

weather report

77°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:52 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:33 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:53 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 54 degrees
• Humidity 20 percent
• Sky mostly cloudy
• Winds south 30- 38 m.p.h.
• Barometer 29.93 inches and falling
• Record High 94° (1941)
• Record Low 27° (1953)

Last 24 Hours*

High 72°
Low 36°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, low lower 50s, winds south 10-20 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly cloudy, high lower 80s, low upper 40s, winds west 10-20 m.p.h., 50 percent chance of rain until midnight.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: mostly cloudy, high lower 60s, low lower 40s, 30 percent chance of rain. Friday: mostly clear, high near 60. Saturday: high near 70. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.54 bushel
New Crop — \$2.56
Posted county price — \$2.45
Corn — \$1.91 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.92
Loan deficiency payment — 7¢
Milo — \$1.60 bushel
Soybeans — \$4.13 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.19
Loan deficiency payment — 73¢
Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$9.25 cwt.
NuSun — \$9.40 cwt.
Loan deficiency prmt. — 66¢
Confection current — \$16/\$8 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$27
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco 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.

Carter argues with Castro

HAVANA — Former President Jimmy Carter found himself in a debate on human rights and democracy with Cuban leader Fidel Castro, after he sparked controversy at home by saying U.S. officials told him they had no evidence Cuba was involved in developing chemical or biological weapons.

The White House stuck to its stand today that Cuba has provided biotechnology to other nations that could be used by terrorists.

Without criticizing Carter directly, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said the subject of biological technology never came up in Carter's pre-trip conversation with national security adviser Condoleezza Rice. He said the White House is worried about Castro's biological program.

The debate over democracy came Monday night, when Carter visited schools.

House still deadlocked on tax hikes

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Leaders in the House saw little progress today toward agreement on a tax hike to avoid big spending cuts and end the longest legislative session in Kansas history.

A \$283 million package of budget-balancing tax increases failed Monday in the House. Conservative Republicans, unmoved by warnings that their party could suffer, joined Democrats in rejecting two tax bills.

Defeat of the tax plan led House and Senate

negotiators to resume talks, with another meeting scheduled for today. But some GOP leaders had doubts more negotiations would produce anything that could pass.

"I don't see any significant movement," said House Taxation Committee Chairman John Edmonds, R-Great Bend.

Democrats continued to criticize Republican leaders.

"They're only willing to listen to solutions that are their solutions," said Rep. R.J. Wilson, D-Pittsburg. "They're not willing to listen."

As moderate Republican leaders and Democrats remained at odds, primarily over raising the income tax, pressure increased on conservative Republicans, who still opposed any tax increase at all.

"I know what an egg feels like on a frying pan," said Rep. Tony Powell, R-Wichita. "They're begging people."

The session was in a record-setting 104th day. The Kansas Constitution allows only 90 days, but lawmakers can go longer by passing a resolution, as they did this year.

"I'm going to keep pounding my head against the wall and hoping the wall gives way, but I've got to tell you, my head is getting sore, and my hair is falling out," said House Speaker Kent Glasscock, R-Manhattan.

Meanwhile, Gov. Bill Graves prepared to notify state agencies that he would cut \$300 million from the \$4.4 billion budget that the Legislature approved earlier for the 2003 fiscal year, which begins July 1. Graves vowed to call the first special legislative session since December 1989 unless lawmakers raised taxes.



Making memories

Amber Sponsel (above) flashed a peace sign to friends and family in the stands at a Goodland High School promenade Saturday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Afterwards, Lacey Brenner (middle, left) and her escort, Bryan Mai, talked with Brenner's mother, Dawn Ann, who had just taken their picture.

Photos by Doug Stephens
The Goodland Daily News

Driver runs into parked car

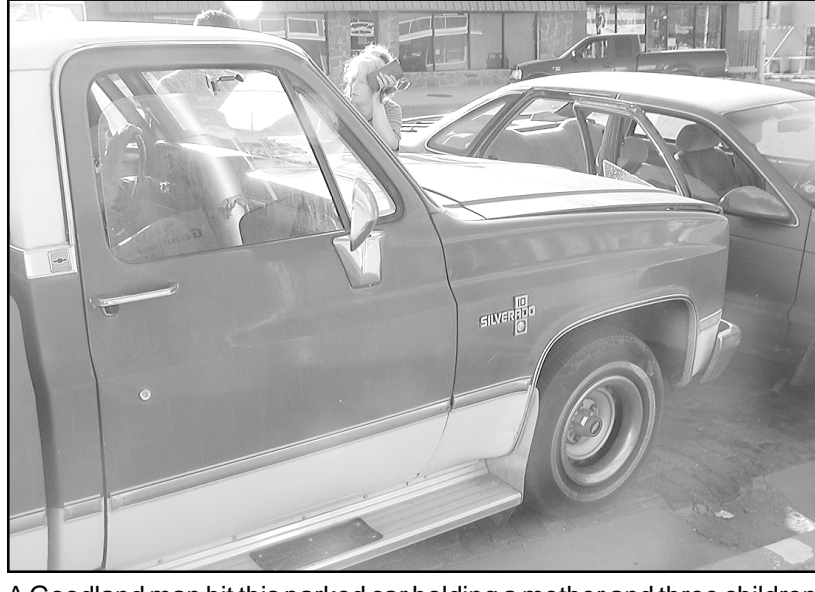
A 71-year-old Goodland man may have blacked out Monday before crashing his pickup into the passenger side of a car parked on Main Avenue, startling a mother and three children who had the right rear door open because it was hot.

