

weather
report

45°
at noon

Today

• Sunset, 5:17 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:44 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:18 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 40 degrees

• Humidity 49 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds northeast 16 mph

• Barometer 29.88 inches and steady

• Record High 76° (1962)

• Record Low -17° (1981)

Last 24 Hours*

High 62°

Low 28°

Precipitation —

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Snow likely; 60 percent chance of snow; low 20; winds east 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Snow likely, 2-4 inches; high 25-30; winds southeast 5-15 mph; low 10-15.

Extended Forecast

Saturday through Monday. Saturday: dry; high 30-35; low 10-15. Sunday: chance of snow; high 35; low 15-20. Monday: dry; high 40-45; low 20-25.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.38 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.18

Loan deficiency payment — 27¢

Corn — \$1.77 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.88

Loan deficiency payment — 11¢

Milo — \$2.72 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.24 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.27

Loan deficiency payment — 62¢

Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.95 cwt.

Loan deficiency prmt. — \$3.50

Confection current — \$13/\$8 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon
wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

No sign today of e-bandits

NEW YORK — An electronic assault on some of the biggest sites in cyberspace is renewing calls for better high-tech security by businesses and government, but even proponents acknowledged there us no ironclad defense.

Hackers stepped up this week’s attack on Wednesday, inconveniencing millions of Internet users and unnerving Wall Street. The apparently coordinated attacks spread to ETrade, ZDNet and other major sites.

No major new attacks were immediately apparent this morning.

Federal officials urged businesses to install protective software and take other security precautions.

“We are committed to in every way possible to tracking those who are responsible,” Attorney General Janet Reno said in Washington.

More wild elk wandering onto Kansas roads

By Rachel Miscall
The Oberlin Herald

Kansas drivers upset over the huge increase in accidents caused by deer may have another thing coming.

Something bigger, stronger and a lot tougher on cars.

Wild elk.

During breeding season late last year, a wild bull elk showed up at the Oberlin Kansas Elk Ranch north of Cedar Bluffs looking for some action.

Owner Richard Drummer guessed an even bigger bull ran the huge animal off from its former herd, leaving it searching for some of its own kind.

The elk producer, who started the ranch here about five years ago, said it was a rare sight, but he had seen a wild bull on his land once before.

Nonetheless, the animal wasn’t welcome.

Ready to mate, Drummer said, the elk rammed and beat on fences surrounding the cow elk he raises. The wild animal also tried to pick fights with the fenced-in, tame bulls.

Drummer said he chased the elk with a pickup and shot into the air to scare it away, but day after day the wild bull returned.

“I didn’t want to shoot him,” said Drummer, “but I just couldn’t put up with it.”

About six weeks after the bull first arrived, the state Division of Wildlife and Parks issued a special “depredation” permit allowing him to shoot

the wild bull.

It wasn’t the first elk Drummer has had to shoot because of damage to his place.

Showing up around the same time in 1998, he said, the first elk was causing trouble for more than six months before a special permit was issued.

That time, Drummer said, he even got a helicopter pilot to chase the elk away with his flying machine, but the next morning there it was there again.

Leonard Hopper, district wildlife biologist in Colby for the Wildlife division, said he doesn’t know where the wild bulls that found Drummer’s captive elk came from.

They could be escapees from another private

elk ranch, he said, but that’s not likely since neither was tagged or branded. Or, he said, they could be dispersal elk, run off from another herd and looking for company. These males have been known to wander hundreds of miles.

The visitor’s origin remains a mystery, because besides a few state-established herds in eastern and southwestern Kansas, the elk population is about zero in the state.

Five or six might cross over from Colorado and move through the region each year, Hopper said, though the nearest Colorado elk are more than 250 miles away.

Drummer said, however, that the visits could

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Hijackers quit, asking to stay on friendly soil

STANSTED, England (AP) — The hijackers of an Afghan plane released about 150 hostages safely and surrendered early today, ending a four-day standoff at an airport outside London.

Police said they arrested 21 people who came off the aircraft.

Sixty people from the flight applied for asylum for themselves plus 14 dependents. There has been speculation, especially in British newspapers, that the Ariana Airlines jet was seized during its domestic flight in Afghanistan and brought on a meandering route to London as part of an elaborate bid for political asylum.

The hijackers did not make any demand for asylum, but “it became clear in the last hour of the negotiations that they were expressing concern about the political situation in Afghanistan,” said David Stevens, chief constable of Essex County police.

