

**weather report**

**45°**

**at noon**



**Today**

• Sunset, 7:41 p.m.

**Tomorrow**

• Sunrise, 5:45 a.m.  
• Sunset, 7:42 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil Temperature 53 degrees
- Humidity 89 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds northeast 16 mph
- Barometer 30.17 inches and falling
- Record High 93° (1949)
- Record Low 26° (1954)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High 59°  
Low 45°  
Precipitation trace

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: 80 percent chance of rain, low 40, northeast wind 10-20 mph.  
Tomorrow: Cloudy, 100 percent chance of rain, high 50, low 40, northeast wind 10-20 mph.

**Extended Forecast**

Saturday and Sunday: chance of thunderstorms, high 60s, low 40s.  
Monday: dry, high 60s, low 40.

(National Weather Service)

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

**local markets**

**Noon**

- Current wheat — \$2.83 bushel
  - New wheat — \$2.85 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$2.81
  - Corn — \$1.86 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$1.73
  - Loan deficiency payment — 26¢
  - Milo — \$2.96 hundredweight
  - Soybeans — \$3.83 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$3.76
  - Loan deficiency payment — \$1.14
  - Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight
  - Sunflowers
  - Oil current crop — \$6.60 cwt.
  - Oil new crop — \$5.90 cwt.
  - Loan deficiency prmt. — \$3.21
  - Confection current — \$15/\$7 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.**

**GOP poised to pass budget**

WASHINGTON — Republicans are poised to shove a 2002 budget through Congress with most of the big tax cut President Bush proposed and more spending for prescription drugs and other programs that he wants.

GOP leaders planned to muscle a compromise House-Senate fiscal blueprint through both chambers on Thursday. Congressional passage and a triumph for Bush's budget goals seemed assured, they said, thanks to concessions Bush made to Senate moderates to temper the tax reductions and his calls for spending restraint.

At the White House on Wednesday, Bush touted the deal as containing "the largest tax cut in a generation and reasonable levels of spending." He said it represented the fruit of bipartisan cooperation.

The budget would permit a \$1.35 trillion tax cut over 11 years.

## Negotiators to resume budget talks

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Legislators hope to start untangling the knot of spending, tax and policy issues preventing them from tying together a plan to solve the state's budget problems.

Three senators and three House members planned to resume budget negotiations today. Their work followed Gov. Bill Graves' meeting Wednesday night with Senate President Dave Kerr and House Speaker Kent Glasscock.

Graves; Kerr, R-Hutchinson; and Glasscock,

R-Mahattan, spent more than two hours in Kerr's office, discussing budget issues. However, they emerged without a specific plan.

"I was sworn to secrecy," Graves told reporters afterward. "We made a lot of progress — very encouraging."

The meeting came after frustrated legislators spent much of Wednesday swapping rumors about plans to increase taxes and expand gambling.

"Until the final gavel sounds, everything is in play," said Sen. David Adkins, R-Leawood, one of the budget negotiators. "The smell of desper-

ation is in the air."

Negotiators began meeting Saturday to draft the final version of a bill closing a \$206 million gap between expected revenues and spending already approved for the fiscal year that starts July 1.

But they broke off Tuesday night because some senators, led by Majority Leader Lana Oleen, wanted another chance at passing tax increases and raising more money for public schools.

Legislators said proposals to expand gambling were also being considered, as a possible way to attract support for a significant increase in school