No one was seriously injured in the accident, which sent the kids in the back seat ducking for cover.

The police report says Harold Peck was northbound on Main just north of Cowboy Loop in a 1985 Chevrolet pickup at 5:02 p.m. He reportedly blacked out and hit a 1989 Ford Taurus parked on the east side of Main in front of Shores Bros.

Pat Walters, who owns the Taurus, said he had stopped at Shores to pick up some things for his daughter Mila's birthday party.

He said he went in while his wife Shirley, who was driving, their two children and one of the kids' friends



A Goodland man hit this parked car holding a mother and three children Monday evening on Main. Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

waited in the car.

Walters said while he was in the store he heard a crash and then heard his children screaming.

Mila, 9, said she, her friend Angie and her brother Cory, 7, were sitting in the back seat. She said they had the door open and Angie was sitting next to the passenger's side with her right leg outside the car. Mila said she was sitting in the middle and her brother was on the left.

She said they watched the truck pull

out of Cowboy Loop and head straight for them. Angie pulled her foot into the car, Mila said, just before the truck hit them. She said the pickup hit the car once, backed up and then hit it again.

Mila said she banged Cory's shoulder with her head. She said her brother and mother were taken to the hospital. Peck was also taken to the emergency room.

Dale Schields, hospital resource development director, said all were released.

Board waiting to rehire four

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland School Board decided not to hire back four laid off teachers Monday, saying they won't know if the district can afford to pay them until state legislators decide how much money schools will get next year.

The board is planning a special meeting on Saturday before graduation and could hire the teachers back then if a state budget has been passed.

Superintendent Marvin Selby planned to ask the board during their meeting Monday to offer new contracts to the teachers, who were notified this month that their contracts might not be renewed.

State law requires districts to notify teachers by May 1 when they may not be hired back, but Selby said the board doesn't have to give final notice until August.

The superintendent said he thought lawmakers would have passed a tax bill by now, and that it would include the same level of state aid for schools as last year or a little more. In that case, he said, the district could afford to keep the four teachers.

Legislatures were grappling with a \$700 million budget gap. They've made some cuts and passed a \$4.4 billion budget, but they still need to figure out where they're going to get the \$290 million needed to balance that budget. Some want to raise taxes, while conservatives refuse.

Things are looking more uncertain, Selby said, as the House won't pass a Senate bill that would raise taxes on sales, cigarettes and inheritances and Gov. Bill Graves is threatening to slash education money to balance the budget.

"I'm concerned nothing will happen this week," he said.

Board members agreed to meet at the high school on Saturday before graduation, which starts at 2 p.m., to discuss rehiring the teachers.

Responding to a question from member Kathy Russell, Selby said the state has been sending monthly payments to schools late because it doesn't have enough cash to make the payments. He said he received the May payment on

School roundup

At a meeting on Monday, the Goodland School Board:

- Decided to wait to renew contracts of four laid off teachers until the Kansas Legislature says how much money it will pay schools next year. Story to left.
- Put off rehiring coaches and employees and deciding whether to lease new computers for teachers until the Legislature makes a decision. Story below.
- Gave Superintendent Marvin Selby permission to spend \$80,000 on summer construction projects. Story to come.
- Discussed making some tougher high school classes count more towards a student's grade point average and requiring valedictorians and salutatorians to take certain classes. Story to come.
- Listened to site council reports. Story to come.

Thursday and has enough to pay people this month.

The district could be in trouble if the payment comes late next month, Selby added, because several teachers are supposed to receive their June and July paychecks in a lump sum.

If the state aid doesn't come in, he said, the district will be forced to cash in a certificate of deposit.

"It will be like borrowing from ourselves," Selby said.

In other business, the board:

- Presented Rich Schwasinger, high school Deca instructor, with an award for teaching in the district for 25 years. Schwasinger thanked the board for their support.

- Paid \$85,000 in monthly bills and transferred \$54,000 from the general fund to the special education account and \$13,000 from the local option budget to the inservice training fund.

State to determine who will have jobs

Saying they don't know how much money they'll have to spend next year, school board members agreed Monday to put off rehiring coaches and employees who aren't teachers and delay a decision on leasing computers and software.

Members are waiting for the state Legislature to pass a tax bill, which would let the district know how much money it has to work with next year.

Education finance is up in the air, as legislators have discussed cutting aid to schools or increasing it. Squabbles over whether to increase taxes have pushed the legislative session to 104 days, the longest ever.

Karla Murray, the district's technology coordinator, asked board members Monday to lease \$190,000 worth of computers and software to upgrade teachers workstations. She said the district could sign a three- or four-year lease, and pay off the \$190,000 over that time.

Murray said she was speaking on behalf of the technology committee,

which decides how to spend money the board sets aside for new computers and other technology. She had estimates on how much it would cost to buy every teacher a new computer and software, but said the committee would be happy with how much ever money the board decided to give.

Murray said student computers are replaced about every three years, but teachers' computers are old and can't do many functions. Teachers and the committee would be grateful, she said, if they knew in advance whether they were going to get new equipment next year so they could start preparing for the switch.

Member Kathy Russell suggested the board put off a decision until the state Legislature makes a move.

"I think this board would also be grateful," she said, "to know what we have to play with. We can't commit to anything."

After a 30-minute closed session to

See BUDGET, Page 6