

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) airstrikes must stop before peace talks over Kosovo can resume.

president had six hours of talks with Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov, also said Milosevic would reduce his forces in Kosovo and allow refugees to return if NATO first halts its air assault.

stop the airstrikes unless Milosevic matic effort yet to stop the conflict. He ends the attacks on ethnic Albanians and agrees to a peacekeeping force in Kosovo under NATO leadership.

As darkness fell in Yugoslavia, air Yugoslav President Slobodan raid sirens sounded in Belgrade and at Milosevic said today that NATO least four other cities, indicating a resumption of NATO airstrikes.

Milosevic's statement said "the Astatement from Milosevic's office, Yugoslav leadership will accept read on state-run television after the Russia's suggestion that after the bombing stops, it will start decreasing the presence of a part of its forces in Kosovo who are there for the purpose of defense against aggression."

Primakov said the pledge by Milosevic was the outcome of their NATO, however, has said it won't talks today, the highest-profile diplospoke to reporters after arriving in Bonn to brief German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

Schroeder immediately termed Scharping said. Milosevic's offer unacceptable: "This is no basis for a political solution," said Schroeder, speaking for the 15-nation European Union, of which Germany

now holds the six-month rotating presidency. The chancellor, after meeting with Primakov, said he would be talking with NATO representatives later today but he was certain they also would re-

ject the overture. German Defense Minister Rudolf Scharping said Milosevic would not relent until he achieved his goal of ridding Kosovo of ethnic Albanians.

'Then, the peace he would offer would be that of a graveyard,"

To prevent that scenario, NATO is 'determined to continue its military activities until the Yugoslav army's ability to commit genocide in Kosovo is broken," Scharping told a news conference.

Primakov said through an interpreter that "Milosevic is ready to find a political solution to all issues if the bombardment stops," calling the Yugoslav leader ready for "constructive negotiations.'

He said Milosevic wants the goal of the talks to be "that the interests of all groups in Kosovo must be maintained" — a reference to the Serb minority in

the largely ethnic Albanian province of

Yugoslavia.

About 90 minutes after Primakov left Belgrade, air raid sirens sounded in the capital for the first time all day.

Amid the diplomatic activity, air raid sirens also went off in Novi Sad, Kraljevo, Nis and Trstenik, indicating more NATO missile and bombing attacks were imminent.

NATO officials said the number of ethnic Albanians who have fled Kosovo in the last six days has grown to 118,000, and Pec, a city of 100,000 residents in western Kosovo, has been "almost totally destroyed."

The alliance said it had received reports that Yugoslav military forces had opened fire with tanks and artillery at refugees in the Pagarusa Valley, southwest of the provincial capital of Pristina, but had no confirmation.

Rebel sources said Serbs attacked the area, where at least 50,000 ethnic Albanians have been living since being chased from their homes last summer.

A spokesman for the party of Ibrahim Rugova, the leader of Kosovo's ethnic Albanians, said today that Rugova is injured and has gone into hiding.

Hafiz Gagica, the Democratic League of Kosovo's representative in Germany, said Rugova's whereabouts were unknown and did not give details of the injuries.

The NATO bombings that began last week have so far failed to deter Milosevic's forces from carrying out what appeared to be a systematic offensive against Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority.

Reports of mass killings and forced removals, with entire villages being burned and cities cleared of ethnic Albanians, have increased since NATO forces began the bombing and missile campaign last Wednesday.

## **Stocks lower** after hitting **10,000 mark**

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks were lower early this afternoon, the day after the payoff that the bulls on Wall Street had expected for weeks.

Climbing 184.54 points Monday, the Dow Jones industrial average settled at 10,006.78 — closing for the first time in its 103-year history above 10,000 and marking a milestone in a long rally fueled by a robust U.S. economy. The Dow retreated this morning as concerns resurfaced about upcoming earnings reports, which had taken stocks down last week. The blue chips were off 53 points to 9,953 in afternoon trading. On Monday, Wall Street had much to feel good about. As the trading day ended, New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani began flinging "Dow 10,000" embroidered baseball caps onto the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Jubilant market watchers around the country also paid tribute. "It's a moment to uncork the champagne and celebrate what a truly phenomenal bull market this has been," said Hugh Johnson, a longtime market strategist at First Albany Corp. in Albany, N.Y. The Dow's achievement was hardly iust a one-day event. The years-long Wall Street rally has been helped by the nation's overall economic health, low interest rates and a growing fascination with high technology stocks. On Monday, the good news for investors was that big corporate mergers may be in the works, including a possible deal between oil companies BPAmoco and Atlantic Richfield. Extra incentive to buy came from the sense that Wall Street had seen the worst of warnings from companies that had been expected to report disappointing first-quarter profits. NYSE chairman Richard Grasso gave credit for the milestone to investors who have poured money into stocks for the past decade. "The stock exchange had nothing to do with Dow 10,000. It had to do with the huge number of participants in the marketplace," he said. "I want to send thank-yous to the 70 million Americans who participate directly in equities and another 130 million who participate indirectly." The Dow measures the value of 30 of America's corporate icons, companies with a combined market value of more than \$2.5 trillion, or about one-fifth of the approximately \$12 trillion value of all U.S. stocks.

