

weather report

51°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:51 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 35 degrees
• Humidity 44 percent
• Sky mostly clear
• Winds calm
• Barometer 29.80 inches and falling
• Record High 74° (1965)
• Record Low 01° (1955)

Last 24 Hours*

High 58°
Low 23°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low 20s, 20 percent chance of rain or snow, wind southeast 5-15 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly sunny, high 40s, low 20s, wind northwest 15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Thursday and Friday: mostly sunny, high 50s, low 10s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Israelis respond to bombs

Missiles nearly kill Palestinian leader

By Hadeel Wahdan

Associated Press Writer

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Israel unleashed airstrikes today in retaliation for Palestinian suicide bombings, and three missiles hit 50 yards from Yasser Arafat's office moments after the Palestinian leader was rushed to shelter. Israel said he was not the target of the strike.

In the Gaza Strip, a 15-year-old boy and a member of the security forces were killed in an attack by Israeli warplanes on a security installation, doctors said.

The bombs sent hundreds of school children running for cover, and doctors said more than 150 people were wounded, many of them youngsters.

Three Israeli missiles today hit a security station about 50 yards from Arafat's office in a walled compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah. The shells knocked down a wall and damaged the roof.

Arafat was rushed to an underground shelter moments earlier when the Israeli attack helicopters were seen approaching, his aide Ahmed Abdel Rahman said. Arafat was not injured. The Israeli military spokesman said Israel had not given Arafat prior warning an attack was imminent, something Israel has done in some past strikes.

The airstrikes came just hours after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his Cabinet branded Arafat's government a supporter of terrorism and singled out two organizations affiliated with the Palestinian leader as terror groups — the Tanzim militia and Force 17, a branch of the Palestinian security forces.

Three Force 17 buildings, two in the Gaza Strip and one in the West Bank, were among eight security installations hit today by Israeli missiles.

Cracks emerged in Israel's ruling coalition today after Labor party members walked out of the Cabinet meeting, complaining that Sharon was rushing the vote. Labor leaders, while backing military action, also want diplomatic efforts to reconcile with Arafat. Labor parliament members were to gather Wednesday to consider quitting the coalition, but even supporters of such a move said it would be days away.

A departure by Labor would not in itself topple Sharon's government, but

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Taliban tribes in fierce fight

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Taliban fighters and members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida militia were putting up fierce resistance against opposition Afghan forces outside Kandahar today as a relentless U.S. bombing campaign continued, tribal leaders said.

