

**weather report**

**52°**

at noon



**Today**

• Sunset, 7:38 p.m.

**Tomorrow**

• Sunrise, 5:48 a.m.  
• Sunset, 7:39 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

• Soil Temperature 50 degrees  
• Humidity 83 percent  
• Sky Cloudy with occasional rain  
• Winds SE 16  
• Barometer 30.12 inches and falling

• Record High 96° (1992)  
• Record Low 22° (1950)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High 50°  
Low 44°  
Precipitation .01  
April 3.42; Year to date 4.60 (+1.40)

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: Cloudy; 30 percent chance of rain; low 40-45; wind SE 10-20. Tomorrow: Cloudy; 40 percent chance of thundershowers; high 60; wind SE 15-20.

**Extended Forecast**

Sunday through Tuesday: Chance of thunderstorms each day; highs 70; lows 40.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**

**Noon**

Wheat — \$2.23 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.12  
Loan deficiency payment — 33¢  
Corn — \$1.78 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.85  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 14¢  
Milo — \$2.64 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$3.82 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.99  
Loan deficiency payment — 90¢  
Millet — \$4 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$8.45 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.10  
Oil new crop — \$8.75 cwt.  
Confection current — \$17/10 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)  
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean.)

**afternoon wire**

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

**Senate backs Graves' veto**

TOPEKA — The Senate refused to override Gov. Bill Graves' veto of a proposal for a new "pregnancy maintenance" program, and a House majority blocked debate on an anti-abortion resolution.

Both votes Thursday represented defeats for abortion foes.

The resolution was an attempt to force court action that could outlaw most abortions outlawed.

The proposed "pregnancy maintenance" program became part of the abortion issue when Graves vetoed it. He objected because, under the proposal, no money could go to any group that provided abortion services or even favorable information about abortion.

To override the veto, supporters of the program needed two-thirds majorities in both chambers, 27 in the Senate, 84 in the House. The vote in the Senate was 25-14.

## School reviewing crisis plan

By Keith Lippoldt

Goodland Daily News

Last week's attack on a Littleton, Colo., high school pushed Principal Harvey Swager to dust off Goodland High School's crisis plan.

The written plan covers situations such as fire, weather, natural gas, bomb threats and suicides. One notable exception that Swager says won't be absent for long is a plan that deals with intruders.

"The Littleton situation has brought the attention to this," the principal said. "Probably every school in the country is doing something to their crisis plan."

"Even though we feel we are prepared for most any situation, our current plan has a hole in it. We do not have a plan for intruders in effect at this time."

Since the shootings in Colorado,

Swager said, he has begun preparation. One of the first things he did was to contact LeSeuer-Henderson School in

LeSeuer, Minn., which learned the hard way about the need for such a plan. In 1997, a student entered their building with a weapon and killed one student, injured another and held the principal hostage. They now have a plan that Swager says is a model for other school districts.

"Their situation forced them to create a plan," Swager said. "I have talked with their superintendent and he feels very confident about the effectiveness of their plan. They are sending us a copy of it so we can review it. We will use what we can."

State regulations require that each district conduct safety drills for several different potential disasters. Fire drills must be performed at least once a

month throughout the year in each building. Schools must also perform tornado drills three times per year. Every room must post a routing system that will lead people to safety. Bomb threat evacuations are handled much the same as a fire drill.

Swager said he already has started the process of updating the manual. A committee was formed to develop a list of safety concerns which will be given to a consultant, who will report his recommendations next August.

Once this has been drawn up, the high school site council will also be asked for suggestions. Other major players will be the Goodland police and fire departments.

Swager said that the changes in the plan may range from fine tuning to very complex.

"Do we have a battery powered radio?" he asked. "Do we need a cell phone plus our two-way radios? Should a custodian shut off both the gas and

electricity in a tornado or should that responsibility be split?"

The Littleton situation has influenced a possible change in the evacuation process. The current system has the students left outside during a fire or bomb threat. A potential change could have students meeting in another building close by where they will be accounted for.

Treating the reaction to suicide or accidental deaths of students is also covered by the current plan, with help available from the Goodland Ministerial Alliance, High Plains Mental Health, the school counselor and other volunteer organizations.

"This is a touchy item," Swager said. "We live in a pretty trusting society and, until just recently, an intruder plan was not necessary. Schools have always been a safe place for our kids and I believe that Goodland High School is a safe place. We just need to make an addition to our crisis list."



Swager



Goodland High School officials are revising their crisis plan.

## Session down to last bills

TOPEKA (AP) — House leaders hoped to end the Legislature's debate on transportation, and a bill that overhauls the state's higher education system is headed for enactment.

Gov. Bill Graves and legislators have made transportation the biggest issue of the Legislature's wrap-up session, which entered its third day. House approval is all Graves' plan needs, having passed the Senate two days ago.

The governor's plan would finance nearly \$12.6 billion worth of highway, airport, public transit and short line railroad improvements. It would increase gasoline and diesel fuel taxes by 4 cents a gallon over five years and permit the state to issue \$995 million in bonds.

The bill also would increase the amount of sales tax revenue the state diverts to transportation projects by \$86 million a year, or \$862 million over the program's 10-year life.

As big as the new transportation plan would be, House Speaker Robin Jennison, R-Healy, suggested that the passage of the higher education bill will have longer-lasting effects.

The legislation is the culmination of more than two decades of studies, most resulting in frustration and a lack of change. The legislation is designed to make the higher education system more efficient.

The Senate voted 26-13 Thursday to approve a compromise version of the bill drafted by a conference committee of three senators and three House members. The House passed it on Wednesday, 78-43.

