

weather report ?

Teachers, board move toward agreement

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

After more than three hours of negotiations Wednesday night, the Goodland School Board and National Education Association had reached tentative agreement on several items, but a final agreement eluded the sides.

The school board had presented a package offer on all of the major points, but the teachers were not ready to accept it. Another session was scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 7.

Included in the board's offer is a salary schedule which guarantees each teacher a raise of at least \$1,000 a year, and raises the beginning base by that amount. Kathy Russell, school board team leader, said the increase to the base was necessary to bring Goodland up to be more competitive in seeking teachers.

"We are going to be looking for 12 to 13 new teachers this year, and there are 23 teachers who

will be eligible to retire in the next two years," she said. "In comparing the raises over the past five years, the base is losing out with an average of 1 1/2 percent while the top end has averaged an increase of 3 1/2 percent. We feel this increase in the base is a must to attract new teachers to the district."

The remainder of the package, which included the areas of tentative agreement, detailed board proposals responding to each of the 16 items from the Goodland teacher's union and 12 counter proposals from the school board.

After going through the package point by point, the teachers requested time to caucus, and after about 30 minutes they returned to say they needed



Russell



Porterfield

additional time to consider the whole package. The teachers proposed meeting on Monday, but since the two sides are going to request an extension of time to negotiate after June 1, it was decided to not interfere with the Memorial Day holiday.

In opening the session Monday, Mary Porterfield, leader of the teacher's negotiating team, said they had four proposals they would consider reaching tentative agreement on and also had several counterproposals to offer.

The first item which Porterfield suggested tentative agreement on included the school board proposal on extra duty pay, which was presented last week and sets the rate at 50 cents an hour over minimum wage. That is effectively a 50-cent-per-

hour raise, and clarifies the language on free family passes. Russell, head of the school board team, accepted the tentative agreement on this item.

Lunchroom supervision was the second area Porterfield suggested tentative agreement on, and it was accepted by Russell. This clarifies the fact a teacher who volunteers for lunchroom duty may have a free meal, and the meal can be used or given away at the discretion of the teacher.

The third area of agreement was over removing an article dealing with special training for teachers on how to handle special classroom situations. The current contract says training will be offered yearly and the costs to be paid by the board. It was agreed that the training can be handled on an as-needed basis.

Procedures which would be used if the school board is required to do a reduction in force was

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Man and machine



The huge concrete paving machines are working their way eastward between Goodland and Edson laying a new ribbon of highway, but when a bridge is approached the larger machines give way to the more manual

efforts. A concrete crew from Koss Construction, Topeka, works the concrete into the mat of reinforcing rods on the west approach to the overpass at the west Goodland exit. Photo by Tom Betz / Goodland Daily News

New wheat variety set for release

By Roxana Hegeman

Associated Press Writer

HAYS — A Kansas farm tradition gave way to the future Wednesday at the annual showcase event of the wheat industry's latest research.

The renamed Kansas White Wheat Day featured hard white winter wheats, including Trego, the newest white variety expected to be publicly released later this year.

Kansas, which has made its reputation as breadbasket of the world by growing hard red wheat, has been working for years to breed a white wheat demanded by Asian and global markets, mostly for noodles and pasta.

Now it is up to the farmers to make the change and industry experts to figure out the best way to market it.

"Things are happening so fast we cannot get left out of those changes," Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer told a group of about 250 growers.

Kansas farmers have to keep the markets they now have, recapture lost markets and find new opportunities, Sherrer said.

Farmers still hope to harvest this spring between 10,000 to 12,000 bushels of foundation seed from three white wheat varieties, including the two released last fall and the new release this year, said Kansas State University researcher Ron Madl.

But the state's timetable for the wheat shift took a hit from the hail storms which raked across Kansas last week.

One of the seven seed plots planted by Ag Vantage IP Inc. suffered an estimated 50 percent loss from the storms, Madl said.

"Any loss is significant because we are working at making decisions now for this position," Madl said. "They had a specific plan and now they are backing out and reanalyzing those numbers."

About 5 percent of the Kansas wheat crop will be hard white wheat by the fall of 2000, said Scott Friedlund, wheat manager for Farmland Industries in Kansas City.

That will grow to 20 percent by the year 2001 and the majority of the Kansas wheat crop is expected to be white wheat within five years, he said.

"Kansas has a real opportunity to make a fundamental change in wheat production and lead the way for all states in the country," said Tom Redman, general manager of Right Co-op Association in Wright, Kan.

If farmers can get 25 cents a bushel more to produce white wheat, that would yield between \$1.5 million and \$2 million in additional income for farmers in the Wright area alone.

Most of the white wheat would be shipped overseas, particularly to Asian markets where it is in demand for making noodles.

