

# Schools short thirty students

SCHOOLS, from Page 1

The decline has been steady, Selby said, with the school seeing more than 3 percent of the population leaving each year.

This year, he said, the district lost the most students in the ninth grade. The class started out with 89 students and lost five in September, one in October, one in November and 10 in January.

Selby said the January loss was partly because some students moved up to the 10th grade. High school numbers, he added, are hard to compare because of the credits. If a student earns enough credits in a certain year, he can be bumped up to the next grade, which in this case drove sophomore numbers up and freshmen numbers down.

When the four high school classes are combined, he added, a total of 18 students left. In Head Start through eighth grade, 11 students left.

The kindergarten class lost five students over the year, Selby said. Starting with 80 in August, the class lost one in November, two in December and two more in January.

The fifth and sixth grades each lost four students. The fifth started with 62 and lost two in September,

one in December and one in January. The sixth started with 69 and lost two in November and two in January.

Other classes to lose students were the 11th grade, from 73 to 70; the eighth grade, from 80 to 78; and the third grade, from 59 to 58.

A few classes gained students, Selby said, but not enough to offset the losses. The early childhood classrooms gained three students, from 30 to 33; the seventh grade gained two, 60 to 62, and the 12th grade gained one, from 63 to 64.

Other grades in the district fluctuated through the year, but came out even.

Selby said the problem is affecting the schools, but they can't do much to keep people in town. He said some people leave town just to find work, and creating jobs would help keep people here and the schools full.

Board members are concerned about the problem, but most are hopeful.

"We've got to be optimistic on this deal," Schilling said, adding that the area can't rely totally on agriculture to attract people.

"We've got to find a way to bring our young people back to northwest Kansas."

# Day of prayer to bring Christians together

World Prayer Day will be celebrated with a service at 12:10 p.m. Friday at the First Christian Church planned to allow people to come on their lunch break.

Bring a sack lunch and eat it during the service.

Care will be provided for small children.

The day's theme encourages people to respond to Jesus' challenge in the Sermon on the Mount to "Let Our Light Shine."

"We are asked to share the talents which we have received, as well as the special gifts of grace and light received in Christian baptism," said Ruth Winkler, wife of John Park Winkler, acting minister of First Christian. "Our light, after all, only reflects the great Light which came into the world ... — Jesus Christ."



City crews set up a four-way stop signs Wednesday for the stop light at 12th and Main. Pat Thompson (below) disabled the old box before he and Dustin Bedore removed it to make room for the new controller. Photos by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

# City gets parts, turns on the lights

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

A brand new electronic controller has the stop light changing and traffic flowing smoothly at Main and 12th.

Charles Bandel, superintendent of electrical distribution for the city, said the lights are running again.

"I think they're working great," he said.

Last Wednesday, city crews switched off the lights and removed the controller box. They set up a four-way stop to control traffic until new controls could be installed.

On Thursday, the signs were gone and the light was working again, Bandel said, after a techni-

cian from the controller company plugged the new unit into the lights.

The new controller cost the city \$4,500 plus tax, but it is expected last for years.

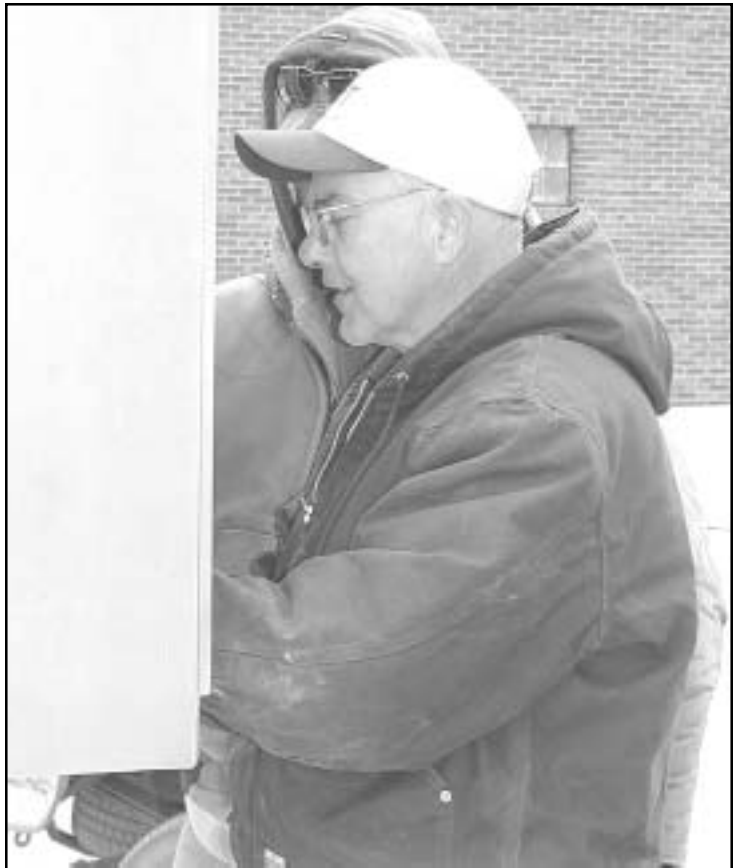
"It should stay that way for five to 10 years," he said, adding the controller is set on a timed cycle, the same as the old one.

"Usually we don't have to work on them very much," he said.

The light was set on flashing red for six to eight weeks.

City crews originally thought the light was out because of cold weather, but after persistent problems, Bandel said, they decided to replace the controller.

He asked for a rush job, he said, and it came in sooner than expected.



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