

District faces challenge

MATH, from Page 1

Looking at the figures Gregory split them out in the state's five point system which is unsatisfactory, basic, satisfactory, proficient and advanced. She noted the new federal program about not leaving any child behind will require "adequate yearly progress." Under this program those who are above the basic level will be considered successful, she said. The new federal program will have three points unsatisfactory, proficient and advanced, but the

state will continue to use the five point system and consider those who are above the basic level to be successful. Looking again at the 4th grade math Hispanic results the state shows 21 percent unsatisfactory, 31.6 percent basic, 23.6 percent satisfactory, 17.3 percent proficient and 6.5 advanced. The district has a lower unsatisfactory at 14.3 percent, the basic at 64.3 percent, there is no percentage satisfactory, 21.4 percent proficient and none in the advanced level. In comparison the non-Hispanic state figures show 8.4 percent

unsatisfactory, 18.9 percent basic, 22.1 percent satisfactory, 29.6 proficient and 20.9 advanced. The district figures have 20 percent unsatisfactory 16 percent basic, 20 percent satisfactory, 30 percent proficient and 14 percent advanced. Over all the figures show more effort must be placed on meeting the state math standards she told the board. She said she would be back at a future meeting to discuss more details about the results, and to take any questions the board members may have.

Flatlander Festival biggest event of year

FESTIVAL, from Page 1

pate, and will be split into age divisions, with boys and girls competing separately. At 6 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, the Goodland school district is sponsoring a benefit breakfast at the high school cafeteria. Adults can eat for \$5 and kids 5 to 12 for \$3. Kids under 5 can eat for free. The money raised will be used to help pay the medical expenses of Jared Hall, who was hurt in a car accident in July. People interested in history can experience a one-room school setting from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday at the Union School House, north of the High Plains Museum,

1717 Cherry Ave. Those who like cars and fast action can attend the IMCA Stock Car races at the Sherman County Speedway at 6:30 p.m. Friday and 5:30 p.m. Saturday. These last two races will close out the racing season. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 7 to 12. Simmons said the chamber has counted over 2,000 people who are helping put the events together, including organizers, entertainers and other volunteers. "A lot of people are putting a lot of work into this," Simmons said. "This is the biggest festival of the year, and I'm sure there will be something for everyone, and a big help to the city's economy."

Federal Reserve holds interest rates steady for now

WASHINGTON (AP)—Economic uncertainties heightened by the possibility of war with Iraq and a rare display of dissent within the Federal Reserve is raising expectations that the central bank might cut interest rates before the end of the year, economists say. Although the Federal Open Market Committee voted 10-2 on Tuesday to hold interest rates steady, policy-makers cited "geopolitical risks"—something most economists viewed as a reference to Iraq—as a potential danger to the wobbly economy.

Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's. Other economists also believe momentum for a rate reduction will probably grow between now and the Fed's next meeting on Nov. 6. But a rate cut is not a foregone conclusion by any means, they said. With the federal funds rate—the interest that banks charge each other on overnight loans—already at a 41-year low of 1.75 percent, the Fed has to be extra careful in using its limited rate-cut ammunition to help the economy fully recover from last year's recession, some analysts said.

year's recession, the economy is back on its feet but isn't bursting with vitality. Businesses have remained reluctant to make big commitments in hiring and capital spending, two factors restraining the recovery. Manufacturing—hardest hit by the recession—lost considerable momentum in August. Layoffs have been rising recently, and economists are predicting that the nation's jobless rate—now at 5.7 percent—probably will increase slightly in the months ahead. Consumers, whose spending accounts for two-thirds of all economic activity in the United States, have been the primary engine keeping the economy going, but the Conference Board reported Tuesday that consumer confidence fell in September for the fourth consecutive month, dropping to the lowest level since November of last year.

times and predicted that more dissents would be seen in the future. Most economists viewed that as a healthy development, rather than a sign that Greenspan is losing influence over his Fed colleagues. "I think there is a sense now that it is OK to disagree in public with the chairman and this is probably a reflection of a Greenspan-engineered increase in

more openness, more transparency," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo. "If that is not the case, then the iron grip Greenspan has had on the committee may be loosening."

