

weather report

47°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:46 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:39 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:47 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 68 degrees

• Humidity 83 percent

• Sky cloudy with light rain

• Winds north 17 mph

• Barometer 29.94 inches

and falling

• Record High 96° (1934)

• Record Low 32° (1978)

Last 24 Hours*

High 90°

Low 47°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy, 50 percent chance of light rain, winds northeast 10-20 mph, low 40-45. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, dry, high 75-80, winds north 15-25 mph, low 45-50.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: dry, high 75-80, low 45-50. Thursday: chance of thunderstorms, high 80-85, low 45-50. Friday: chance of thunderstorms, high mid 70s, low 40s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.22 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.18

Loan deficiency payment — 27¢

Corn — \$1.91 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.07

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Milo — \$2.88 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.79 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.87

Loan deficiency payment — 2¢

Millet — \$3.60 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$6.10 cwt.

Loan deficiency prmt. — \$3.44

Confection current — \$13/\$7 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.

State refunds get out faster

TOPEKA—The state Revenue Department has mailed out nearly all income tax refunds for returns received by the April 17 filing deadline and is answering most of its telephone calls, a substantial improvement from last year.

As of Friday, the department had processed 729,371 individual income tax and homestead refunds, up 25 percent from the 581,914 processed at this time in 1999.

“I’m feeling really gratified,” Revenue Secretary Karla Pierce said. “Everybody has worked together as a team.”

Pierce’s goal was to process refunds by Friday for all returns filed on time. She said the department has met that goal for every return that was labeled “refund due” and had no calculation errors.

Pierce said her department is reviewing 15,000 returns with problems.

Filipino held, girls sought in virus case

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine investigators today arrested a man suspected of being linked to the “ILOVEYOU” computer virus after raiding his apartment and finding computer equipment.

The man’s live-in girlfriend, who was not at home at the time, was also considered a suspect, said Federico Opinion, chief of the National Bureau of Investigation. The girlfriend promised to appear later at the investigation headquarters, where she was expected to be arrested.

The man’s relatives, however, said they believe the real culprit may have been the girlfriend’s 23-year-old sister, who also lives in the apartment. The sister recently graduated in computer engineering from the Philippines’ AMA Computer College — which has been linked by one U.S.

computer security firm to the virus.

The virus has caused a flood of e-mails with the subject line “ILOVEYOU” to course through computer systems in more than 20 countries, overwhelming computer networks. Several variations appeared soon after. When opened, the virus can destroy graphics and other saved files.

The suspect, Reomel Ramones, “opted to remain silent,” an investigator said. But local radio reports quoted Ramones as denying any involvement with the virus.

Ramones and the other residents of the apartment were gone at the time of the raid. The man was arrested when he returned later.

Investigators, armed with a search warrant, cordoned off the street around the apartment in Manila’s Pandacan district. They seized com-

puter magazines, accessories, diskettes and other materials from the apartment, Opinion said.

Two FBI agents accompanied the investigators, he said. Several agents are in the Philippines cooperating in the search for the virus programmer.

Investigators were led to the apartment because of “confidential information given to us by confidential informants,” Opinion said, without elaborating.

Although Ramones works in the computer department of Equitable Bank, he is an accounting graduate and his specialty is computer hardware, not software, his relatives said.

They said the computer in the apartment was almost always locked in the room of the sister of Ramones’ girlfriend.

For several days, information culled from various Philippine Internet service providers has indicated that the virus programmer was a 23-year-old living in Pandacan who claimed to be male. Ramones is said to be in his mid-30s.

A U.S. computer security company, ICSA.net, said comparisons of the “ILOVEYOU” virus with a password-stealing program written earlier indicate the author was a student at AMA Computer College.

Michelle Navarro, the school’s dean of students, said it has more than 10,000 computer programming students nationwide, 3,000 of them at its main campus in Quezon City in metropolitan Manila. She said she was unaware of any student having created a computer virus or being involved in any computer-related offense.

Cowboys, Cowgirls show finest at prom

In keeping with the theme, “When Dreams Come True,” Goodland High School juniors decorated the Elks Lodge for Prom on Saturday with castles, clouds and stars.

