

The Goodland Daily News

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Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

50¢

weather report

54°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 7:40 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 5:46 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:41 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 63 degrees
- Humidity 41 percent
- Sky overcast
- Winds northeast 30-40 mph
- Barometer 29.94 inches and falling
- Record High 94° (1965)
- Record Low 23° (1967)

Last 24 Hours*

High	91°
Low	56°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy, 70 percent chance of rain, low mid 30s, north east wind 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: 90 percent chance of rain, high mid 40s, low mid 30s, northeast wind 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday: rain likely, high 50s. Saturday: high 60s, low 40s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- New wheat — \$2.89 bushel
 - Current wheat — \$2.87 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.85
 - Corn — \$1.87 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.70
 - Loan deficiency payment — 29¢
 - Milo — \$2.98 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$3.86 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.73
 - Loan deficiency payment — \$1.17
 - Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil new crop — \$5.95 cwt.
 - Oil current crop — \$6.65 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.21
 - Confection current — \$00/\$0 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$14 (new crop)
- (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigo Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Bush quiet about defense

WASHINGTON — President Bush offered few details in committing the United States to building a defense against ballistic missile attack, but said enough to stir critics and require him to tend to unsettled allies.

"We fear the president may be buying a lemon here," said Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota. "There has not been a shred of evidence that this works."

"It's really hard to tell what he means and what his strategy really is," Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., said. If Bush finally comes down in favor of a multiple-defense system using land, sea and space, it could cost up to \$1 trillion, said Biden, who is the senior Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Biden said he would support research and development on a theater missile defense.



Clients of Golden West Skills Center have been training to compete in the Special Olympics. Mali Durland, a Golden West employee, coaxed Renda Nemechek around the high school track Tuesday as she practiced for the 400-meter race. Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Special Olympians gird for competition

Athletes practice for annual event this weekend

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Fourteen clients from Golden West Skills Center will compete Saturday in the Special Olympics Kansas West Spring Games at Garden City, striving to do their best as they walk, run, race wheelchairs and throw a softball or shot.

Opening ceremonies will start at 9:30 a.m. and closing ceremonies will take place at 2:30 p.m. Dennis Daise, day services director at the center, has organized the residents for the event. He said they have been training for the last month and a half at the Goodland High School track.

Daise said employees have helped the participants practice their events and have volunteered to take them to Saturday's competition.

Julie Christians, one of the employees who has been helping with practice, said they usually practice for about an hour in the afternoon on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Participant Carrie Babcock said this



Carrie Babcock threw a softball Tuesday afternoon at the Goodland High School track as she practiced for a Special Olympics event.

is her first year in the competition since she has been in Goodland, but she competed at the Special Olympics in Hays.

"I was out three years in a row," she said, adding that she is looking forward to Saturday's event.

"I'm excited," she said. "I hope we

take first. I can't wait to go."

Babcock said she likes competing in the race walk because it gives her more to do. She said she does it for the team and the people who can't go.

"I'm glad that I get to go out for something like this," she said.

Other competitors include Susan Colby, Sam Deyo, Dan Dorn, Michelle Elliott, Richard Haight, Chet Hatfield, Virgil Leak, Leslie Marchbanks, Mike Medlin, Don Nally, Renda Nemechek, Wesley Strange and Mike Stock. Most have gone to Special Olympics before, Daise said.

Babcock will be in the 100 and 400 meter race walks and the softball throw; Colby the 100 and 400 meter race walks, the softball throw and the shotput; Deyo the 200 and 400 meter races; Dorn the 50 and 100 meter races and the softball throw; Elliott the 100 and 400 meter race walks and the softball throw; Haight the softball throw; Hatfield the 50, 200 and 400 meter races and the softball throw; Leak the 25 and 100 meter manual wheelchair race; Marchbanks the 10 and 25 meter assisted walk; Medlin the 10 and 25 meter assisted walk; Nally the softball throw; Nemechek the 400 meter race walk; Strange the softball throw; and Stock the 50 and 100 meter races and the softball throw.

Budget talks stalled over school finance

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Legislators broke off negotiations on the state budget after the talks became tangled in efforts to raise taxes, increase school spending and expand gambling.

Three senators and three House members had been negotiating for four days, trying to agree on a bill for closing a \$206 million gap between expected revenues and spending already approved for the state's 2002 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

The negotiators said repeatedly they were making slow progress in sorting through proposals to trim spending and find new revenues without increasing taxes.