But the domestic milling markets are less enthusiastic about paying higher prices for white wheat when they are geared to use red wheat.

"Over the long term, white wheat is absorbed in the industry very readily, but not with an extra premium," said David Green, director of quality control at ADM Milling in Overland Park.

One thing that makes white wheat appealing to bakers is that children tend to prefer white bread and the new white wheat flour would give them that along with the extra fiber of whole grains.

local markets

Fair board getting new 'spruced up' look

By Charlie Baker

Goodland Daily News

Gearing up for the Sherman County Fair, fair board members are sprucing up the livestock pavilion with new pens.

The board also poured a new concrete floor for the pens, with a walkway down the middle. The steel pens were built by students from the Northwest Kansas Technical School.

"It is great experience for the students," said Dennis Bentzinger, welding instructor at the school. "They work on the project from start to finish."

The students have to solve the problems they encounter on their own, he added.

Using the students to build the pens saved the board money, but the materials are still expensive. It costs about \$125 for each pen. To pay for the pens, the board is asking businesses, clubs, and groups to sponsor a pen. They will place a gold plaque with the sponsor's name on each one.

There are still about 20 hog pens and 14 lamb pens that need sponsors, said Colleen Smith, a fair board member.

The tradition of a free community barbecue that First National Bank started will be revived by the fair board and area businesses this year. Plans for the free barbecue, scheduled to precede Family Fun Day, Friday, Aug. 13, include baked beans, sloppy joes and chips. State Rep. Jim Morrison is planning to attend the picnic while in Goodland.

Donations of time, food and money toward the picnic are needed.

The livestock pavilion at the fairgrounds has room for 40 inside booths. About 75 percent of these are already booked, so anyone interested in booking a booth for the fair should contact a fair board member or the county extension office.

Fair board members are Smith, Lori Leonard, Terry Taylor, Perry Lohr, Steve Duell, Dave Dorn and President Steve Evert.



Board members get ready for this year's fair, move new pens into pavilion while Bentzinger directs traffic.

Photo by Charlie Baker/Goodland Daily News

Whirlwind tour relaxes in Goodland

By Charlie Baker

Goodland Daily News

Goodland succeeded in slowing down the "KU Whirlwind" for a brief, relaxing evening, thanks to the staff at the Comfort Inn, Chamber of Commerce, Anthony's Restaurant, and the town's pleasant, helpful people.

Erin Spiridigliozzi, director of the University of Kansas Wheat State Whirlwind bus tour, said it was a welcome break.

The idea of the tour, named Whirlwind because it will cover over 1,700 miles in five days, is to give faculty members an understanding of the state they teach in. Many are not from Kansas, and some have been at the university only a short time. The goal is that when a student says they are from a small town in rural Kansas, the teacher

will know something about that part of the state.

When the group arrived at the motel Wednesday evening, they found a gift basket waiting in each room, compliments of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce. They then left for dinner at Anthony's.

"I was amazed," said Dann Hayes, from the University Relations department. "The food was excellent, we really enjoyed it." The group enjoyed the break since



Spiridigliozzi

they are covering so much territory in such a short time. Spiridigliozzi noted that less than 75 of the miles would be on the Interstate.

"We are taking the back roads, meeting the people of Kansas," he said.

"We have been on Kansas highways, gravel roads, we even got our van stuck on a dirt road at Medicine Lodge," she said.

From Goodland they are heading to the historic black settlement of Nicodemus, then to Logan, then on to Fort Hays State University.

The group will visit several ranches on Friday, the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve, and finally arrive home around 10 p.m.

"The tour is exhausting," said Spiridigliozzi, "but when a student says, 'I am from Penokee,' I can say, 'Oh yeah, I know where that is.'"

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Congress acts on security

WASHINGTON — Congress is moving quickly on legislation to beef up security at nuclear weapons labs and to impose new restrictions on technology exports in the aftermath of a House report on alleged Chinese espionage.

Debate was expected in both the House and Senate today on a raft of measures prompted by Tuesday's report by a special bipartisan House panel.

"We can't let that kind of technology slip out again," said House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill.

Both houses are expected to attempt to attach amendments related to the China inquiry to bills authorizing \$288.8 billion in defense spending for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

"We need a counterintelligence program that works," said Rep. John Spratt, D-S.C., appearing on PBS' "NewsHour With Jim Lehrer."

Stronger meth laws coming

TOPEKA (AP) — To law enforcement officials, the message behind the state's new law against making methamphetamine is clear enough: If you want to make meth, don't come to Kansas.

The biggest headache for officials is that the illegal drug can be made just about anywhere with ingredients legally purchased at various stores. When the new law takes effect July 1, Kansas will have beefed up penalties to match surrounding states.

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation says 238 meth labs have been seized in the state as of May 20, compared to 189 for all of 1998.