

# School board sets budget for next year

SCHOOL, from Page 1

in from the state later.

Legally, Selby said, the state isn't allowed to spend the money unless it is budgeted. Not including the special education money, he said, the total budget increase is less than 1 percent.

"An increase of .626 mills barely shows up on the radar screen," member Ben Duell said, "when thinking about the total projects."

He said projects the district is working to finish now will go a long way in improving education in Goodland.

One of those projects is a major overhaul of Goodland High School's second floor in an effort to bolster the science program. The project will cost the district over \$800,000 and won't be finished until the end of the year, but Duell said it's worth it.

"I think this school district may be the envy of the entire state," he said.

In any case, Schilling said after the

meeting that he doesn't think the board should have raised taxes at all.

"I just didn't feel like this was the year to raise taxes," he said. "I didn't feel like we needed to burden taxpayers any more. Other government officials are raising taxes and the economy is taking a slide."

But Superintendent Marvin Selby said the small increase is needed to keep the district operating. With little help from the state, he said, the district is having to cover large increases in the cost of health insurance and annual salary raises.

Schools across the state say lawmakers passed an inadequate education finance bill this year, forcing districts to raise local property taxes to pay for operations.

While many districts are watching enrollment decline each year, Selby said during a break that in most cases those districts still need to pay the same number of teachers. A few students may leave from each grade level, he said, but not enough to warrant cutting a staff member.

He said, however, that the district has made significant cuts to avoid a large tax increase.

Responding to a question from a board member, Selby said the district has cut 1 1/2 staff positions, two jobs at the bus barn, \$10,000 from the technology and staff development budgets and 10 percent from the teachers' supply budget. He said that the district is close to having to close one of the school buildings to save money.

The board may have to raise property taxes again next year, Selby said, if the state doesn't give schools enough money. He said that's likely to happen.

"I see no indication we will get more state help," said Selby, a member of a group of administrators from across the state working on an education finance plan.

"It's not going to get any easier. In reality, we should be raising more taxes and putting some in capital outlay (used for major expenses) for next year."

# Board wants more for schools

EDUCATION , from Page 1

reach those goals.

"To say that this will lead to that, no one's done that before on this large of a scale," Tompkins said.

The request is built on goals the board adopted prior to approving the proposed budget — raising student scores on statewide testing, improving the graduation rate, improving minority student performance and improving the quality of teachers by boosting salary and training.

Board members also propose creating a health insurance plan for teachers at a cost of \$116.8 million. The plan would cover single premiums, with a dollar for dollar match with districts.

However, while teacher salaries and benefits will grab headlines, board member Bill Wagnon made it clear to colleagues that this plan was not de-

signed at the benefit of the teachers' union.

"We don't do these things for the teachers, we do them for the kids," Wagnon said.

Board members agreed, adding that with specific goals in place the board could do a more effective job in what is expected to be a tough sell to legislators.

This spring, legislators added \$67 million to school funding, but repeated efforts in the Senate to raise taxes for teacher salaries failed. Legislators also approved a study to determine the cost of a suitable education, which is not expected to be ready until March at the earliest.

The budget request had its objectors. Board members Steve Abrams and John Bacon cast the two "no" votes, using words like "foolish" and "irresponsible" to describe the plan.

"This is not the way I would ap-

proach this," Bacon said, citing the sluggish economy.

He said the plan was like "launching grenades" at the Legislature, waiting for them to slam the door shut and refuse any increase because of the plan's magnitude.

Abrams agreed, saying that a plan that sought 4 percent or 5 percent new money for education is realistic under current political and economic conditions.

Board member Val DeFever, who will be lobbying for the plan directly to legislators next session, acknowledged the difficulty in trying to sell the plan.

"But the needs haven't changed," DeFever said.

Mark Tallman, lobbyist for the Kansas Association of School Boards and member of School Finance Coalition, said the plan is a good step but stopped short of endorsing it.

