

Board to discuss Edson gym

The Goodland School Board on Monday will discuss hiring a project manager to oversee a re-modeling project at the high school, allowing religious groups to meet on school property and selling the Edson school's gymnasium.

The board will meet at 7 p.m. at the administration office, 1312 Main, to review bids from contractors who want to manage the re-modeling of the school's second floor, where this summer construction workers will build new science classrooms.

Members will also revisit an offer a group living in Edson made a year ago to buy the gymnasium at the school, which is closed, for \$1,000. The Goodland District owns the gym and allows student athletes to practice there.

The group said they want to hold community events in the gym and would allow the district access.

The board put off a decision for a year to review the cost of owning the gym and allow the group time to raise money.

The board will review, for a second time, a revised policy that says religious groups can hold events on school property. The former policy barred administrators from

allowing religious groups in, but members decided that was discriminatory.

In other business, the board will:

- Review bids the school district gathered on two new suburbans, three new trucks and one school bus.
- Present a "Friend of Education" award to Mazie Sutton, a Goodland woman who has been involved in school activities, and a "Office Professional of the Year" award to Bonnie Smith, who works at the district administration office.
- Hear a report from Gerald Franklin, who represents the district on the Northwest Kansas Technical College board.

Funds being collected for new park

PARK, from Page 1

forts, there was \$65,800 pledged to the project.

The city and state are contributing about \$300,000 to the park, which includes ponds, fountains, an ice skating rink and a walking trail, but the total price is \$600,000.

"You can't go home with a frown on your face when you raise that kind of money," he said.

He said six youths, Alyssa Mason, Darin Richardson, Bryce Abbey, Lacy Stephens, Holly Stephens and Andra Townsend, are selling buffalo products to raise money for the park. He said Ken and Laurie Klemm, owners of a

buffalo ranch northeast of Goodland, had offered to donate a share of sales to the project.

If people are interested in buying the buffalo products, they can contact any of the youths or Tromble.

City Manager Ron Pickman said he had submitted an application for a \$100,000 grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing, Travel and Tourism Division to help with the park. He said he had to send the application in before the commissioners met because it was due Monday.

Pickman said as part of the grant guidelines, the city would have to raise \$201,000 from local funds. This

amount would decrease as money is raised by the park committee, Pickman said.

Commissioner Rick Billinger said the city wouldn't have to do the work in the park master plan, which engineers have already designed, all at once.

"If we don't get the money now," Pickman said, "then we can scale back the project and phase-in other plans when the money does become available."

Pickman said he thought the city would probably have until September to come up with the \$201,000. The commissioners approved applying for the tourism grant.

Pooch snatched out of police protection

OVERLAND PARK (AP) — Jasmine the puppy suffered a dog-year's worth of bad luck one recent night.

First, police arrested her owner after a disturbance at an Overland Park convenience store Sunday night.

A police officer tied Jasmine's leash to the door while he made arrangements with the owner's brother,

so the puppy wouldn't have to go to doggie jail.

While the officer was filling out paperwork inside the store, a couple stopped in to ask whether the dog, an 8-week-old chow-Rottweiler mix, had been abandoned.

The officer told the man and woman he was arranging for the dog's care.

As the woman walked out the door, police say she cut Jasmine's collar and ran off with the puppy.

The officer's view was blocked by a store rack, so he didn't know the pooch's plight until he went outside and found only a cut collar at the end of a leash.

As of Wednesday, police were still looking for Jasmine.

Legislators not enthused about tax hike

BUDGET, from Page 1

mittee. "Those are clumsy and lazy cuts."

Graves proposed — and the bill sent to him Thursday contemplates — spending more than \$4.66 billion from the state general fund. It holds most of the state's tax revenues and is the largest source of money for government programs.

The increase would be \$230 million,

or 5.2 percent.

But without increasing taxes or raiding other funds, the state would be able to increase its spending by \$45 million — or only 1 percent.

The fact that general fund appropriations still would be greater than in fiscal 2001 has some legislators, particularly conservative Republicans, looking for savings.

"It's a cut in the increase, not a cut in spending," said Rep. Melvin

Neufeld, R-Ingalls, an Appropriations Committee member.

But some legislators want to increase spending on public schools, and the state is obligated to keep up with the demand for some social services. Graves also proposed a 3 percent pay raise for government workers.

The pressure for new spending has some legislators looking for ways to raise money.

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