

Internet customers receive viruses in hoax bills

Internet customers are receiving hoax email billing notices claiming to be sent from *nwkansas.com* Internet service in northwest Kansas.

"These hoax notices are spam, and should be deleted without opening," said Tom Betz, director of Internet services.

The messages said the recipient must read the attached billing notice within 24 hours or they would lose their Internet service. The attachment, called "page.hta," and is a Trojan-type virus which if opened may change settings on the customer's computer and set up a program to download and install other software from the Internet.

"These billing hoaxes have been showing up on a number of Internet service pro-

viders across the country," Betz said. "Most of the messages were sent the last part of January, and appear to have been randomly sent to some of our *nwkansas.com* customers.

"Our e-mail system has been filtering many of the hoax messages, and Wednesday an additional set of filters was activated to stop the .hta messages.

"Another of the filters activated will stop the delivery of .zip attachments, which are one of the ways the MyDoom virus has been detected.

"For more than a year, customers of *nwkansas.com* have been protected from receiving attachments which had script files or executable files which could be vi-

rus. These were attachments with a .scr, .exe, .bat and .pif extensions.

"We are disappointed this has happened to our customers. We want to assure them we are not suspending anyone's Internet service."

The messages may vary slightly, but most of them look like the one below.

"Subject: Billing Notice From *nwkansas.com*'s Accounting Dept
**** *nwkansas.com*'s accounting dept notice ***

"Internet Billing Notice
"Please press "open" and read the attached Billing Notice.

"Note if you do not read this within 24 hours we at *nwkansas.com* regret we will

have to terminate Internet service."

The attached file (called a Billing Notice) is named page.hta and is a program or script written in Visual Basic. It's designed to download and install other software from the Internet. Older versions of Outlook or Outlook Express might automatically execute this code by viewing the e-mail.

One Internet service provider reported their support system had received two copies of the email with the attached file intact. One had been filtered through McAfee Antivirus, which identified the attachment as the VBS.inor.trojan downloader. The second was filtered through eTrust antivirus which identified the attachment as the VBS.Suzer, a trojan downloader.

Both scripts are written in Visual Basic and, when run, will download and install other software. The file only runs on an IBM-type computer. Macintosh and Linux computers are immune.

There are variations of these scripts, and some are used to download and install spyware or adware, and some are used to install worms or trojan horses. In this case, it's likely the downloader would install spyware or adware, but there's no way to be certain.

To be safe, if you received one of these e-mails and you opened the attached file, you should make sure your antivirus software is up to date and scan your computer for viruses and worms.

Board approves baseball, 4-3

BASEBALL, from Page 1

lenge, however.

Mason said he could not predict the likelihood of a challenge, but said the district had a better than 50 percent chance of surviving a challenge now.

That would drop to around 40 percent if baseball is added, he said, adding that the consequences of non-compliance could involve monetary penalties, lawsuits, and forcing the district to take corrective action.

Dennis Friedrichs, vocational education teacher at the high school, asked if money was available, why not use it for educational programs that lack financial support such as Science Olympiad or the electric car project, programs that also bring honor and prestige to Goodland.

He pointed out that the vocational brings an extra \$95,000 to \$100,000 to the district, but little or none of it is used for those programs.

The basic question to the board appeared to be whether the interest and support for a baseball program was strong enough to justify its cost in view of cuts being made in other areas especially in those where a small increase would make a significant impact.

While nearly everyone agreed that academics must come first, Melia said he thought the vast majority supported a Cowboy baseball program and although there were more factors to consider, a decision must be made.

Member Ron Schilling said it was the board's job to make that decision and that it could not wait for the next meeting.

Melia made a motion to add base-



High School Athletic Director Steve Raymer (center, standing) gave his report to the school board on his research about the feasibility of establishing a Cowboy baseball program next school year. Part

of his report included an estimated startup budget for the first three seasons.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

ball to the high school's athletic program for the 2004-2005 school year, which was seconded by Schilling.