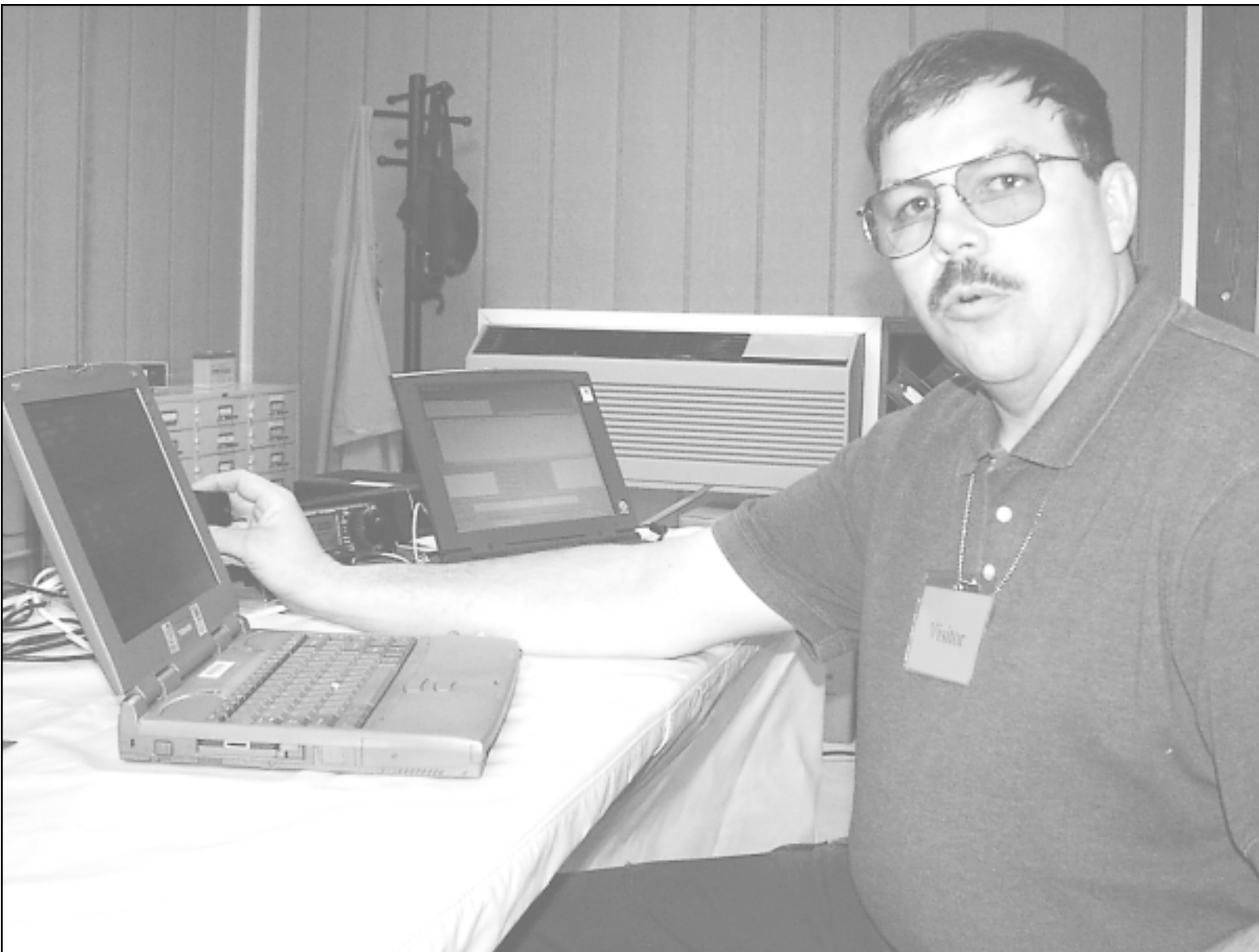
Some Kandahar defenders fired missiles at U.S. warplanes, but made no hits, U.S. officials said.

The city, the last bastion of the Taliban, remained in the hands of the Islamic group, but a seesawing battle was raging for its airport, a few miles away. A senior ethnic Pashtun leader made new surrender demands on Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammed Omar, who has ordered his forces to fight to the death.

Abdul Jabbar, an Afghan tribal representative in Pakistan in contact with commanders at the scene, described the fighting as close combat. "They're face-to-face," he said.

In Germany, four Afghan factions reached a breakthrough early today and agreed on a framework for a post-Taliban administration. The United

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Transmitting radio signals from computer to computer was Mike Albers, KØFJ, of Colby. This is the first year the hams have set up a computer station as part of the amateur radio exercise. The operator types the

message on the computer keyboard and the signals are transmitted through a shortwave radio and then decoded on a receiving computer, which types the message on the computer screen at that end.

'Hams' take part in Sky Warn exercise

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Members of the Goodland Sunflower and the Colby Trojan radio clubs participated in a Sky Warn appreciation day exercise at the National Weather Service office here Friday and Saturday.

The event gives amateur radio operators, who regularly help with the Weather Service Sky Warn program, a chance to set up their radios, antennas and computers to see how many different stations they can contact in a 24-hour period.

Kevin Lynott, of the Goodland Weather Service office, and a member of the Goodland Sunflower radio club, said several of Weather Service workers are licensed amateur radio operators — called "hams" as a nickname. "During the weather seasons, the hams are a great help to us in getting information out quickly," Lynott said. "And in some cases they have spotted bad weather before our radars have picked up on the storm."

Lynott, KCØFEH, and forecaster Scott Mentzer, NØQE, were two of the Goodland hams who spent hours through the night making contact with other operators across the country and around the world.

