




Weather Corner



Tonight...Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Breezy. Isolated sprinkles in the evening. Lows in the mid 30s. Northwest winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to around 40 mph.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Cooler...Breezy. Highs in the upper 50s. Northwest winds 15 to 25 mph.Friday night...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of light rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Lows in the upper 20s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday...Cooler. Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light rain showers or snow showers. Highs in the upper 40s. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph with gusts to around 35 mph. Saturday night...Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of light rain showers and snow showers in the evening. Lows in the lower 20s.

Easter and Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Lows in the lower 20s.

Monday...Mostly sunny. Highs around 60. Monday night through Tuesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s. Highs in the mid 60s.

Wednesday...Sunny. Highs in the upper 50s.

Wednesday's low, high: 28, 67

Exchange students display talents, skits

Goodland Star-News

Over 100 students and adults, American and foreign students and their sponsors, came to an American Field Service State Roundup from Friday evening to Sunday morning in Goodland. The roundup lets foreign students from across the state get to know each other and learn about their country of origin.

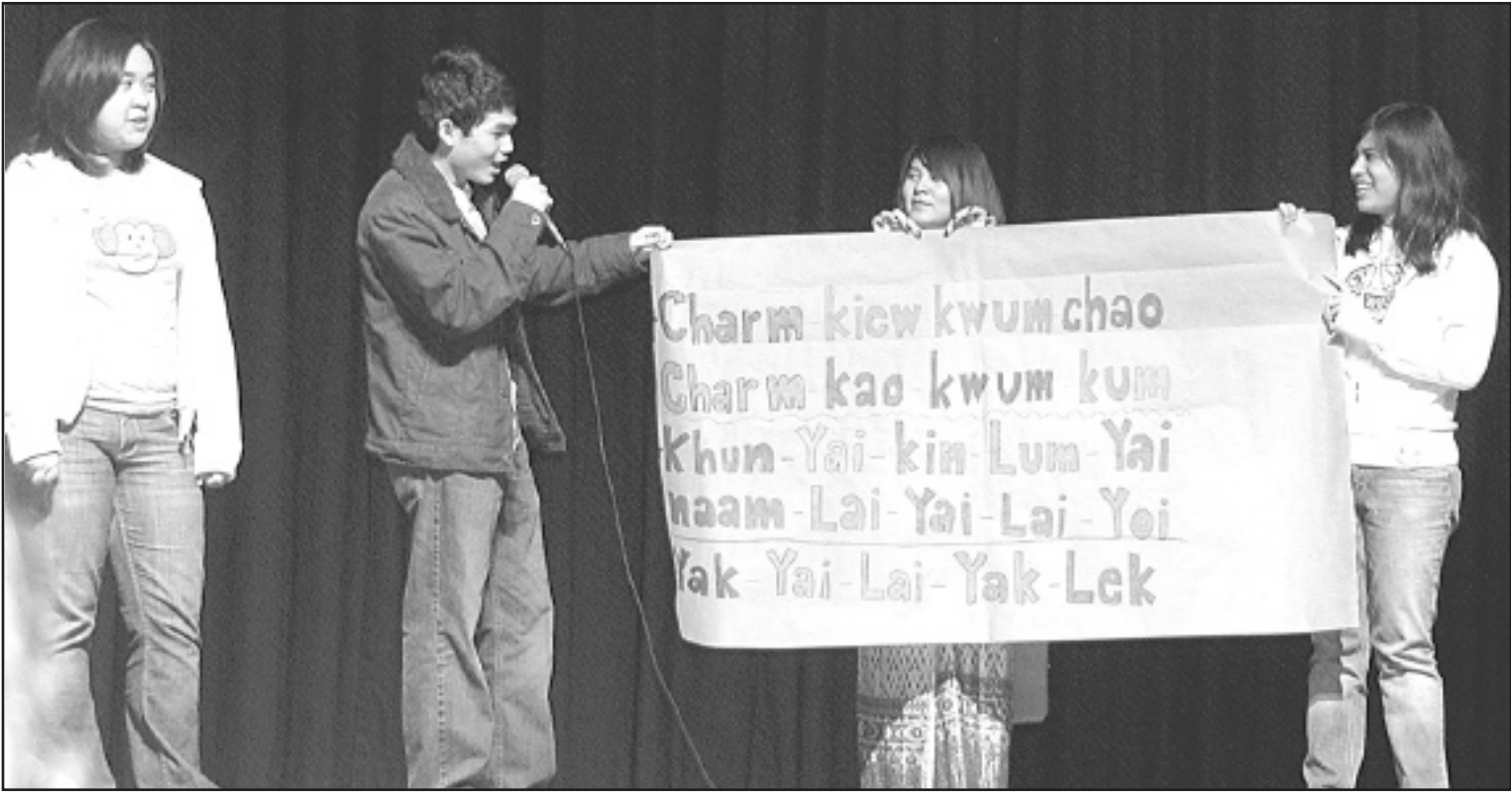
The students spent Friday night with a pot luck and games at Grant Junior High. Saturday morning offered workshops, and in the afternoon the group visited the National Weather Service office here and Jack and Janna Eisenbart's horse ranch. At 7:30 p.m. that night, the group gathered at the high school auditorium for an impromptu talent show, when shifted to an all-night "lock-in" at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Students showed off their skills on guitar, piano, skits, language and dance at the show. A girl from Thailand and a boy from Russia and Indonesia sang and a couple of students from Brazil showed off some salsa dancing.

