

weather report

19°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 5:18 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:42 a.m.
• Sunset, 5:19 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 38 degrees
• Humidity 81 percent
• Sky cloudy
• Winds southeast 12 mph
• Barometer 30.06 inches
and steady
• Record High 78° (1962)
• Record Low -13° (1981)

Last 24 Hours*

High 52°
Low 24°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy; low 10-15;
winds south 5-15 mph. Tomorrow:
Mostly cloudy; dry; high 35-40; winds
south 5-15 mph; low 20.

Extended Forecast

Sunday through Tuesday. Sun-
day: dry; high 40s; low 20. Monday:
chance of snow; high 40s; low 20s.
Tuesday: dry; high 50s; low 20s.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.36 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.27
Loan deficiency payment — 18¢
Corn — \$1.76 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.91
Loan deficiency payment — 8¢
Milo — \$2.71 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.25 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.38
Loan deficiency payment — 51¢
Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$5.85 cwt.
Loan deficiency prmt. — \$3.80
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.

Airlines told to look at tails

LOS ANGELES — The nation's airlines are under a federal order to inspect hundreds of jetliners after two Alaska Airlines planes were found to have equipment damage similar to that on Alaska Flight 261.

The Federal Aviation Administration order announced Thursday covers all MD-80, MD-90, DC-9 and 717 series jetliners — about 1,100 planes or one-fifth of the nation's passenger airline fleet. Airlines have three days to comply.

Flight disruptions were expected, but federal officials said they believed the traveling public will understand.

"It's far more important that we get these airplanes inspected," said Tom McSweeney, FAA associate administrator for aircraft certification. "We want it done right, and we want it done thorough."

Construction near climax at gymnasium

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

With the new gym floor progressing and other finishing work at the Max Jones Fieldhouse expansion, school Superintendent Marvin Selby said today he expects the construction to be completed within three weeks.

The district will hold an open house to show off the whole project, he added.

"Everything should be done on the inside," Selby said, "but there will still be some landscap-

ing to be done this spring."

He noted that there will be another payment on Monday's school board agenda to make a payment to Rhoads Construction, but that is nearly the last payment of the construction phase.

Monday's regular meeting, beginning at 7 p.m. at the district office, will offer the board a chance to give some recognition to six students who performed well at a piano competition Saturday at Fort Hays State University. Selby said the students will be introduced at the meeting.

"Many times," Selby said, "students who perform in the minor events do not receive the type of recognition they deserve and this is a way for the board to show that they are as important as the others who are in athletics."

A reading proposal for the high school will be discussed. Selby said the program is a diagnostics system for measuring reading performance. He said the proposal is to put it in the high school as a first step, and use it for the summer school.

"This will give the teachers a way to help those

who are coming into the high school improve their reading skills," he said, "and give them a better chance to succeed in their high school experience."

The board will also spend time in closed session discussing the upcoming negotiations with the Goodland teachers union and give the negotiating team some direction on such items as salary increases.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m.



Getting ready to party at Goodland preschool

The Early Childhood Class at West Elementary prepared for their Valentine's Party today. (above) The class had to cut out tickets to be able to attend the party. (right) Danneen Heskett shows off her Valentine's Day hat. (below) The class showed off their best smiles and their hand-made hats.

Photos by Debra Turner/The Goodland Daily News



Attacks against computers raise questions about dupes

By Ted Bridis

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The overwhelming attacks this week against some of the Internet's biggest companies required dozens of powerful "zombie" computers collectively aiming a crippling tide of data at target Web sites.

Experts believe the hackers earlier had infiltrated and secretly installed their attack software on these computers, setting them up as unwitting accomplices in a crime-in-the-making.

Were the operators of these computers merely victims of these unprecedented assaults, or were they partly to blame?

It's a question with enormous consequences for the Internet, the sprawling worldwide network that has few rules and where security can range from ironclad to nonexistent. As the Internet's importance grows as an engine for America's economy, some experts wonder whether unsafe computers can continue to be tolerated, or whether there is any alternative.

"There are a lot of devices out there that are misconfigured, wide open, totally available to anyone who wants to use them," said Russ Cooper, who runs the NTBugtraq Internet discussion group about computer security. "That's very,

very true and it shouldn't be. Why do we accept this?"