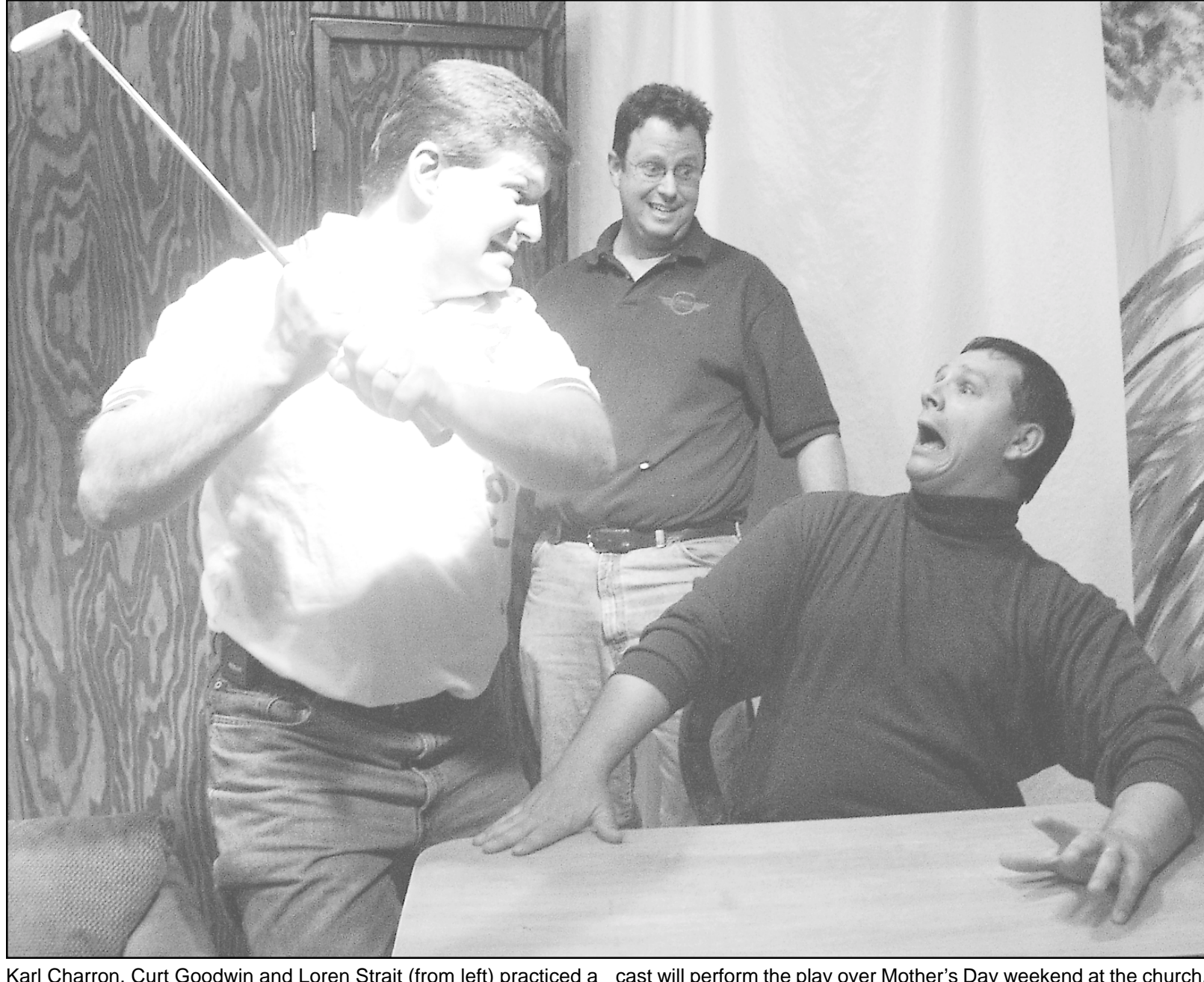
money.

School supporters were trying to woo Democrats by offering additional money for services for the disabled — as much as \$21 million.

But even resolving all those issues might not be enough to smooth the way for a budget agreement.

The negotiators still must decide how to spend money from the state's share of a national settlement of tobacco litigation. In 1999, law-

See BUDGET, Page 7



Karl Charron, Curt Goodwin and Loren Strait (from left) practiced a scene from the murder mystery "Much Ado About Murder" on Wednesday night at the Goodland United Methodist Church. A nine-member

cast will perform the play over Mother's Day weekend at the church. Tickets are on sale for the dinner theatre, sponsored by the Goodland Arts Council. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

## Murder mystery cast to include audience

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland Arts Council is preparing for the annual Mother's Weekend Dinner Theatre, as cast members slip into characters in an "interactive" murder mystery, where audience members play the detectives.

"I think it's going to be an excellent production," director Annette Fairbanks said, noting that the cast has spent two months rehearsing.

The play, "Much Ado About Murder," will be put on at the United Methodist Church fellowship hall, 12th and Sherman, at 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 11-12, and at 2:30 p.m. that Sunday, May 13.

Fairbanks said there will be some audience participation, but the cast

won't ask audience members questions and they won't be forced to speak if they would rather not.

Audience members will be able to inspect the clue-rich murder room during intermission and will be able to ask the characters questions at the end of the play. Rebecca Downs, director of the Carnegie Arts Center, said it will be a fun challenge to try to solve the crime.

"I think the audience will be surprised at what people in the community can do as far as acting," Fairbanks said. "There's a lot of talent here."

The cast includes past players Curt Goodwin as Steven MacDonald, Jessica Cole as Jolene Larraby, Loren Strait as Malcolm Larraby, Karl Charron as Leslie Larraby and Deb

Lucas as Wesley Larraby. New players include Brian Linin as Mr. Hawker, Evelyn Hernandez as Blanche Larraby, Mari Armstrong as Lillian Demonde and Colleen Brooks as Kimberly Trent.

