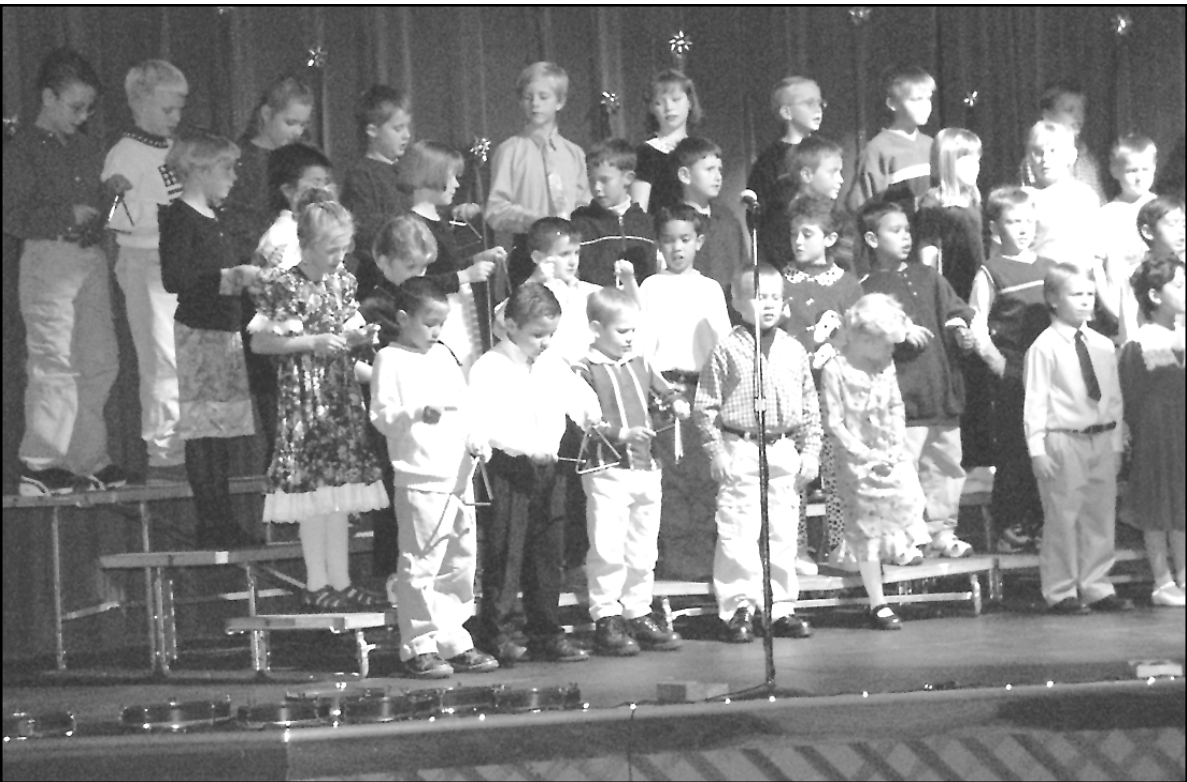


Ting, Ting-a-ling



Second grade students sang for a good-sized audience at West Elementary School on Thursday.

Photo by Skilar Boland/The Goodland Daily News

Video store has new owner

Scott J. Weber, the new owner of Sight and Sound Entertainment, formerly known as Pied Piper Video, has big plans.

Weber, 25, a 1995 graduate of Goodland High School, formally assumed control of the video store from Donna and Harvey Swagger at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4.

He plans to expand the business. He wants to sell music, bring in tanning beds, and set up a coffee bar, making it a place where kids can hang out.

"With the name Sight and Sound," said Weber, "it pretty much leaves it open for anything I want to do."

He plans on keeping the store pretty much the way it is until February, when it will hold a grand opening. He says the business will continue to do business as Pied Piper until then, and the

old sign will remain on the building.