Home Secretary Jack Straw suggested that anyone who had been on the flight with the intention of getting asylum would be considered part of the

hijacking plot.

“I am determined that no one should consider that there is any benefit to be obtained by hijacking,” Straw told the House of Commons, adding that he would personally handle the asylum requests.

Those arrested were not immediately identified.

Police recovered four handguns, five knives, one set of brass knuckles, two detonators and two grenades, though they did not appear to have fuses, Stevens said.

He anticipated a long process of interviewing all the people aboard the aircraft, mainly through translators.

“We are now into a very complex and involved criminal investigation,” John Broughton, an Essex County assistant chief constable, said shortly after the drama ended.

Before dawn, the passengers left the aircraft with little warning — first a group of around 85 at 3:50 a.m., then

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Goodland man’s taxi offers safe rides home

By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

Goodland has a new taxi service as of about three weeks ago, certainly something Goodland has been without for some time. Driver and owner Eric Smith said the response has been positive the past three weeks.

The cab is a white 1990 four-door Ford Taurus with Goodland Taxi Cab on the two front doors in black letters.

On his fliers Smith, he called it a 23 1/2 hour taxi service, saying that he has to eat sometime. He advertises fast and friendly service.

Rates are \$3 per person anywhere in town and \$1 per each additional person, with a maximum of four passengers at one time. There is also a charge of 25 cents per minute for waiting time at any stops.

Smith will also drive people to Colby, Sharon Springs, Wheeler, St. Francis and Burlington, Colo. for a flat rate of \$20 per trip and \$3 for each additional person.

If someone needs a ride to the Denver International Airport, Colorado Springs Airport, or Hays, the charge is \$100 per person. The phone number to call is (785) 821-4048. Smith and his family moved to Goodland about six years ago from Las Vegas, Nev. The idea for running a taxi service was only something he had been kicking around for about a year and a half.

His wife Patricia has been very supportive, Smith said, and has been good about helping him get things going.

His two children, Brian, 13, and Debra, 9, both think that what their dad is doing is “pretty cool,” he said.

For now, Smith said the business is part-time. He works during the day as the maintenance engineer at Howard Johnson Hotel, on K-27. Flf he gets a call during the day at the hotel, he can



Eric Smith ready to hop into his taxicab. By Janet Craft/Goodland Daily News

leave to pick the people up.

The majority of his customers have been people who have been to the bars and called him for a ride rather than driving home. He has also had calls from people staying at hotels who were wanting transportation to bars or lounges.

In December, he started working on finding out what legal requirements were needed. He checked with City Manager Ron Pickman and Police Chief Ray Smee, who is the city’s chief taxicab inspector, on city ordinances and requirements.

Smith finally got a one-year operating license from the city, along with insurance that met city requirements from Farm Bureau Mutual, about three weeks ago.

He has talked to several business people and residents who have told him they think the taxi service is a great idea.

“I’ve enjoyed driving,” said Smith. “I’ve met a lot of interesting people and a few characters.”



Thousands of pieces of 1 1/2-inch oak boards (above) lie in front of Rod Hoppe and Mike Stroyek, who are installing the new floor at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Hoppe (below) used a power nailer to tie each board into place. The two expect to be done by the end of next week. Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

Laying floor for new gym a real bender

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

Sugar beets, onions and other truck farm crops have always been thought of as requiring “stoop labor” because of the intensive hand work, but there are other jobs which fit the same category — like hand laying of the new gym floor at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Rod Hoppe and Mike Stroyek from Hart Floors of Doniphan, Neb., take a break each hour from their labor of laying the 1 1/2-inch oak boards which form the new gym floor.

Hoppe said they can lay about 12 feet of floor a day, and expect to have the south half done by Friday.

The two men work in tandem, with Stroyek laying the first half across and then Hoppe takes over and finishes a row while Stroyek starts on the next. Once the boards are pounded into position, they are power nailed to make them tight.

The two men said they do about eight wooden gym floors in a year,



ranging from smaller than the 8,000 square feet of the Goodland gym to about 20,000 square feet like one they recently did in Hutchinson.

Figuring it takes eight of the boards per foot and there are about 16 boards in each run, the two men will lay approximately 10,620 of the oak boards before they finish next week.

Once the floor is laid, the next phase will be sanding and finishing, which also includes painting the new logos and stripes on the floor.