Yesterday's Data High 66° 25° Low Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas

report

**75**°

at noon

Today

Sunset, 6:08 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 5:33 a.m.

Sunset, 6:09 p.m.

**Midday Conditions** 

•Soil Temp. 46 degrees

•Humidity 28 percent

inches and falling

•Record High 87° (1943)

•Record Low 2° (1987)

•Sky Motly sunny

•Barometer 29.97

•Winds S 32-39

Tonight: Mostly clear; low 45; winds S 20-30. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny; high 75-80; winds S 10-20.

## **Extended Forecast**

Thursday through Saturday: Dry Thursday; high 60; low 40. Friday chance of rain; high 45; low 35. Saturday chance of rain or snow; high 45; low 30-35.

24-hour weather information is broadcast at 162.400 MHz.



Noon Wheat — \$2.65 bu. Posted county price — \$2.56 Loan deficiency payment — -11¢ Corn — \$1.90 bu. Posted county price — \$1.99 Loan deficiency payment — -2¢ Milo — \$2.93 cwt. Soybeans — \$4.32 bu. Posted county price — \$4.19 Loan deficiency payment — 70¢ Millet — \$4.25 cwt. Sunflowers oil current — \$8.35 cwt. Loan deficiency payment- \$1.71 oil 1999 crop — \$9.00 cwt. conf. current — \$18/\$11 cwt. Pintos - \$12 (new crop) Local markets courtesy of Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun and Collingwood Grain Local bean market courtesy of Prairie Pea and



## **Fort prepared for visitors**



TOPEKA (AP) - At Gov. Bill Graves' request, a Senate committee has introduced a bill designed to reduce the number of what state law defines as "partial-birth" abortions

The bill, submitted on Monday, would ban the procedure except when the life of the mother is at risk.

It also would add an exemption to the ban on late-term abortions. Under the bill, late-term abortions could be performed to preserve the mental health of the mother, as well as her life and physical health.

A state law enacted last year bans late-term abortions when doctors believe the fetus can survive outside the womb. Exceptions to that ban are granted when an abortion is needed to preserve the life of the mother or when continuing the pregnancy would "cause a substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman.'



Spring's arrival means visitors will soon be increasing at the reconstructed Bents Old Fort west of Las Animas, Colo., along the Arkansas River. In the summer people reenact the scene of life along the Santa Fe Trail as it was back in 1845 when the fort was active. The National Park Service operates the fort on a daily basis, and visitors can view early frontier life from 150 years ago.

Photos by Tom Betz / Goodland Daily News



## **Cost of school finance is focus of House debate**

TOPEKA (AP) — Some members of the House Education Committee, including its chairman, think the committee's proposal for financing public schools is too expensive.

The cost of the plan will be the focus of debate when it goes to the House, likely later this week.

The committee's proposal would increase the base budget for public elementary, junior high and high schools by \$67 per student. The figure would be \$3,787 per student for the 1999-2000 academic year, compared to the current \$3,720 per student.

The plan also would increase spending on aid to medium and large school districts, aid to districts with declining

enrollments, and programs for students considered at risk for dropping out.

The total additional spending under the House committee's package would be about \$57 million.

"We spent more money than I wanted to spend," Chairman Ralph Tanner, R-Baldwin City, said Monday.

The committee endorsed the bill on Friday. House leaders said they hope to have the chamber debate it by the end of the week.

The committee's endorsement came after negative news about state tax collections. The state collected nearly \$32 million less than expected in February, and many legislators took that as a sign the Kansas economy is slowing.

However, Rep. Cindy Empson, R-Independence, said legislators don't know whether the revenue shortfall in February was a one-month phenomenon or a trend.

She, like other committee members, said the committee needs to advocate for public schools.

"I think we have a pretty good bill," Empson said. "It's the last chance the committee will have to state a position on school finance."

Gov. Bill Graves proposed a package of spending increases for public schools worth \$35.4 million.

The governor's plan would have increased the base budget by \$35 per pupil, to \$3,755 per pupil.

The Senate approved a version of the school finance bill last month that would have increased schools' base budgets by \$50 per pupil, to \$3,770 per pupil. It would have increased spending by \$44.1 million, about \$8.7 million more than Graves proposed.

The House committee's proposal would increase spending by \$57 million, about \$21.6 million more than Graves proposed and \$12.9 million more than the Senate approved.

Rep. John Ballou, R-Gardner, a House committee member, said he prefers the Senate's proposal.

As for the plan before the House Ballou said, "It's too much money. I don't think we can afford it.'