He does not think people will have a problem with his changing the name. "The people of Goodland are dying for something new," he said.

He has four part-time employees, including Scott Frazier, who ran the store for three months for the Swaggers.

Frazier said Weber is determined to get in and do a good job.

Frazier thinks Weber is making several good steps to building the business, including offering discounts to



Weber

college students.

Weber says he has wanted to be a Goodland businessman since he was in junior high. After he graduated from Garden City Community College with a degree in small business management, he moved back to Goodland, where he worked as an assistant manager at Gibson's, as a sales representative and route driver for Western Uniform, and as an assistant manager at Aten's Department Store.

Weber is also a former runway fashion model, and appeared in printwork for Dilliards and Polo. He still has a contract with his modeling agency, but says he doubts he will do any more of that sort of work.

Weber has a two year old son, Tristen, and is engaged to Shelley Jones.

Internet service back to normal

A Southwestern Bell line in Oberlin failed Monday, leaving Internet customers of nwkansas.com across the area with service that was shaky at best and nearly nonexistent by this morning.

Technicians tracked the failed line this morning, and had service up on a

spare circuit a few minutes later. They said they would track down and replace the parts which caused the outage.

Evan Barnum, systems administrator for the Internet service, said the line had been failing for more than a week, but the telephone company could not pinpoint the problem until it got worse.

Press foreman named for papers

Richard Westfahl of Colby has been named the press foreman for the Nor'West Newspapers production plant in Goodland.

General Manager Jim Bowker said Westfahl has been a pressman since April 1996, starting with the Colby Free Press, and will now be in charge of operation and maintenance of the combined six-unit Harris newspaper press.

Nor'west Press handles all the printing of six newspapers including the *Colby Free Press*, *The Goodland Daily News*, *The Oberlin Herald*, *Bird City Times* and *The St. Francis Herald*, all part of the Nor'West group, and the independent

Western Times of Sharon Springs.

In addition, Nor'west prints the *Country Advocate* weekly, the *Northwest Journal*, special sections for the newspapers and many large printing jobs.

Before coming to the newspaper operation, Westfahl was a ranch hand for the Bentz Valley Ranch of Imperial, Neb., for 15 years. In addition to handling the daily operation of

a cow/calf operation, he was a flight instructor.

Before that, he worked for Central State Aircraft of Ogallala, Neb., where he was a salesman and acted as the personal pilot for the company and pro-

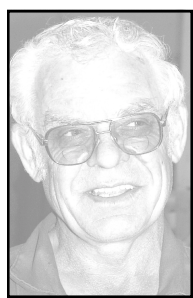
vided service for other companies.

He has over 2,000 hours as a pilot and was licensed for commercial aircraft, flight instructor, instrument and multi-engine aircraft. He had been a machinist at TRW in Ogallala, where he was involved in the building and design of the equipment, including working with lathes, mills and welders.

Westfahl was born in Ogallala and graduated from high school there.

"And it sure did get worse," he said. "We can only apologize to our customers. We have been working on this for a week, but the problem is totally out of our control."

He said Bell has assured him the problem is fixed now, however, and service should be normal this week.



Westfahl

Witness disputes transcript of interview

WICHITA (AP) — The brother of one of two men charged in the slayings of four teen-agers last December took issue Monday with statements attributed to him in the transcript of a police interview.

Troy Bell testified at the murder trial of Cornelius Oliver, 19, who is charged with four counts of capital murder and could face the death penalty if convicted.

Bell's younger brother, Earl Bell II, is charged with first-degree murder as an accomplice. His trial is scheduled next month, and the maximum penalty for him would be life in prison.

Oliver and Bell are accused of the Dec. 7 shooting deaths of Oliver's girlfriend, Raeshawnda Wheaton, 18; her roommate, Odessa Ford, 17; Ford's cousin, Quincy Williams, 17; and Jermaine Levy, 19.