They were joined by Mike Albers, KØFJ; Gregg Lindberg, NØXJ; and Bruce Frahm, KØBJ, of the Colby club.

The hams set up three stations at the weather office and had them connected with a computer network so when three operators were working, they each would know what other stations had been contacted.



Bruce Frahm, KØBJ, of Colby, talked to a contact in Annapolis, Md., during the Sky Warn Appreciation Day exercise. Listening to the short-wave conversation are Gregg Lindberg, NØXJ, Colby, and Kevin Lynott, KCØFEH, of Goodland, and the Goodland National Weather Service station here, where the exercise was staged Friday and Saturday.

Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

During the night, Albers said, the operators sometimes only were able to get about 10 contacts an hour. He said

that might be related to sun spots, which to affect broadcast waves. Shortwave transmissions can bounce

around the world on a good day, though.

Lynott said the hams had about 800 contacts in the 24-hour period last year, but did not feel they were going to make it to 700 this year.

One of the three radio setups could handle communication transmitted in Morse code, known as CW. Frahm from Colby was considered the best at handling the code contacts.

Albers said the group was trying a third radio setup this year which uses a new PSK31 system to transmit and decode transmissions from laptop computers. He said this was a new setup for the hams, and the software allows the operator to send and receive signals by typing on the computer keyboard.

During the night, the operators contacted hams throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico as well as some in Europe and Asia.

The Colby club brought a portable antenna system which includes specialized antennas for handling signals from a wide variety of radio frequencies. The hams were planning to work signals on five different frequency bands, and this requires a different antenna setup for each.

The hams set the antennas up Friday afternoon before the official start of the 24 hours at 5 p.m.

"We have a lot of fun," Lynott said, "but we could use more operators to make it an even more successful program."

He said anyone interested in being a ham can contact him at the Weather Service office of talk to one of the other operators.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.60 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.54
Corn — \$2.03 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.92
Loan deficiency payment — 7¢
Milo — \$2.78 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.85 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.87
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.05
Millet — \$3.75 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$9.05 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 66¢
Confection current — inquire
Pinto beans — \$19 (new crop)
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Drug diluter needed cash

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A pharmacist told the FBI the diluted more than 100 doses of chemotherapy drugs because he owed more than \$600,000 in taxes and \$330,000 on a pledge to his church.

Robert R. Courtney offered the explanation in a handwritten statement, dated Aug. 20, that was attached to a motion filed by a federal prosecutor in U.S. District Court.

Courtney was indicted Aug. 23 on 20 federal counts of tampering, adulterating and misbranding two chemotherapy drugs prescribed by a Kansas City doctor for her cancer patients. He has pleaded innocent and has been held without bond since his arrest Aug. 15.

"Between March 8th of 2001 and June 12th of 2001 I diluted approximately 124 prescriptions involving 34 patients of Dr. Hunter's," Courtney wrote.

Man backs his pickup into neighbor's home

Raymond Hiegert backed out of his driveway at 207 Broadway about 11 a.m. Monday, and his pickup backed over the mailbox and right into Sarah Bollig's living room across the street at 212 Broadway.

Police and ambulance workers rushed to the scene and took Hiegert, who was standing and walking after the accident, to the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Dale Schields, development director at the hospital, said Hiegert had struck the back of his head against the window of his truck, and was examined in the emergency room. He was kept overnight for observation, and should be released today.

Hiegert says he does not know how he ended up in the living room across the street.

"I started to back up out of the drive, and next thing you know, I'm inside a house," he said.

Bollig says the living room and all the furnishings were totaled.

You can see tire treads on the carpet in the living room, she said, but insurance adjusters have not yet determined the amount of damage.

She thought they would do so in the next few days.

Bollig said no one was home when the accident happened. She had been sitting in the living room but left for a doctor's appointment about five minutes before the accident.

"I just thank God no one was hurt," she said, adding that Donald D. Leiker of Leiker Construction owns the house.

Hiegert says he's feeling fine and that he's ready to get home.

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