The FBI suggested this week that owners of the hacked computers used in the high-profile attacks may indirectly share some of the responsibility for the moves against Web sites run by Yahoo!, eBay, Amazon and eTrade.

"Even more embarrassing than for Yahoo! and eBay is when we find out where these attacks originated from," said Wyatt Starnes, chief executive at Tripwire, an Internet security firm.

A senior official at the FBI's National Infrastructure Protection Center, Ronald Dick, said the affected computer administrators "probably are unwitting people" whose systems previously were invaded by hackers and who didn't know that attack tools had been installed. Agents still are tracing those hacked computers and won't identify them.

But Dick chided: "Your security ... or the lack thereof can cause harm to others. The key to this is implementing appropriate security measures such that you do not allow your system to be used in some of these attacks."

The popular shopping Web site Buy.Com was

Cable firm bows to customers, plans move to downtown office

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Gary Shorman of Hays, president of Goodland's cable television provider, Eagle Communications, met with local employees and reporters on Thursday to talk about the return of Denver station KUSA to channel 33.

He also said that the Goodland cable office would be moving from K-27 to downtown and the company would also be working to improve reception on "over-the-air" channels.

Shorman said KUSA would return to channel 33 for Goodland cable television customers on Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 21. The company surveyed Goodland cable subscribers, he said, and the results showed that many of them enjoyed the news and other informational programs on KUSA.

"We want to thank all of our customers who took time to contact us and express their concern," said Shorman. "We found that KUSA is one of the most popular stations in our channel line-up."

From the survey, they also discovered there were those who liked the new Warner Brothers channel. Shorman said the company will be keeping it and it will be on channel 53.

"Everyone has their favorites," Shorman said.

"We have also heard positive comments from young families for the addition of KWGN, which is why we will be leaving it on our service."

After receiving requests from customers to make its office more accessible, the company is planning to move downtown around April 1. The office will be at 114 W. 11th, near the Chamber of Commerce. The new office will have a mail slot where people can leave payments, he said, and it will also have a new post office box number, but the phone number will be the same.

The company is working to improve reception of several of the "over-the-air" broadcast channels. "Over-the-air" channels are received direct from the broadcast transmitter and are subject to atmospheric conditions and signal strength.

"Several comments were made concerning reception problems on a couple of network channels and we are addressing these issues immediately," said Shorman. "Most of the time we can improve the reception, but sometimes it is not technically possible."

Shorman has been president of the company for three years, but has been with the company for 13 years.

New trial ordered in murder

*Colby man may face
another court date*

By Carl Manning

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — The Kansas Supreme Court today ordered a new trial for Todd Alan Pabst, citing inappropriate comments by the prosecutor during closing arguments in the Thomas County case.

Pabst was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for the March 1997 death of his fiancée, Pheobe Harkins. She was shot twice in their home following an argument about money.

"This is a rare case in which the prosecutor's improper remarks during closing arguments were so prejudicial that a new trial is ordered," the court said in its unanimous opinion.

"The controlling question is whether Pabst was denied a fair trial by prosecutorial misconduct. We hold he was. The state is free to retry Pabst because there was sufficient evidence of guilt presented at the first trial."

Pabst testified that the shooting with his double-action revolver was accidental and came during a struggle as he tried to take the weapon from the victim. The state offered forensic evidence to counter Pabst's claims.

During the trial, Stephen D. Maxwell, an assistant attorney general, was the prosecutor.

The court noted that during closing arguments, the prosecutor told the jury: "Look into each one of your eyes and I tell you he lied."

After the defense attorney objected and the trial judge told the jury to disregard that remark, the prosecutor said, "The state tells you he lied, ladies and gentlemen. He lied to you."

The state's highest court noted, "Whether couched in terms of the state or the prosecutor, the assertion that Pabst lied was improper."

"Our rules of conduct clearly and unequivocally say that it is improper for a lawyer to comment on a witness' credibility."

The case is State of Pabst vs. Todd Alan Pabst, No. 80,738. Texts of Supreme Court decisions are available on the Internet at www.kscourts.org.