Troy Bell, 33, had been charged with aiding a felon in the case, but in April he pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor count of compounding a crime and was placed on probation for a year.

On the witness stand Monday, Troy Bell denied making some of the state-

ments in the transcript of his interview with Detective Michael Silva of the Wichita police.

Among the disputed statements are those in which the transcript has Bell saying his brother told him that "they" had "hit four people," and another in which he quoted him as saying they had "messed up."

He said that at best, he heard his brother mumble things that sounded somewhat like the transcript.

Troy Bell did acknowledge driving Oliver and his brother to a bridge, where Earl Bell threw two guns into the Arkansas River. Troy Bell led police back a day later to the river, where officers found the guns.

Oliver's defense seized on Troy Bell's vague recollections that he only saw Earl Bell handle the guns.

"You were trying to avoid trouble the night your brother brought those guns into your house, weren't you?" Evans asked.

"That's right," Troy Bell said.

"You were trying to avoid trouble and still help your little brother," Evans said.

Help for colds on the way

COLD, from Page 1

University of Virginia at an infectious-disease conference in Chicago sponsored by the American Society for Microbiology. The research was financed by ViroPharma Inc. of Exton, Pa., which is developing the drug.

The company applied in July to the Food and Drug Administration for approval to market the drug. A decision is at least months away.

Experts say they expect the agency to be unusually cautious, since any medicine to treat a non-lethal infection in healthy people must be extremely safe.

"The safety issues are dramatic," said Dr. Scott Hammer, a virus expert at Columbia University. "They will be looked at very, very carefully."

Hayden said he has seen no significant side effects from the drug, called pleconaril. Some volunteers have a slight, temporary rise in cholesterol levels, which he said has "no clinical significance."

The company has not said how much it will charge for the medicine, which would be sold by prescription under the brand name Picovir, but officials said it is likely to cost as much as antibiotics, which typically are more than \$40 for a course of treatment.

Unlike many over-the-counter remedies, which ease cold symptoms by drying up plugged noses and soothing

aches, pleconaril attacks a large group of viruses known as the picornaviruses. Among these is the rhinovirus, the bug that causes about half of all colds.

"It really represents the first effective treatment for a rhinovirus illness," Hayden said.

The medicine stops the virus by fitting into a groove on its surface. This jams the machinery it needs to enter and infect the body's cells.

The latest research is ViroPharma's second attempt to prove that the drug speeds recovery from the common cold. Its earlier study fell short of showing a statistically significant benefit.

In the latest work, conducted a year ago, people who felt colds coming on were randomly assigned to get pleconaril or dummy pills. In all, 2,096 people started in the study within a day of the onset of symptoms.

Testing showed that two-thirds of the volunteers actually had caught a rhinovirus.

In these people, runny noses and other symptoms completely went away in an average of six days, compared with seven days in the rhinovirus sufferers getting placebos.

Volunteers were allowed to take their usual over-the-counter medicines.

Nevertheless, those using pleconaril began to feel better than the others within a day of starting treatment. Their symptoms were half gone

in three days, compared with four days among those getting dummy pills.

New studies are under way to test the drug in children who have colds as well as in college students to see if it will keep them from catching colds.

Those with fevers were excluded from the study, since their colds are unlikely to result from rhinoviruses.

In general, Hayden said the medicine is likely to be most useful in the spring, summer and fall, when the rhinovirus is the dominant cause of colds. Colds in the late fall and winter are more likely to result from other viruses.

Doctors assume that the sooner people start taking the drug, the better their chances of cutting short their colds. Hayden said pleconaril may work best if people keep a supply at home to use at the first telltale symptoms.

Colds are the single most frequent reason why people go to the doctor. Antibiotics are worthless against colds, though doctors often prescribe them anyway.

An FDA advisory panel is scheduled to review pleconaril next spring. Hayden declined to predict whether it will be approved. However, he said, "I would certainly use it, and I would use it in my family members."

