

weather report

57°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 7:31 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 5:47 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:32 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 53 degrees
- Humidity 31 percent
- Sky mostly clear
- Winds north 27-33 mph
- Barometer 30.23 inches and falling
- Record High 90° (1989)
- Record Low 25° (1958)

Last 24 Hours*

High	70°
Low	29°
Precipitation	0.24 inch

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Clear, low 30-35, southwest wind 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 70, low 35-40, west wind 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: dry, high 70s. Thursday and Friday: dry, high 80s, low 40s.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Phone company coming to town

Brewster co-operative plans to offer telephone, cable, high-speed Internet

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

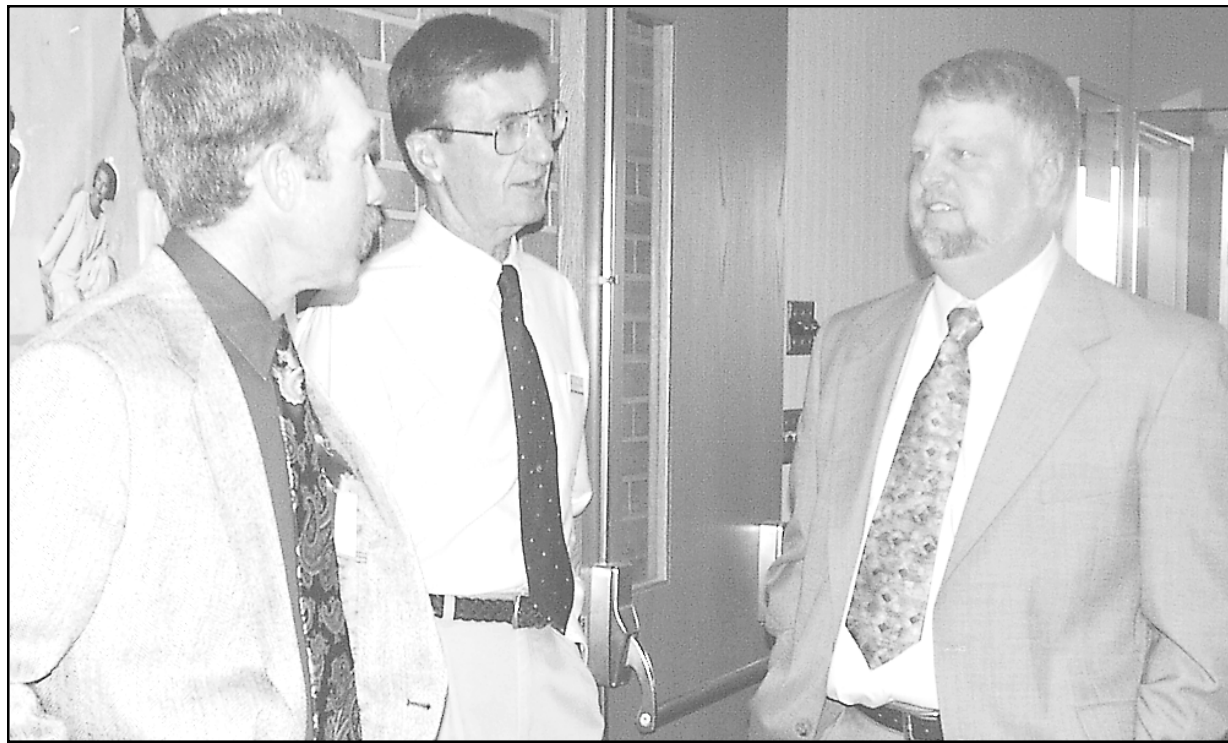
A Brewster telephone company plans to offer telephone, long distance, high speed Internet and cable television services in Goodland and Colby, competing with existing telephone, cable and Internet providers.

S&T Telephone Cooperative officials announced Thursday that after receiving good results from a survey of residents and business owners, the company, formed in 1952, has decided to expand.

Steve Richards, S&T general manager, said the nine-member board approved the move Wednesday and it was announced at the cooperative's annual meeting Thursday night. S&T now provides telephone, long distance and Internet service to nine rural cities in northwest Kansas, along with cable television to seven of those.

Most of the cities, including Kanorado and Brewster, have populations well below 1,000, and Goodland and Colby, with populations around 5,000, will be huge markets for the firm.

The expansion will put S&T, the only telephone service provider in its current markets, in direct competition with Southwestern Bell, a big company that provides telephone service across Kansas. Bell has long been the only com-



Officials with S&T Telephone of Brewster, which plans to expand telecommunication services into Goodland and Colby, talked at the company's annual meeting in Brewster on Thursday. Pictured (from left) are Dale Hudson, board president; Keane Hendershott, marketing manager; and Steve Richards, general manager.

Photo by Patty Decker/The Colby Free Press

pany offering local service in Goodland and Colby, although residents can choose their long-distance provider.

S&T will also compete with Eagle

Cable TV, Goodland's present cable company, Time Warner Cable, the only cable provider in Colby, and a dozen or more Internet companies in the cities.

"Hopefully it brings a price advantage for consumers," said Rosemary Foreman, director of public affairs for the Kansas Corporation Commission

Topeka. "It will at least provide options."

