwin, who also conceived the Goodland Development Corp., was instrumental in starting a lot of projects, Daniels said, including the Sherman County Economic Development Council.

Goodwin helped start the foundation in 2002, Daniels said, but his

idea was dramatically different from where the agency is now. He planted the original seed, Daniels said, but the board took another seed from that to make it grow.

Goodwin's original plan, Huang said, was to collect money and then it would be up to the board to decide how it would be spent.

The way the foundation is set up now, Daniels said, someone can donate for a specific cause, and the money will be earmarked for that. The money itself won't be spent, he said; it will be invested and will go will go for the specified cause.

By law, he said, the gift itself can never be touched. It earns interest, he said, that then has to be spent on the cause it is earmarked for.

There are other foundations in the county, Huang said, including those of the hospital and the college, but the Sherman County foundation hopes to eventually bring those under one umbrella. Pooling the money under one foundation would give the organizations more buying power.

The foundation is run by a nine-

See SAVINGS, Page 7a