# Commissioners say city could make cuts

CITY, from Page 1

Hurd said, because two of the commissioners would not approve the budget that originally called for a 5 mill increase. Those commissioners voted against the budget anyway, he added.

The general fund is the largest in the city budget and includes such general government expenses as police and fire protection, expenses of city government, and Steever Water Park and other city-owned parks.

The commission is expecting an increase of \$35,768 in expenditures in the general fund next year and has increased the property tax levy for that fund from 18.162 mills to 22.205 mills.

Other funds the city collects property tax to cover are bond and interest, library, employee benefits-city, employee benefits-library and airport.

Bond and interest is a fund for pay-

ing back the loans for street improvements done in 1995-96, City Manager Ron Pickman said, on Commerce Road, Second and 25th Streets, Arcade and Harrison Avenues and Toelkes Drive.

The fund has a \$77,015 increase in expenditures but a decrease of .498 mills in the tax levy, Pickman said, because there was money left from last year that will pay some of the expenses.

Employee benefits is another fund where city is also experiencing an increase in expenses but a decrease in the levy.

The levy is decreasing by 5.32 mills while the expenditures increased by \$94,992. There was also money left from last year in this fund, Pickman said.

Employee benefits-library has had an increase of \$823 in expenditures and a .01 mill increase in the tax levy while the library fund itself has had an increase of \$8,076 in ex-

penditures and a .12 mill increase in the tax levy.

No tax is being levied for the airport fund this year, but there will be 5.25 mills levied next year.

This is to replace money the city had put aside, City Clerk Mary Volk said, to meet the city's share of the cost of improvements for which it has applied for grants from the Federal Aviation Administration.

The improvements include runway relocation, taxiway and hangar apron expansion, replacement of the runway lights and snow removal equipment. If the grants are approved, she said, the city will pay \$305,147 for the improvements while the grants will pay \$2,746,232.

Noting the recent complaints from people about the city government, Hurd asked where these people were in April when the city elected new commissioners.

"I'll be looking for their names on the ballots in 2003," he said.

# Ping pong balls to race this weekend

PONG, from Page 1

the balls, which will be kept for the race

on Saturday. The race will begin at 10th and Main, where the ping pong balls will be dumped out of a box, and continue up

Main, powered by volunteers from both the city and county fire departments, spraying water from their hoses. The race will conclude at 13th.

The proceeds will go to cash prizes, 10 percent for the first ball across the finish line, 8 percent for the second and

7 percent for the third. The rest will go to the purchase of new seasonal banners to hang on Main Street.

"Odds of winning are better than the lottery," Swager said, "and the cash prize for first place could be more than \$100."

# Men arrested in Kanorado after fight Thursday

Three men were arrested after a fight Thursday on County Road 3 between Roads 60 and 61 in Kanorado.

The fight occurred near the Liven-good Shop, where two of the men work. A sheriff's department arrest report said that Benjamin Ramirez, 28, was arrested for aggravated battery, following

an altercation with Eraclio LeDesma, 26, and Antonio LeDesma, 34.

The younger LeDesma was arrested for aggravated intimidation of a witness, and the older one for battery.

They were taken in to custody and detained in jail Friday night. They were later released.

## Got Internet?

Check us out.

[www.goodlandnet.com](http://www.goodlandnet.com)

### The Goodland Daily News Service Directory • 785-899-2338

## Your KEY to business success.

Have your name up front when a customer needs you.  
Repetitive advertising is the key to opening the door to new customers.



Combined rates are available to feature your services in the Daily and The Country Advocate.

