

## Work pays off



Larry and Marti Scott, Shaklee coordinators in Goodland, picked up their 2000 Cadillac at Finley Motors on Tuesday, April 18. This is the 11th bonus car they have received from the Shaklee Corp. for their amount of product volume sold and number of sales leaders signed up. They have operated a Shaklee business for 25 years.  
Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

## Flood of ‘spam’ e-mail knocks out Internet server

The **nwkansas.com** Internet server crashed repeatedly over the weekend when automated “spam” servers jammed it with bogus e-mail messages.

Evan Barnum, systems administrator for the firm, said the offending servers had been locked out of the system Monday morning and it seemed to be running OK.

When the server was down, which happened several times over the weekend, both e-mail and “domain name” service were out, keeping customers from using most Internet functions until it was restarted.

The flood of messages was coming from servers identified as “swiss.prod.” on the Earthlink Internet system. Another set was coming from servers in Japan, Barnum said.

“The spam servers are automated to send advertising messages to hundreds and hundreds of e-mail addresses, most of which do not exist on our system,” Barnum said. “The sheer volume can bog the e-mail server down.”

To correct the problem, he added, it was necessary to lock out two entire “class C” sets of Internet addressees, and it’s possible that some customers may not be able to get e-mail sent from

Earthlink addresses or parts of Japan.

“That’s unfortunate,” he said, “but we have to defend our customers from this kind of attack.”

Anyone with problems sending or receiving e-mail to suspect addresses should call **nwkansas.com** customer service at (785) 899-2338, he said.

“There may be nothing wrong with your e-mail or the account you are sending to,” he said, “but with the addresses blocked, people will not be able to respond to your messages.”

Steve Haynes, president of Nor’West Newspapers and **nwkansas.com** said the incident underlines the importance of customers calling someone when there are system problems, even at night on weekends.

“Especially on a weekend,” he said, “it can take some time for us to find out about a problem. If the system is down, call us either at the newspaper or at home.”

He said the firm has spent thousands of dollars this spring improving the Internet system, adding lines and new equipment, and now has very few busy signals or other capacity problems.

“But when something like this affects our customers, we want to know right away,” he added.

## Outlook poor for farm prices

STILLWATER, Minn. (AP) — Midwestern farmers are heading into another growing season with an unpleasant outlook in terms of commodity prices, government aid and weather.

Prices for major crops are likely to be below most farmers’ production costs; dairy prices have sunk with crop prices, matching 25 year lows; and large areas of the country are under threat of drought.

Uncertainty also hovers about whether the government will come to the rescue after bailing farmers out of financial problems for the past two years.

Congress is in the process of passing a \$7 billion farm aid package for the start of this growing season, and more could be on the way if drought and weather damage to crops becomes measurable later, congressional leaders say.

Dairyman George Rydeen, who farms near Stillwater, said he hopes

Asia’s improving economy will help farmers through increased exports.

“Even our milk prices are tied to grains,” he said. “Cheap feed leads to more milk and lower milk prices. We’ve had two pretty good years in dairying, so we knew what would happen. More cows, and milk production is up.”

Weather provides another way for getting grain supplies back in balance with demand, he said.

“The long-range weather maps I look at show widespread drought,” Rydeen said. “We’re on the edge of it, so we have to figure we will get a crop.”

Drought could bring higher prices for farmers before the year is out, said Helen Pound, an analyst and trader with Goldenberg Hehmeyer & Co. in Minneapolis.

She said, however, that farmers and grain companies have huge supplies of grain to work with if this year’s crop is reduced by poor growing conditions.

# Used buses may save board money

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the district, asked the board for permission to seek bids on three used buses, two 71-passenger units and one 36-passenger, for next year. He said the bids would be for reconditioned buses rather than new vehicles.

“I have been talking to a firm in Tulsa, Okla., who handles used school buses which range from 1992 and up,” Harkins said. “It might be possible to purchase three used buses which are in excellent condition and have not been used on country roads for the price of a single new bus.”

He said the company guarantees the buses mechanically, the buses are die-

sel powered with automatic transmissions and have from 25,000 to 60,000 miles.

“I am not sure I like this system,” Selby said. “We haven’t bought used before. I don’t want to buy someone else’s problems or worn out equipment. The only reason I think we can take a chance is because of the quality of our maintenance people.”

Harkins said the request was only to seek bids, and if after inspection the buses did not appear to be as good as expected, he would not want to purchase any of the used vehicles.

The board unanimously approved allowing Harkins to seek bids on the three used buses.

# Cuban boy moved to secluded Maryland retreat

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family, the courts and the Senate consider the case.

In the latest stop on his five-month odyssey, the young boat wreck survivor was moved to the secluded and wooded Maryland retreat Tuesday with lots of room to play. There, he awaits visits by his former kindergarten teacher and a 10-year-old cousin, who left Cuba today en route to the United States.

State Department spokesman James Rubin said visas would be expedited for four of Elian’s playmates to come from Cuba. “A young 6-year-old ... needs to have someone to play with,” he said.

Kernberg reported that Elian “is doing very well, is playful and interactive and displays a sense of belonging to a close family unit,” Florman said today.