Students came from Denmark, Germany, Italy, Russia, Thailand, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Indonesia, Brazil, Ghana, Australia and others.

Over 60 visiting students came from Abilene, Arkansas City, Cawker City, Chapman, Colby, Derby, Downs, Glen Elder, Hays, Junction City, Manhattan, Medicine Lodge, Newton, Norton, Osborne, Oxford, Satanta, Smith Center, Sublette, Topeka, Valley Center, Wamego and Wichita.

Goodland students who at the sessions included Nelson Berge-mann, Kylie Buller, Stephen



Students from Thailand (above) had Thai tongue twisters for a group from the audience to try saying at the American Field Service State Roundup's Talent Show on Saturday night. The roundup went from Friday night to Sunday morning for foreign students across Kansas to meet each other at Goodland High School. (Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News)

Buller, Cassie Cooper, Talison Crosby, Margo Detombe, Erica Fenner, Brittney Ford, Kaitlin Fugleberg, Bryan Gray, Chris Irvin, Ryan Irvin, Heidi Lawson, Vance Johnson, Michael Pettibone, Dallas Price, Renea Reasoner, Tehnee Ridder, Sandra Redlin, Savannah Short, Martin Stadelmann, Jake Terry, Katlyn Topliff, Maria Ulloa, Ben Waugh, Day Waugh and Shonna Webster. Goodland's foreign students are Stadelmann from Switzerland, Detombe from Belgium and Ulloa from Chili.

There were 15 foreign and American adults, including Goodland High language teachers Mary Porterfield and Elaine Felver. Goodland's foreign exchange teacher is Jittima Puttacharoen from Thailand. She teaches computers at home but has been doing programs about Thailand at the schools.

"This was the most fun I've had in my 40 years with AFS," said Porterfield.

Charge filed against boyfriend in bathroom case

NESS CITY (AP) — A man whose girlfriend authorities say spent nearly two years in a bathroom in their house, sitting on the toilet so long that the seat adhered to her body, has been charged with mistreatment of a dependent adult.

Kory McFarren, 37, was charged Monday in Ness County District Court.

McFarren called the Ness County Sheriff's Office in late February to say something was wrong with his girlfriend. When authorities arrived at the home, they found Pam Babcock, 35, stuck to the toilet, which they think she had sat on for about a month.

McFarren told authorities that Babcock feared leaving the bathroom and may not have left it in two years, although he said he was unsure how long she was in there. He said that he took her food and water daily, and that he repeatedly asked her to come out but that she usually replied "maybe tomorrow."

"The only thing I am guilty of is I didn't get her help sooner," McFarren told The Associated Press nearly a week ago.

Ness County Attorney Craig Crosswhite said the mistreatment charge most closely fit the situation.

"I looked at the statutes and

spoke to the attorney general's office," he said. "This was a very unusual set of circumstances, and this is the law that most closely applied to the situation."

Authorities said Babcock sat on the toilet so long that open sores developed and caused her to become attached to the seat. Sheriff Bryan Whipple has said that he used a pry bar to remove the seat from the toilet, and that the woman was taken to the hospital with the seat still attached.

"She would have to be sleeping on the toilet," Whipple said.

Doctors at a Wichita hospital

where Babcock was taken told McFarren that an infection in her legs had damaged her nerves and could leave her in a wheelchair. She was still at the hospital Wednesday night.

McFarren's first court appearance will be in April, Crosswhite said.

Storm disrupts power

By Pat Schiefen
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Winds Sunday shorted power lines supplying Goodland later that morning, leaving the area in darkness for about two hours until generators at the city power plant could take the load.

The Goodland Fire Department received an alarm from the Holiday Inn Express shortly after noon on Sunday, said Chief Brian James. Two engines responded and the motel evacuated its guests. People waited in their cars, the chief said.

"It was a false alarm," said James. "When the power went off, there were some kids in the pool at the Holiday Inn and when they went out of that area, steam set off the fire alarms."

The electricity went off about 11:30 a.m. Rod Blake, city electrical superintendent, said the 115-kilovolt Sunflower Electric power lines from Brewster to Goodland started hitting each other in the wind, tripping a breaker at the Mingo substation. Ultimately, he said, a breaker at the Brewster substation failed.