The board voted 4-3 in favor of adding baseball, prompting an enthusiastic and emotional round of applause from the crowd.

"I'm thrilled that there will be high school baseball," West said. "I think it's going to reach out and include several young men who oth-

erwise would not be involved in a spring sport. The boys deserve this, they worked hard to get this and fulfill a dream."

Goodland to have three new centenarians starting today

100th, from Page 1

ters Abstract Co., the welfare office, was deputy register of deeds and was a secretary in her husband's law office.

Taggart said she and Thomas waited until he finished his education and established his career and had saved some money before trying to start a family. But then it was too late. Of course people don't do that today, she said.

Daise said she married at 16 and had five children, four girls and a boy.

She and Harold were married 65 years, she said, and spent 51 years on the farm before moving to town to retire.

But it didn't quite work that way. Daise said she and her husband helped a neighbor at the museum, and Harold ended up with a job as curator when the man died, and his wife didn't think she could run it

herself. He served 12 years as curator, she said. Daise said she became the meal site manager at the senior center. Harold died in 1985.

Daise has 17 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and 17 great-great-grandchildren, and she has seen all of them except those who have arrived in the last two years. She said she has flown to Oregon, where some of her family lives, and they are good about writing her letters and talking to her on the phone.

Daise said she was part of a six-generations photo three years ago, when her father's sister was still living.

She said her aunt was born in Sherman County and was a little older than she.

For Daise to tell all her memories would take a great deal of time, for she can remember back to when she was six years old. She said that's when her youngest brothers was born, and she remembers the day

clearly.

"We knew mom was sick," she said, "and then Dad had lost something and sent us out to help him look for it. When we came in, there was a new baby.

"Where did that come from?" we asked. 'Mrs. Smalley brought it in her purse.'"

Nicholson has a bulletin board displaying mementos from her 99th birthday, and Daise clearly enjoys

celebrating hers. But she does have one complaint. Valentine's Day spoils it, she said, adding that her birthday parties have often become Valentine's parties.

Taggart said she got married on her birthday and, thus, celebrated her birthday and anniversary on the same day.

"One year, I celebrated my birthday, anniversary and Easter on the same day," she said.

State legislators coming for town meeting

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

State Sen. Stan Clark and state Rep. Jim Morrison will visit Goodland for a town meeting from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, though the site has not been chosen.

Clark, of Oakley, represents senate district 40, and Morrison, of Colby, represents house district 121.

The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce was asked to find a room and provide ground transportation. At a Chamber board meeting Tuesday morning, board vice president Donna Swager said she would coordinate the event and that the Goodland Ambassadors could help host it.

In the search for a new director,

the Chamber's executive board will interview three people Saturday. Swager said all three are good candidates with impressive resumes.

The board is considering moving the Chamber to a new office but decided that it would not move or enter into a long-term lease until the new director is in place. The board agreed to remain where it is on a month-to-month basis for the time being.

The board met with Justin Bentzinger of Property Management about \$1,800 in rent late fees incurred for the Chamber's offices at 1002 Main Ave. The Chamber's lease provides for a \$50 per day late rent fee. Negotiations continue. Bentzinger, the Chamber's landlord, is a former board member and

had been interim Chamber director.

In other business, the board:

- Heard the treasurer's report from Brian Linin, who listed the bills the board needed to pay.

- Heard a report from the membership committee on the number of members who have paid their dues. The board considered protests from some members about their dues and agreed to some modifications on a case by case basis.

- Cindy Bowman, who is volunteering her time manning the office, said the computer has a virus which was making it hard to work. The computer was taken in for repair and was ready for pickup Thursday morning.

The board met at 7 a.m. with eight of its nine members present and

adjourned at 8:20. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 9, at 7 a.m.

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.



Darin Richardson will be singing a solo.

Reception at Gambino's 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. on Friday.

Friday, February 13, 2004 7 p.m.

High School Auditorium Admission Free



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and The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce and Ambassadors welcome

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