LeDoux be detained until a preliminary hearing, unless he posts a \$500,000 bond with professional surety. LeDoux served as chief legislative liaison for former Gov. Mike Hayden and later for Gov. Bill Graves, who appointed him director of the Kansas Water Office in 1995. LeDoux served as a member of the Republican State Committee in the early 1990s, chairman of the Jackson County Republican Central Committee and later as the vice chairman of the Jackson County Republican Party.

"The uncertainty over the timing and the consequences of military action is creating problems in the equity markets and boardrooms," said economist Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors. "Like the rest of us, business leaders cannot figure out what will happen if war breaks out, and making business plans in such an unclear environment is quite difficult." Two of the 12 FOMC members, Edward Gramlich and Robert McTeer, wanted an immediate rate cut and voted against the central bank's decision to leave rates unchanged, representing the first double dissent since May 1998 and revealing a crack in the unified front the Fed often presents to the public. "Gramlich is a pretty mainstream guy. This suggests to me that we will see a rate cut in November," said David

"Obviously the odds of a rate cut now are very high, but there has to be concerns among Fed policy-makers that they might get boxed in and not be able to aggressively respond to debilitating events," said Mark Zandi, chief economist with Economy.com. The last time the Fed cut rates was in December of last year, which pushed the funds rate down to 1.75 percent. While many analysts consider a "double dip" recession scenario remote, it can't be ruled out, they said. A dramatic and prolonged rise in energy prices stoked by Middle East tensions or a big cutback in spending by consumers—the driving force behind the economy—would probably send the economy into a nosedive, economists said. After being knocked down by last

Over time, the Fed said low interest rates and gains in productivity should be "sufficient to foster an improving business climate." But the Fed said "considerable uncertainty persists about the extent and timing of the expected pickup in production and employment owing in part to the emergence of heightened risks." Some viewed Tuesday's dual dissents as an indication of the vigorous debate taking place over the direction of the economy during these turbulent

TOPEKA (AP)—The director of the Kansas Water Office was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of entering a sleeping woman's home in May and raping her, the Shawnee County prosecutor said. Alan L. LeDoux, 55, who has served two governors and is well known in northeast Kansas politics, was being held in lieu of \$500,000 bond, Shawnee County District Attorney Robert Hecht said in a news release. Hecht said LeDoux, who lives in rural Holton in Jackson County, was charged with aggravated kidnapping,

rape by fear of force, aggravated criminal sodomy and aggravated burglary. LeDoux is accused of entering an undisclosed residence between 1 a.m. and 3 a.m. on May 23 while the victim was asleep. "The assailant was wearing a ski mask and assaulted the victim, bound her arms together with tape, blindfolded her, forcibly moved from the bedroom into the bathroom, cut her night shirt off and committed the offenses charged," Hecht said in the release. Hecht's office has requested that

handle 60,000 bales of cotton. After it's ginned, the cotton will be hauled to a warehouse in Altus, Okla., where it will be stored and marketed by Plains Cotton Cooperative Association, the national marketing group of which NCG is a member. Jay Garetson, an NCG member, has about 1,000 acres of cotton to harvest.

Water chief arrested on rape charge

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Local cotton gin to handle this year's crop

MOSCOW (AP)—With construction of the first cotton gin in southwest Kansas well under way, some farmers may be pulling cotton by Oct. 15. "They are putting the roof on the building," said Gary Moore, manager of the Northwest Cotton Growers Cooperative Inc. "We have road construction going on around the gin, a module

pad and a seed storage pad are being built, plus we have the plumbers and the electricians here. It looks like an army of ants inside the building." The project began earlier this summer southwest of Moscow, just off U.S. 50. The gin, which removes the sticky seeds from the cotton, will be able to

handle 60,000 bales of cotton. After it's ginned, the cotton will be hauled to a warehouse in Altus, Okla., where it will be stored and marketed by Plains Cotton Cooperative Association, the national marketing group of which NCG is a member. Jay Garetson, an NCG member, has about 1,000 acres of cotton to harvest.

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