“The doctor found that he teases his father and helps to take care of his brother and plays what she called ‘the proud big brother’ role,” Florman said. “He calls his stepmother ‘Momma’ and

they look and interact very much like a close-knit family.”

Kernberg gave Elian toys to play with, including green toy soldiers with guns to see if he had any negative reaction to memories of the raid in which he was taken by heavily armed Border Patrol agents from the Miami home, Florman said.

“The doctor said he played with them regularly like a normal 6-year-old boy,” Florman said.

“He drew a picture of Juan Miguel as a strong, sturdy man standing on top of a mountain — a sign he looks up to his father as a protector,” Florman said Kernberg reported.

The doctor found that the boy tires easily, and she concluded he needs private time “away from the spotlight in natural surroundings” to rest emotionally, Florman said.

One of the eight Border Patrol agents who entered Lazaro’s house Saturday morning as part of the “high-risk team” to retrieve Elian told Immigration and Naturalization Service officials he “had never encountered this much re-

## Legislators reach compromise on prison crowding bill

TOPEKA (AP) — A compromise plan to address crowded prisons has emerged from House and Senate negotiations, carrying a price tag of more than \$14 million.

It is designed to keep more violent offenders locked up while treating lesser criminals in programs and geared to lessen the need to build expensive new cells prisons.

Overall, the Kansas Sentencing Commission estimated Tuesday evening that the plan should free up about 775 prison beds — more than Gov. Bill Graves proposed but less than initial proposals from legislators.

A group of legislators drafted a package a few weeks ago and Graves offered a compromise last week.

Parts of legislators’ first plan and

some of Graves’ suggestions were blended in the final version of the legislation.

“I think we’ve got a good compromise here,” said Rep. Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls. “I’m confident the House will buy into this.”

The package includes:

- \$6.2 million to build a 100-bed maximum-security cellhouse in Ellsworth, a Graves proposal. Most of the money would come from the federal government.

- \$4.4 million in bonds to renovate Topeka prison cellhouses, laundry centers and for staff training. The bonds also would finance repairs at the Lansing prison.

- \$1.9 million in federal money for “day reporting” centers in fiscal 2001,

## Committees differ on tobacco money

TOPEKA (AP) — House and Senate committees took different tacks in making recommendations on how the state should spend its share of the national tobacco settlement.

The recommendations were included Tuesday in separate versions of the year’s last spending bill, which went to the full Senate and House for debate.

The House Appropriations Committee put its greatest emphasis on programs designed to prevent problems among young people in order to keep

them out of the juvenile justice system.

The Senate Ways and Means Committee proposed spreading the money out more and allowing some of it to pay for services for children before they enter kindergarten.

The final version of the budget bill likely will bring total spending for the 2001 fiscal year, which begins July 1, to about \$8.7 billion.

The committees tackled how to spend the initial proceeds of a national legal settlement between 46 states and large tobacco companies.

The board approved giving the Goodland Arts Council \$1,000 to support the summer youth arts program for the second year. Another \$1,000 was approved for the Arts Council to support an after-school program that would begin next year. The Arts Council is seeking a grant to start the after-school program, and the district money would only be paid if the grant is approved.

A plaque which was originally on the old Central School, which was built in 1908, had been given to the district, and the board voted unanimously to give this to the High Plains Museum where it can be displayed.

Selby reported that the technology

garage sale was not a huge success, but that \$220 was received from computer sales. He said an additional 11 computers were sold to staff at \$20 each, and the remainder were being offered to the students at an even lower price.

Selby said Dr. Andy Tompkins, head of the Kansas Education Department, was in Goodland Monday, and spoke to the staff as part of the in-service training program. Selby said the enthusiasm of Tompkins was evident in his speech, and that he thought it was well received.

The next regular school board meeting will be 7 p.m., Monday, May 8, at the district office, 1312 Main Street.

and didn’t want the gun to go off accidentally,” Cardona said.

There has been no indication that Juan Miguel Gonzalez wants to see the Miami relatives, who made repeated unsuccessful efforts to see Elian when he was at Andrews Air Force Base. Security officers at Wye would bar them from entering without permission, said Drew Wade, a spokesman for the U.S. Marshal’s Service.


Doris Meissner, commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, said today on NBC’s “Today” that Kernberg told her “something I found very touching — that the father is not hostile to the Miami relatives, he is very hurt. They have said very cruel things over recent weeks and the adults need to sort that out before the child is involved.”

Attorney General Janet Reno failed to quiet Republican criticism of the raid during a meeting Tuesday with a bipartisan group of senators. Congressional hearings are scheduled to begin next week.

*The prison package will be in a conference committee report on House Sub for SB 323. After legislators consider the report, it will be printed the House and Senate journals, available on the Internet at <http://www.ink.org/public/legislative/journals.cgi>. However, such reports must be read with the bill, available at <http://www.ink.org/public/legislative/fulltext.cgi>.*

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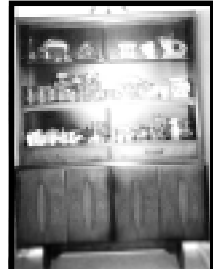
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