

## House in progress



Carpentry students in the 11-month program at the Northwest Kansas Technical School continue work on the three-bedroom home they are building on the school campus. Brandon Pfannenstiel, Hays, cut a linoleum tile to be laid in the bathroom. The house is scheduled to be complete around July 9, when an open house will be held.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

# Case of missing hard drives gets murkier

WASHINGTON (AP)—They may have contained highly classified nuclear secrets, but two computer drives causing all the ruckus at the Los Alamos nuclear weapons laboratory left virtually no paper trail while they were missing.

After interviewing dozens of people and conducting a string of polygraph

tests, investigators are stymied in trying to determine — even in general terms — when the two hard drives vanished from a highly secured vault at the federal laboratory in New Mexico. It may have been as long as six months ago, government officials fear.

“The last actual inventory that gives us a degree of certainty took place as

part of the Y2K inventory,” Rep. Porter Goss, R-Fla., chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said in an interview Tuesday. That was a few days after New Year’s.

“That screams at me and says we’ve got a procedure problem,” added Goss, a former CIA officer who has kept in close touch with the FBI and Energy Department investigation into the disappearance — and then reappearance — of the two hard drives, which contain information about how to dismantle nuclear warheads.

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson was to make his first appearance on Capitol Hill Wednesday on the Los Alamos case as he testifies before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The failure of the laboratory to require basic logout and login procedures for the devices is expected to be among the issues troubling committee members. Energy Department and lab officials have said no such tracking was required under a relaxed policy

instituted in the early 1990s for material classified as “secret” — as opposed to “top secret.”

The FBI was still electronically examining the two drives, which suddenly reappeared behind a copying machine last Friday not far from the vault where they were supposed to be kept. The area, where access was limited to people with high security clearances, had been searched several times, raising the possibility someone might have misplaced and then returned them.

But when were they last taken from the vault and by whom?

Initially, Air Force Gen. Eugene Habiger, the Energy Department’s new top security officer, and Los Alamos Lab Director John Browne said in congressional testimony that a scientist had reported seeing the two devices in the vault on April 7, a month before they were found missing and seven weeks before senior lab officials were notified.

## Colby police get money

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attorney’s office, the KBI’s legal division and the attorney general’s office will each receive 5 percent,” Stovall said.

“This is citizen’s money,” said Chief Jones, “and there are specific legal guidelines we must follow.”

State law requires, he said, that the money can only be used for special law enforcement purposes, which are not funded by their regular budgets.

Although the city’s share is \$2.04 million, Jones said there are no specific plans for how it will be spent at this time.

“The money could be utilized for a shooting range facility in the future or educational purposes,” he said. “We just have reached no decisions yet.”

Although the legal disbursement of the money has been determined, the actual checks to each of the agencies is not expected to be made until the latter part of June, Jones added.

The seizure came Jan. 14, after a

Colby police officer stopped a vehicle on I-70 for a routine traffic violation. During the stop, consent was obtained through the driver, Justin DeBusk, to search the vehicle. Following a brief search of the trunk, the officer began to question the passenger, Golding, who remained in the car. Golding then stepped out of the vehicle and shot himself in the head. An investigation by the Colby police and KBI uncovered \$3.7 million in cash in the car.

“We are thankful how everything turned out on this case regarding our officer’s safety,” said Jones. “It was bad enough already the way it was.”

“We are also appreciative of the many agencies that helped out and grateful to everyone involved.”

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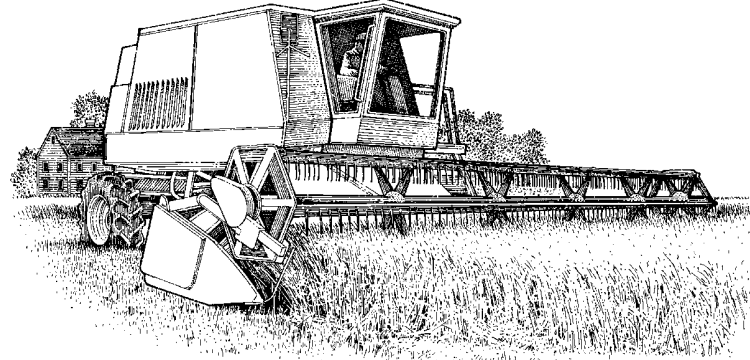
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