### McB's Motor Company

- Tire Sales & Service
- Most tires come with Road Hazard warning
- 24 Hour mobile tire service
- 24 Hour wrecker service • U-Haul dealer

421 E. 17th Street  
Goodland, KS 67735  
(785) 899-7375  
Fax: (785) 899-3959

YES!  
We're OPEN



## THE ANTIQUE WAREHOUSE

Antiques ♦ Collectibles ♦ Gifts

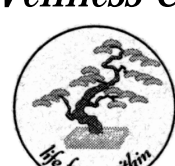


17th & Main - Goodland, Kan. 67735 - 785-899-5965  
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. MST • Sun. by chance

### Hayden Chiropractic & Wellness Center

Arin J. Hayden D.C.  
Judy Hayden, BEP II  
Body Scan 2010

(785) 899-9260  
(785) 899-9249 (fax)



1015 Main Street  
Goodland, Kan. 67735

## YOUR

ad could be here!

Call Doug, Bill or Eric at

# 899-2338

The Goodland Daily News

Stop by our newest location and check out our Mexico, Las Vegas, Hawaii, & Cruise Packages.

## ROUND TRIP TRAVEL

Full Service Travel Agency  
1302 Main • Goodland, KS 67735  
(785) 899-7505



### New System

Professional Window Cleaning  
Commercial • Residential

520 S. Mission Ridge • Colby, KS 67701

Call for your FREE estimate:  
785-462-6995 Chris & Beth  
800-611-6735 Lewon  
"We do windows!"

Now Scheduling Spring Cleaning!

 **Jones Land Company**  
Let us light your way...

### Residential Real Estate

**Farm and Ranch**

115 E. 9th • Goodland  
Office (785) 899-0500  
Toll Free 866-899-0555  
Joyce Boehme realtor  
Robert Jones owner/broker



### Get Movin'!



**WE HAVE THE PERFECT HOME LOAN FOR YOUR DREAM HOME.**

- Bi-Weekly Mortgage
- Adjustable Rate Mortgage
- Lock & Switch Mortgage
- POWER Pre-Approved Mortgage
- Cost Cutter Advantage
- Money Saver Mortgage

For more information call:




  
Monica Stramel  
**H.L. Financial, Inc.**  
1302 Main • Goodland, Kan. • (785) 899-3941

Have you heard about the 800 lb. Gorilla?

Call Doug, Bill or Eric for details!

# 899-2338

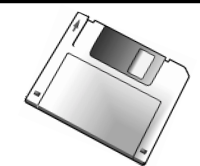


### The Framing Place

Custom Matting & Framing

- Artwork • Needlework
- Photos • Shadow Boxes
- Prints • Heirlooms

Behind the house at  
404 Main (785) 899-5528  
M-F 10-4 or by appointment



## nwkansas.com

Your local internet service provider with connections in Goodland.

Call (785) 899-2338 for information.

With monthly costs as low as

# \$16.50 per month!

We'll always be there for you.

LIFE • HOME • CAR • FARM • BUSINESS



**Jim Alcorn, Agent**  
1624 S. Main Street  
Goodland, KS 67735-0727  
Business: (785) 899-2553  
Home: (785) 899-3974  
[www.shelterinsurance.com](http://www.shelterinsurance.com)



## Hot Brush

Since 1974

### SIGNS-LETTERING & PINSTRIPES

Custom Vinyl & Painting

Box 309  
BIRD CITY, KS 67731  
FAX 785-734-2459

# 800-886-2423

### Coash

TV Audio Video Service  
Expert Electronic Repairs  
We Service TVs - VCRs - Camcorders - Computer Monitors - Satellite Systems - Stereos

Duane & Bertie Coash, Owners  
785-899-3378  
719-346-8145

## D & D Builders

Michael Downing  
General Contractor

Concrete Work • Patios & Decks  
• Garages & Etc. •  
• Remodels & Additions •

785-626-3529 or 785-626-0060

This space could be yours. Call Doug, Bill or Eric for Goodland Daily News and Country Advocate Service Directory Ads

### SNIDER'S

**MOBILE GLASS**

WINDSHIELDS  
No mileage charge  
**LOWEST PRICES ON**  
AUTO, TRUCK, TRACTOR GLASS

785-899-2753  
1-800-633-4277