Pleconaril may also work against other kinds of picornaviruses, including ones that causes viral meningitis and middle-ear infections.

Tribal force leaving Tora Bora

WAR, from Page 1

fighters of the estimated 1,000 to 2,000 were reported to have been killed or captured. There was no word on whether the rest had fled or initial estimates were wrong.

Ali today declared the tribal forces' operation completed. He was quoted by the Afghan Islamic Press agency as saying there was no information that more al-Qaida fighters remained in the caves.

As his forces withdrew, a tank crawled along a dusty, narrow valley road, followed by troops in pickup trucks. Villagers came out and waved.

"Al-Qaida is finished. I am now going to go home," one soldier said.

Mohammed Aman Khiari, another tribal commander, said he doubted bin Laden was still holed up in Tora Bora because if he were his loyalists would keep fighting.

"Now maybe he has gone somewhere else, or maybe he is dead," Khiari told reporters.

Pakistan deployed reinforcements on its border near Tora Bora and patrolled with helicopter gunships. But the frontier is laced with goat paths that have served for decades as routes for smuggling goods and infiltrating fighters.

In southern Afghanistan, Marines at their base in Kandahar's airport raised an American flag that had been flown near New York's ground zero and bears the names of 23 policemen killed in the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

"They took 23 great cops. Pay back time," read one unsigned note among the many messages scrawled on the red

and white stripes of the flag by relatives and colleagues of the victims.

The dead officers' names, and those of 17 sailors lost in last year's suicide bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen, were handwritten on the flag's white stars.

In other developments:

• Two U.S. C-130 aircraft on a nighttime flight mistook small arms fire on the ground for a missile attack and took evasive action, U.S. officials said. They saw muzzle flashes from Afghans on the ground firing guns to celebrate the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, Central Command in Tampa, Fla., said.

• British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon said his country could deploy the first troops in the Afghan capital, Kabul, for an international security force by Saturday, when the interim government under Pashtun tribal leader Hamid Karzai is due to assume office. Britain will lead the force and contribute up to 1,500 troops, Prime Minister Tony Blair told Parliament on Monday.

• A second American soldier was injured while trying to clear land mines in Afghanistan.

Wolfowitz said interrogations of al-Qaida and Taliban detainees so far have not produced much reliable information about bin Laden's location.

Three Taliban or al-Qaida members

being detained on the USS Peleliu in the Arabian Sea are thought to be "fairly important people," Wolfowitz said, without identifying them.

Another 15 prisoners were en route from a detention facility in northern Afghanistan to one the Marines built at their base in Kandahar airport, the Defense Department said. Also being held on the Peleliu are an American and an Australian who joined the Taliban.

The war against al-Qaida, meanwhile, was extended beyond Afghanistan's borders.

On the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, Yemeni special forces fired tanks and artillery today, trying to capture five suspected bin Laden supporters being protected by a tribe in the remote mountains of central Yemen, tribal and security sources said.

Tribal sources said four tribesmen were killed in the fighting around mountain villages.

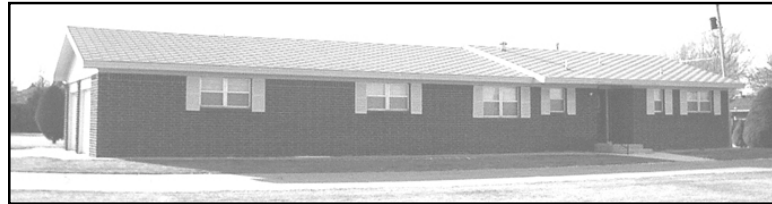
Wolfowitz said he had no information on the fighting but said the administration has long been concerned about "pockets where we believe al-Qaida people have sheltered and may be there now" in Yemen, particularly along the remote Saudi border.

With the ouster of the Taliban and fighting tapering off near Afghan cities, hundreds of refugees poured into Afghanistan back from neighboring Pakistan.



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