S&T will most likely not have to file with the commission again, Foreman said, because the company already provides telephone service in Sherman and Thomas counties. However, she said, the company may have to get licenses to offer telephone and cable services, and will have to sign franchise agreements with both cities.

The paperwork could take several months, Richards said, noting that S&T officials don't know when the company will be able to start laying lines. S&T plans to install state-of-the-art fiber optic lines, which will transmit signals faster and more clearly.

"It's all just going to take time," he said.

Ron Pickman, Goodland city manager, said there will be at least three months between the time S&T approaches the city and the franchise agreement is approved. S&T cannot start any construction in the city until then.

Pickman said state law says the entire agreement, which could be up to 10 pages long, must be read at three regular city commission meetings and then published once a week for two consecu-

See TELEPHONE, Page 7

Teen-ages roll car, taken to hospital

Two teen-age girls whose car rolled early Saturday in far east Sherman County were rescued by sheriff's officers and taken to the Colby hospital. One was released the next day but the other had to be flown to a Denver hospital.

Teagan R. Raile, 14, Edson, was driving a '96 Ford Taurus, and Destiny E. Wing, 15, Goodland, was a passenger, the Sherman County Sheriff's Office reported. The car was westbound on Road 66 when it slid into the north ditch about half a mile east of Road 33 and rolled two times, coming to rest on its wheels.

Deputies weren't sure when the accident occurred, but the sheriff's office

was notified shortly before 2 a.m. Officers said Raile was ejected from the car, but Wing wasn't, though neither girl was wearing a seat belt.

The nursing supervisor at Citizens Medical Center in Colby said when the girls were brought into the hospital's emergency room, Raile's condition was stable, but guarded, while Wing's was stable. Wing was admitted Saturday and released on Sunday.

Raile was transferred to Swedish Medical Center in Denver on Saturday morning. Suzanne Winders, nursing supervisor at Swedish, said this morning that her condition was serious, but stable.

Tornado-battered city begins slow recovery

HOISINGTON (AP) — Troy White, who moved out of his grandfather's house just a week ago, was back on Sunday, trying to salvage anything he could find out of the shell that remained.

His 80-year-old grandfather, Jack, was hospitalized with a cut shoulder and broken ribs after an F-4 tornado cut through a six block-wide, mile-long area Saturday night, killing one man, injuring 28 and causing millions of dollars in damage.

"For the most part, he is pretty shook up, scared, not knowing where the future lies," Troy White said as he worked Sunday.

That description fits this entire town of 2,900 people. Officials estimated that 200 structures were destroyed, another 85 suffered major damage and 200 had minor damage.

As many as 30 city blocks were hard hit by the tornado, with 20 to 25 percent of the town's structures damaged. Nearly every window at Hoisington High School was blown out and its auditorium roof is gone.

Across the street, a strip mall has been gutted. Gone is the town's only grocery store. The Dairy Queen is demolished. Also heavily hit is the hospital, where a brand new surgical center opened a week ago. The pharmacy, bank and motel buildings are in bad shape.

Today, federal emergency officials were to come to town to tally losses and start the process of federal and state assistance. But officials were already saying losses would be in the millions.

The same massive low-pressure system that brought the tornado also dumped about 5 inches of rain. Water

was rising rapidly Sunday and threatening some areas just south of the city limits. Highway U.S. 281 linking this town to Great Bend was closed by high water.

The one fatality was Gerald Tauscher, 69, who didn't go into the basement of his home with his wife, Joyce, because he believed the warning sirens would sound if a tornado was close.

His body was found two hours after the tornado hit, underneath a minivan in their backyard.

All that remained of Tauschers' home was the empty basement where Joyce Tauscher took shelter. On Sunday, she spoke about needing to buy clothes for the funeral of her husband of 42 years. Then, she began sobbing.

"You just can't comprehend; 42 years of your life is gone," she said. "I have nothing."

One couple, Stacie Basye and Shelby Stone, spent Sunday sorting through a mound of shattered glass, splintered wood and roofing pieces that was once their home.

"We haven't found anything at all," Stone said after nearly an hour of fruitless work. Basye added: "He and I don't think we will either."

Their entire residential block was nearly flattened, with only remnants of two houses left. Other homes on the block were mounds of rubble, with an occasional cement stair or foundation giving evidence that someone once lived there.

Basye's eyes filled with tears as a neighbor brought over a muddy page from a photo album that had been full of pictures of her niece and nephews.

"That was the worst feeling I've experienced in my life," she said.

Homecoming date moves

Group to discuss new time, place

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Ron Harding, Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce director, said Friday he will suggest tonight that Lt. Jeff Vignery's homecoming celebration be held at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 5, at the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

"It appears that's when everyone can come together," he said, adding that Vignery, a lieutenant junior grade, has said he will be in Goodland then, but could arrive earlier.

"I don't know just how he's arriving or when," Harding said. "I just know we've worked out this time."

When planners first met last Monday to put together an event welcoming the Navy pilot — held in China for 11 days after a mid-air collision — back to his hometown, they thought they only had a few days.