But as they talked Tuesday, other legislators began working on a new school finance package.

The budget lawmakers already approved for fiscal 2002 includes an increase of \$67 million for public schools, but Gov. Bill Graves and many lawmakers view that as not enough. Even with that extra money, about 130 school districts would lose money because of declining enrollment.

Senate President Dave Kerr said Tuesday night that supporters of increased education spending have pulled gambling into the debate.

He said some senators are working

on proposals to legalize slot machines at dog and horse tracks or have the Kansas Lottery operate video gambling machines at clubs, taverns or convenience stores.

He said under such a plan, part of the money would go to schools and the rest to social services.

"We're going to afford them the opportunity for another vote on education, and then we'll see whether or not they're ready to close down the session," said Kerr, R-Hutchinson.

Conservative legislators, who thought they'd prevented a tax increase — as well as expanded gambling — were disgusted.

"I think people will be furious," said Sen. Tim Huelskamp, R-Fowler. "All of this is about raising taxes."

This was the eighth day since legislators returned from their annual spring break and the 93rd calendar day of their legislative session. Only three times have legislators taken longer after their break to wrap up business — in 1990, 1991 and 1992.

House members thought senators had settled their debate on school finance early Saturday, when the Senate approved a bill requiring only the \$67 million increase for schools. The House's budget assumed the same in-

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Landfill designer leaves old post

Commissioners decide to hire new firm while dirt work continues

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

While work is nearing completion on the first cell of Sherman County's new landfill, the engineer who designed it has left his old firm for a new one, leaving county officials to decide who should finish the project.

Road and Bridge Superintendent Curt Way told commissioners that engineer Mark McMullen had left Terranext, the Lakewood, Colo., firm that the county has been working with for the past three years.

McMullen has joined American Environmental Consultants, another Denver area firm, and Way said the county should consider moving its business to the new firm.

"I felt it would be better not to create any problems with the landfill project," Way said, "since we are working on the excavation of the first cell and McMullen is the man who has been the person we have been working with."

Way asked that if the commissioners agreed, they would send a letter to Terranext saying they were changing to the new firm and asking that all documents and test results be sent to McMullen at the new location.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure made a motion to send the letter to Terranext and approve moving to American



Scrapers from Grasser Construction are close to the bottom of the first cell at the new Sherman County landfill south of Goodland. Road and Bridge Supervisor Curt Way (left) and project foreman Dan Fletcher of Stratton, Colo., talked about the progress the crew is making on Monday. Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

Environmental Consulting. Commissioner Mitch Tiede second the motion and with Chairman Chuck Frankenfeld's vote, it was unanimous.

Thinking about the budget, the commissioners talked to County Clerk Janet Rumpel about having individual sessions with each department head rather than a joint session. They suggested that it would also be good if a commissioner could sit in

Board says no to ideas

Team won't discuss aides, class size limit

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

At the third teacher contract meeting of the year Monday, the Goodland School Board negotiating team withdrew a proposal to offer new teachers \$2,000 signing bonuses, saying state cuts could leave the district in financial crisis.

Teacher union negotiators presented some new proposals, including a plan to form committees to make schools safer, hiring more teacher aides and putting a limit on class sizes. However, the board team said they don't want the items included in the 2001-2002 contract, and legally they don't have to talk about them.

The big issues of pay and benefits were still on the back burner as the district waits for the state Legislature to decide on a school finance bill. The sides decided to meet again Monday, hoping they'll have an idea then of the district's budget.

Kathy Russell, head of the board's four-member team, said if lawmakers pass the finance bill as it is, the district will be facing a financial crisis.

Legislators are considering a \$2.26 billion education bill that would increase the minimum amount the state pays for each student next year by \$50 to \$3,870. Also, the state will most likely allow districts with declining enrollments — like Goodland — to use numbers from the previous year when figuring state aid.

But Superintendent Marvin Selby said it won't be enough. Because enrollment has been steadily declining each year, he said, the district would still lose about \$9,500 next year, and the problem will keep getting worse.

In March, Selby reported, the district lost 13 students for a total of 54 this school year.

Russell said with increases in salaries and health insurance rates, and skyrocketing gas prices, the district could be low on cash next year.

"We don't feel like we need to be adding to the problem," she said, noting that if legislators pay schools more, the board might consider offering new teachers the bonuses again.

Selby said in an earlier meeting that the bonuses could be the key to getting

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