Evening tickets, \$25 for arts council members and \$30 for non-members, can be purchased at the Carnegie Arts Center, Klip n' Kurl Salon and Mr. Jim's His Shop.

The price includes dinner, except on Sunday, when desserts will be served instead. Ticket prices for the Sunday matinee are \$25 for non-members and \$20 for members.

Fairbanks said the cast has been practicing a couple of times a week for eight weeks. She said it can be hard to find actors because of the time com-

mitment.

"It's been lots of fun," she said, "but it takes a real dedication."

Dinner will include salad, sliced round eye served with new red potatoes dressed in herbs, steamed carrots with greens and blueberry cheese cake for dessert, catered by Elly's Fine Dining and Catering of Oakley.

Sherman County's Avonel Spomer will make a selection of cakes, fruits and sweets on Sunday.

Guests may buy long-stemmed roses during the evening for their mother or guest. The arts council is asking that reservations be made by Friday, but tickets may be available until the day of the show.

For information, call the center at (785) 899-6442.

## Pentagon confuses officials

'Mistake' suspends all Chinese contracts

By Robert Burns

AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon complicated an already tense relationship with China by first telling officials that Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld had suspended all contacts with the Chinese military and then retracting the statement, which it called a misunderstanding.

On Monday, an official memorandum from Rumsfeld's office to senior military and civilian officials in the Pentagon said he had directed "the suspension of all Department of Defense programs, contacts and activities with the People's Republic of China until further notice."

Hours after the memo leaked Wednesday and was reported worldwide by U.S. news organizations, a spokesman for Rumsfeld, Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, said it was a mistake. In the interim, Quigley and other officials had struggled to explain the move, which appeared to catch the White House by surprise.

White House officials called the Pentagon and said the memo "sounds inconsistent with the secretary's policy," said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer. The spokesman would not say who made the calls.

Quigley told reporters that the Rumsfeld aide who wrote the memo had "misinterpreted the secretary's intentions" by declaring a suspension of military-to-military relations.

"His actual intention is for all elements of the military-to-military program to be reviewed and approved on a case by case basis by the Department of Defense," Quigley said several hours after the memo was leaked.

Quigley declined to say who wrote the memo. He said Rumsfeld had not seen it before it was sent to the military service secretaries, the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and senior civilian officials in the Pentagon.

Several officials told reporters that the order was to take effect Monday, the day it was distributed inside the Pentagon. Later, Quigley said that a corrected

See CHINA, Page 7



Sarah Borneman, a sixth grader at North Elementary School, sat in front of a cutout of a knight at the Medieval Mania fair in the school's lunchroom Tuesday. The sixth grade made displays focusing on life in the Middle Ages. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

## 'Medieval Mania' infects students

Sixth graders build people, castles and machines to celebrate Dark Ages

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

A knight, a jester and a peasant woman stared at sixth grade students clutching ribbons and dancing around a pole.

Cobblers, tailors and barristers led parents through castles they built and explained their family's coat of arms: a monkey symbolizing humor, a bear for strength, a cross religion and a drumstick for appetite.

Kids gathered in groups to talk about the bubonic plague, King Arthur and falconry.

They called it "Medieval Mania," but it was more organized than the name lets on.

Sixth graders at North Elementary School invited parents and friends to a fair celebrating the Middle Ages on Tuesday, showing off projects they worked on over the last six weeks.

Pam Hardy, one of four teachers who had their classes participate, said the idea is to incorporate all school subjects into one big project and then have students present their projects at a fair.

The sixth grade has put on a fair for three years, she said, changing the theme each time. She said students researched different years in the 20th century last year and inventors the year before.

For the medieval project, Hardy said, the sixth graders split into groups of four and created displays focusing on life in the Dark Ages. The displays included a banner symbolizing the talents of a medieval craft guild, a character cutout dressed as a medieval person, four machines that could be made and used in the Middle Ages, a castle model, four coats of arms representing family names and traits and four research papers.

Students set up their displays in the school lunchroom, each telling teachers, parents and fellow students about their medieval character, castle or topic and demonstrating their machines. Every few minutes, the kids would take a break to dance around the "Maypole" in the center of the room — recreating a medieval spring celebration.

Vanessa Crottinger said her favorite part of the project was doing the research paper.

Her group studied the bubonic plague, or black death.

"I couldn't believe how fast it traveled," she said, "and how it killed so many people in one year."

Crottinger said the plague, which fleas passed from the black German rat to humans, spread across Europe between Dec. 1347 and Dec. 1350, kill-

See MEDIEVAL, Page 7