Standoff U.S.-China
Goodland prepares to welcome Jeff Vignery back to his hometown.



The group of about 12, comprising community leaders, classmates and friends, wanted to hold the event at the fieldhouse, but switched the location to Gulick Park on Wednesday after hearing Vignery — who has family in Goodland — could be here this weekend, when the home and garden show is to be held at the fieldhouse.

"I was concerned about it being outdoors," Harding said. "We're thinking we'd go back into the fieldhouse."

He said the annual high school promenade, where seniors show off their prom clothes, will be Saturday,

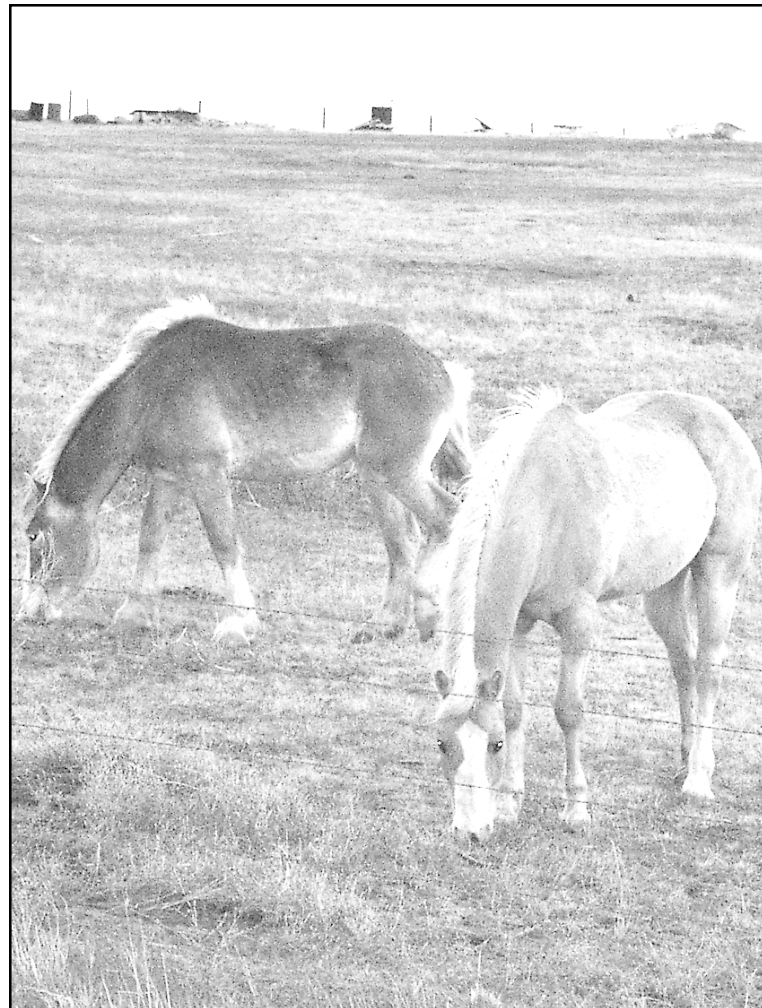
but the homecoming party should be over by then.

The planning committee, meeting at 5 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce office, 104 W. 11th, wants, among other things, to present Vignery with a key to the city, have the governor and those close to the 27-year-old speak, then release yellow and navy balloons into the sky. Bankwest is paying to fly Vignery and his wife Julie, a Dodge City native, to Denver.

Harding said he will suggest the new time and date, but it could change again, depending on the hero's plans.

"We're aiming in that direction at least," he said.

Horse play



Two horses ate grass Sunday evening in a field about three miles west of Goodland along old U.S. 24.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Legislators may pass time limit

TOPEKA (AP) — With four scheduled days left in the 2001 legislative session, a long list of issues remain unresolved.

The priorities include increasing spending on education, expanding health insurance coverage to mental illnesses and securing an energy supply for the state's future.

Overshadowing them all, however, is the state's budget problem, which legislators fear will keep them at the Statehouse past the allotted 90 calendar days. Lawmakers reconvene Wednesday, the 86th day of their session. They are scheduled through Saturday, the 89th day, but are allowed to take more time to finish their work. The 1991 session lasted 103 days.

The biggest issue is whether the Legislature will raise taxes to make up for lower-than-expected revenues.

"What do we tell the poor family trying to make ends meet, that we're going to raise their taxes?" said Rep. Brenda Landwehr, R-Wichita, a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

But Sen. Paul Feleciano, a member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, said a tax increase is needed.

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Woman kills at bus yard

SAN JOSE, Calif. — A woman opened fire at a school bus yard early today, killing a man and wounding three women, police said.

A woman police described as in her early 30s was taken into custody after the shooting at the Laidlaw bus yard that began just before 6 a.m.

Rubens Dalaison, spokesman for San Jose Police Department, said he did not know the woman's job at the company. Investigators did not yet have a motive for the attack.

Sherry Reed-Price, a co-worker of the woman and a Laidlaw training supervisor, said she was not aware of any issues that could have upset the unnamed woman.

Dalaison said the man was killed outside the office. Three women ranging in age from 40 to 57 were wounded.