Graves plans to sign the bill. It will put the state's six universities, Washburn University of Topeka, 19 community colleges and 11 vocational-technical schools and technical colleges under a reconstituted Board of Regents.

The Legislature's progress in resolving major issues raised prospects that the wrap-up session could adjourn Saturday. That would be the wrap-up's fourth day, and the session's 90th day.

However, legislators still have to decide how much to increase spending on public elementary, junior high and high schools and finish work on the last budget bill, the Omnibus Appropriations Act.

The higher education bill is supposed to lead to better coordination between institutions, less duplications of programs and property tax relief in many communities.

"Now, when someone asks who speaks for higher education in Kansas, the answer will be the Board of Regents, for they truly will represent all sectors of the higher education community," said Sen. Christine Downey, D-Newton, one of the plan's authors.

Opposition came from Johnson County senators, who listened to Johnson County Community College fears about losing control over its programs. Other senators opposed the bill because of the money it would take to put into effect and provide property tax relief — \$170 million over five years.

## Going up piece by piece



The construction of the new half-million-gallon water tower at the southwest corner of Goodland continues, with the work to be completed by the middle of July. The tower is being built by Pitt-DeMoine of Pittsburgh.

Photo by Keith Lippoldt/Goodland Daily News

## Give and take fuels negotiations

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

Proposals and counterproposals were presented during the fourth negotiation session between the Goodland School Board and the National Education Association held Thursday afternoon at the district offices.

Presentations of proposals from the teachers took most of the 95-minute session, including items on noon recess supervision, extra duty pay, supplemental contracts and two on teacher duty days.

The session opened with the teachers offering the first counterproposal to a proposal from the board negotiating team dealing with lunchroom supervision.

The board proposal was to delete all of the provision except one sentence which would say, "Teachers who volunteer and are assigned to lunchroom supervision shall receive a free lunch."

Mary Porterfield, head of the teacher negotiating team presented the counter proposal, "Lunchroom supervision is a voluntary duty. Teachers who supervise the lunchroom shall receive a free lunch. These lunches may be used at the discretion of the teacher."

Porterfield said the language about the lunches is similar to what is used in the section about noon recess which says the teacher is to receive a free lunch, and may be used at the discretion of the teacher.

"We are not suggesting the lunches could be turned in for cash or anything like that," she said, "but feel the teacher could give it to a student or be used by children of the teacher if the teacher did not choose to use the lunch themselves."

"How many teachers use the free lunch now," ask Kathy Russell, school board member and head of the district negotiation team. "How many students are there who might need a free lunch who don't now qualify?"

Porterfield said she did not have those exact numbers, but suggested most of the youngsters below high school who qualified were enrolled in the free lunch program. There were no

additional questions and Russell said they would look at the proposal.

The next teacher proposal dealt with noon recess supervision, and Porterfield said the purpose was to clarify the language and still allow the building principals to determine how many staff members are needed.

Based on the proposal, the building principal would develop a schedule for noon recess and teachers could volunteer by signing up and indicating how many days each was willing to supervise.

"If sufficient volunteers are not available, the principal may assign a certified staff member," is says.

The proposal also says that only one teacher will be on duty at the elementary schools, and no more than two at the secondary buildings. The proposed change would put more emphasis on the volunteers and on other staff rather than on the teachers. Under the proposal, the principal could decide that three people are needed to supervise noon recess, but if there were not enough volunteers, he could only assign one teacher to the duty.

Superintendent Marvin Selby asked how frequently teachers have noon recess duty. At the elementary level, it was about once every two weeks. Selby asked Junior High Principal Jim Mull what the schedule there and Mull said the teachers have duty at least once a week, but twice a week about every other week. This was due to the smaller staff and having two lunch hours. At the high school there are two teachers and two volunteers every day.

On the subject of extra duty pay, the teachers had proposed increasing the pay to \$10 per hour, and are asking to have language about the family all-sports pass clarified. Porterfield distributed a memo from Richard Liess, activities director, which was sent to the building principals in August.

"We are concerned the language in the memo does not comply with the current language in the agreement," Porterfield said.

"That is not the official position of the

See TEACHERS, Page 3

## Students will parade finery for the whole town

By Janet Craft

Goodland Daily News

Saturday night will be the time for the guys and gals to dress up in fancy clothes and look their best for the Goodland High School Prom.

The Prom will again be held at the Elks Lodge this year and the theme is "Secret Garden." It will begin with a banquet at 6 p.m., followed by a short program.

The Promenade, at the Max Jones Fieldhouse, will start about 7:30 p.m. Sarah Short, one of the junior class sponsors, said the event started in 1992 because people wanted to see the students in their fancy attire. Before that, she said, people used to line up in cars by the Elks just to see what the students going to

Prom were wearing, so the school decided to have them present themselves to the public.

People can also take pictures at the fieldhouse. Students come in the main entrance and are announced, then march down to the floor and line up. Afterward, they go back to the Elks.

The Junior class puts on the Prom for the Senior class. The juniors plan the theme for the event and then meet at the Elks Lodge at 7 a.m. on Saturday to decorate. They earn the money for Prom by selling magazines in the fall.

There are about a dozen junior class parents involved with helping at the Prom. A few help with getting food put on the plates, with select sophomores

serving the upperclassmen.

Then some parents park vehicles and others keep the keys. One parent gathers and organizes pictures (a senior one and a baby one) of the seniors for Memory Lane. Another videotapes the prom goers at the Promenade and when they arrive at the dance.

Other adults invited to the Prom are the junior and senior class sponsors, the school superintendent, and the high school principal and assistant principal. Two school board members and their spouses are also invited.

The Prom ends at midnight, but students who leave before then are not allowed to return to cut down on drinking and other problems which might crop up.