

Board, teachers reach agreement on contract

NEGOTIATIONS, from Page 1

room from 172 to 171 for one year. Mary Porterfield, head of the teacher team, said eliminating the day would be like giving teachers a \$150 to \$220 raise.

Russell said that would put the district in the position of having to buy the day back next year. Porterfield said that

would be fair, because removing the day would be part of the teachers' raises while putting it back in next year would be like cutting pay.

The two sides settled on the board team's proposal for a \$450 raise and permanent removal of the classroom day.

Teachers will actually be in the classroom just as many days next year as

they were this year because the erased classroom day was never actually included in teacher contracts.

It's like this. During negotiations, the two sides agreed to change the district's technology requirement to make it more beneficial to all staff.

In the past, teachers had to take a workday's worth of classes on new

technology during their free time. The board and teachers agreed to change it so the technology requirement would be fulfilled all at one time during one of the 8.5 teacher training days set aside each year.

The sides had agreed to add the extra day that teachers used to spend learning new technology to the required classroom days, but then erased

it altogether.

The teams also agreed to make extra duties outside the classroom mandatory, with teachers and administrators both having input on what those duties are; erase written complaints for which a teacher wasn't punished within five years and give employees a chance to change before they're fired or suspended; and require teachers to

resign by May 15 and reduce the penalty for a late resignation from 1 percent to .5 percent of a teacher's salary.

Even though negotiations are over, the 2002-2003 negotiated agreement isn't final. Porterfield said all teachers and board members still have to approve the contract, which she said will likely be done before the board's next meeting on June 10.

City, county to discuss water well protection

Members of the Goodland City Commission will meet with the Sherman County commissioners at 9 a.m. Friday to discuss a potential water contamination problem and alternatives for protecting the public water wells.

A recent letter from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment alerted the county to a potential problem where underground water contamination at the old city/county landfill may be moving west toward the city's public water well 11. The state letter suggested the county notify the city about the problem and asked the county to submit a plan to protect the city water well by June.

City Manager Ron Pickman told the city commissioners he had taken steps to reduce the pumping of well 11 to try to reduce the movement of the underground contamination closer to the well.

Monitoring wells on the west side of the old city/county landfill showed an increase in Tetra-

chloroethelene (TCE) between tests in 2000 and 2001. Normally the contamination has been moving in a southeasterly direction, but state officials believe the dry conditions and the pumping of the nearby city water well is drawing the contamination to the west.

The city and county will be looking at recommendations to further prevent the contamination of the city water wells.

Curt Way, county public works director will ask the commissioners to hold a second executive session to discuss acquisition of property.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby will meet with the commissioners to discuss the results of the tax sale held May 22.

Mark Bauer, auditor from Bauer, VonFeldt and VonFeldt of Hays, will meet with the commissioners to talk about the audit report for last year.

The commissioners meet at 8 a.m. in the commission room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse at 813 Broadway Ave.

Colorado wheat losses likely to be larger

DENVER (AP) — The Colorado winter wheat crop has taken a big hit after weeks of drought that were followed by a late freeze.

Colorado Agriculture Commissioner Don Ament said Wednesday that damage to the crop will be even more severe than predictions just a

couple weeks ago that estimated losses at 550,000 acres and \$79.1 million.

The dire assessment by Ament came on the heels of a bout of cold and rainy weather last week that was hailed as a small respite for parched pastures and fields. But it resulted in a freeze that damaged hay and destroyed beets.

Identification of remains continues

ATTACKS, from Page 1

"continue to offer our prayer to those families and friends and citizens who still hurt."

Of the more than 2,800 people killed in the terrorist attack, remains of 1,102 have been identified. Nearly 20,000 body parts have been recovered.

City officials said the sifting for body parts in a landfill and the identification process will go on for months. Those human remains that cannot be identified will be retained, in case new technology someday makes it possible.

"It's hard to remember on 9/11 with all of the twisted steel and concrete ...," Bloomberg said earlier on NBC's "To-

day" show. "But the fact of the matter is the people that survived are the ones that we have to go on. We have to make sure they do not forget and that they build for the future."

At the ceremony, a flatbed truck carrying the trade center's last steel beam followed the ambulance. The beam stood until Tuesday night, when it was cut down during a ceremony for ground zero workers.

The 30-foot column survived when the towers collapsed into a mountain of 1.8 million tons of rubble. For months it was buried in debris, but it was revealed as the rubble disappeared, still standing where it was planted when the south tower was

built. The beam, set on the truck and draped with a black cloth, American flag and bouquet of flowers, was being taken to a Kennedy Airport hangar for storage.

The unprecedented cleanup effort finished several months earlier than originally anticipated and at a fraction of the estimated cost. While many victims have been identified, the end of the operation leaves numerous others without their family members' remains.

Several family groups had asked Bloomberg to schedule today's service on a weekend, so that work and school schedules would not be disrupted. The mayor said the city avoided the week-

end so it would not conflict with religious observances. He also said May 30 was the traditional date for Memorial Day. To accommodate those who could not attend the ceremony, the family groups have planned their own service at ground zero on Sunday.

What to do with the site next is under discussion. Control of the site will revert from the city to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which owns the land.

Last week, the Port Authority and the Lower Manhattan Development Corp. announced the choice of architectural firm Beyer Blinder Belle as the urban planning consultant. A final plan is supposed to be chosen by Dec. 1.

Israeli troops seize Palestinians in pre-dawn raid around the world

By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL

JERUSALEM — Israeli troops seized three Palestinians in a pre-dawn raid today in the West Bank town of Hebron, the latest in a series of incursions intended to pre-empt Palestinian attacks, officials said.

Three tanks, about 20 armored personnel carriers and some 20 jeeps entered Hebron around 4 a.m. and left several hours later, witnesses said. Palestinian security officials said the three people arrested included a local leader of the Islamic militant group Hamas.

Israel is carrying out almost daily incursions into Palestinian areas in the West Bank. In most cases, the army faces little or no resistance, arrests sev-

eral Palestinians and leaves shortly afterward.

The raids are a follow-up to Israel's major West Bank operation that ended earlier this month. However, the Palestinian attacks that prompted the earlier Israeli invasion are again increasing.

Meanwhile, European and U.S. diplomats were descending on the region for talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, but the prospects for a cease-fire and the resumption of peace negotiations remained dim.

NEW DELHI, India — Suspected Islamic guerrillas stormed a police

base in Kashmir, killing two officers, and cross-border shelling killed at least 28 other people today amid international efforts to avert a full-fledged war between India and Pakistan.

The new violence followed a U.S. State Department warning on Wednesday that "irresponsible elements" in India and Pakistan could spark a conflict against the wishes of both governments.

"The climate is very charged and a serious conflagration could ensue if events spiral out of control," spokesman Richard Boucher said.

Diplomatic efforts to ease tensions have been complicated by militant at-

tacks, which India says Pakistan encourages. Pakistan insists it has done all it can to stop cross-border incursions by Islamic militants based in its territory.

NATIONAL
MILWAUKEE — South African Breweries PLC has agreed to buy Miller Brewing Co. for \$5.6 billion to become the world's second-largest brewer, Miller's parent company announced today.

The new company will be called SABMiller PLC and will compete in the U.S. market with Anheuser-Busch Cos., the world's largest brewer.

The deal is expected to close in July, pending regulatory approval, said Miller parent company Philip Morris Cos.

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