By tradition, the junior class puts on the prom for the seniors. The dinner began at 6 p.m., served by seven boys and seven girls from the sophomore class, who were chosen by the juniors. Parents of junior students served food at the dinner and parked cars. Later, they served refreshments during the dance.

Afterward, promgoers were loaded up on two Cowboy busses and driven to the Max Jones Fieldhouse for the Promenade, where people could see them in their evening attire.

Students came down the stairs which led to the gym floor and had

their pictures taken by teacher Jackie Elliott before their names were announced by Dick Liess, director of activities at the high school.

They walked onto the floor and paused on the south edge, where a lattice screen decorated with flowers was set up. Then they continued around the edge of the floor to line up until all the others had been announced.

After everyone had a turn to present themselves, the group walked around the floor one more time before breaking up. Many had pictures taken by family and friends before they returned to the lodge for the dance.

Music at the dance was provided by “Late Night,” alias Jason Hooper, a graduate of Goodland High School. The dance lasted from about 8 p.m. until midnight.

Goodland High School promgoers (below) gathered in the entrance to Max Jones Fieldhouse on Saturday night to show off their formal wear. Rita Scheopner (right) talked with Aileen Cebula and another friend before lining up.

Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News



Memory of a lifetime?

Sharon Gregory, principal of Central Elementary, was wearing her best lipstick Friday morning. Central school children reached their goal of reading 2000 books this year. And Gregory? Because the kids met their goal, Gregory got to kiss a pig, provided by farmer Steve Evert. She was ready, not only with her lipstick, but with a handkerchief to wipe the pig’s snout (sanitary reasons only). After taking the necessary precautions, she puckered up and let the not-so-little piglet have it. The kiss must not have been half bad, because Gregory gave the pig another. Boy did that pig squeal. No one could say whether that was for pleasure or pain but the pig was left with a cute little lipstick kiss on it’s snout to remember the day by. Photos by Debra Turner/The Goodland Daily News



Roberts boosting budget

Senator says U.S. spending needs up

By Libby Quaid

Associated Press Writer

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, Mo. — In a departure from conventional conservative Kansas rhetoric, Sen. Pat Roberts has urged his GOP colleagues to spend more of the federal budget.

The U.S. government now is operating in the black after decades of budget deficits, with projections that federal surpluses could top \$200 billion, Roberts said. Now, he told a meeting of Kansas and Missouri Associated Press Managing Editors on Saturday, it’s time to thaw a congressional freeze on spending.

Trouble is, he said, the two political parties are ideologically opposed, with tax-and-spend liberals who want more money for hordes of domestic programs — “anyone’s ceiling is their floor” — and fiscal conservatives who honor spending caps as though they were “written on tablets on top of mountains.”

“I’m not saying we shouldn’t exercise strong fiscal discipline,” said Roberts, who said he will keep working to reduce the national debt. “But the economy and the needs of the American people are not static. We are living longer and there are more of us — millions more, and very diverse. We must have the flexibility to respond.”

Just last month, Roberts joined a handful of Republican senators, including Missouri’s John Ashcroft and Christopher Bond, in a successful move to quash a temporary repeal of federal gas taxes that was sought by GOP leaders. That, too, ran counter to the traditional pro-tax cut, anti-spending mantra of congressional Republicans.

This does not mean his views are growing more moderate, Roberts said Saturday.

“I don’t know if it’s moderating so much as common sense,” he said, ticking off priorities that Congress must fund in the coming months.

They include greater Medicare reimbursements, particularly for rural hospitals, along with peacekeeping operations in Kosovo, drug-fighting efforts in Colombia, needs at veterans’ hospitals and housing for the poor.

“I don’t think the American public understands that numbers drive policy,” Roberts said. “It is time for Congress to be freed from the ideological shackles that prevent us from making decisions.”

And he warned that unless lawmakers radically shift their thinking, failure to compromise could result in another budget shutdown. Budget caps established in 1997 limit spending to \$541 billion in 2002, which Roberts said is \$20 billion less than is needed simply to maintain current spending levels.

By the numbers, the stalemate between the White House and GOP congressional leaders amounts to just 1 percent of this year’s discretionary spending budget, he said.

Roberts argued he has worked as hard as any of his colleagues to curb unnecessary spending. But he said more money can be spent “without breaking the bank and returning the country to deficit spending.”