The city had no electricity until 1:30 p.m., when the city plant came on line. The crew had some trouble getting the diesel generators going, Blake said.

The Goodland plant produced all of the electricity for the town, said Blake, until 6:30 p.m., when Sunflower came back on.

Blake added that he had only seen weather conditions twice in 20 years that caused the electricity to fail.

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Power plant decision could cost Kansas

TOPEKA (AP) — Legislators pushing for two coal-fired power plants in southwest Kansas claimed Wednesday that a regulator's decision to block their construction cost the state an even bigger energy project.

Four House members, including Speaker Melvin Neufeld, raised the issue two days before Gov. Kathleen Sebelius is expected to veto an energy bill. The measure allows the two plants and strips the secretary of health and environment of some of his power.

The legislators said Kansas was a serious contender for a \$10 billion refinery proposed by Hyperion Resources Inc., which now plans to build it in South Dakota. They said Hyperion's president told one of them that the company passed over Kansas because its regulatory climate is too uncertain. They provided no documentation, however.

They blamed the uncertainty on a decision in October by the secretary of health and environment to deny an air-quality permit for the two coal-fired plants in southwest Kansas.

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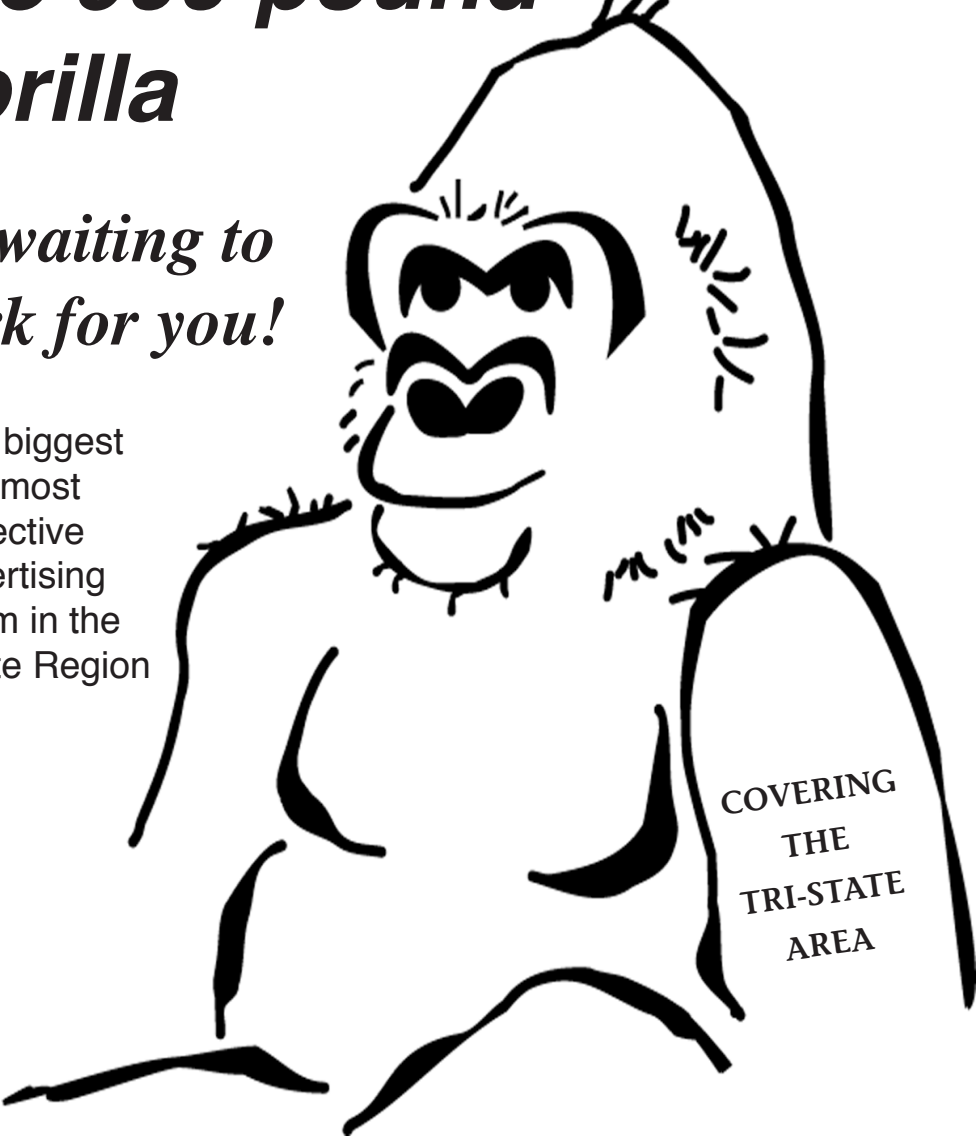
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