

# Police nab suspects quick after shooting

**POLICE, from Page 1**

the truck involved in the shooting a short time earlier. Officer Riedesel stopped the vehicle near the intersection of Main and 13th Streets. Additional officers and Sheriff's deputies arrived to assist.

While speaking with the occupants of the truck, officers noticed a package of BBs in plain view in the truck. After receiving consent to search the truck, they located an air-powered BB pistol under the seat.

Following this and other leads, officers were able to ascertain that five people were in the truck

at the time of the shooting. By tracking down and interviewing several of the occupants, they discovered that one had leaned in front of the driver and fired several BBs toward the truck and the China Gardens Restaurant. The shooter, a juvenile, claimed that they shot toward the truck because of an ongoing feud with its owner.

The person who fired toward the restaurant was taken into custody and is currently being detained at a juvenile facility pending formal filing of charges by the County Attorney's Office. He or she is currently being charged with aggravated assault and criminal damage of property. The investigation is ongoing and officers are

currently considering charges against the other occupants of the vehicle.

"This arrest was the result of great work by all of the officers and deputies involved in this case," said Goodland Police Chief Cliff Couch. "We are serious about addressing these types of issues in our community. The people who committed this selfish and reckless act put many innocent bystanders in danger."

"People who act in this manner will be held accountable for their actions in Goodland. We simply will not allow a few bad individuals to make this city a dangerous or unpleasant place for the good people of Goodland."

# 40th Senate District loses mapping fight

**DISTRICT, from Page 1**

is, he said.

The leadership's map, known as Ad Astra, would take away two counties on the southeast corner of the district - Ness and Trego - and add four to the northeast - Phillips, Smith, Jewell and Osborne, plus half of Hamilton on the southwest. It would stretch the district two-thirds of the way to Oklahoma at the Colorado line and a county into the east near Nebraska. At 20 counties, he'd have about one-fifth of the state's area.

"It's awful," he said, adding that the map by Sen. Abrams would have added two counties, but keep his district compact and nearly square.

With that map, he said, he'd have gained Phillips and Rush counties, but not Smith or Jewell farther east. He'd have kept Rush and Rooks, but not dip into Hamilton.

"They'll pass Ad Astra," he said Monday. "It will be the one coming back..."

"The House isn't going to pass that. I talked to the speaker this morning. So we're going to wind up in court."

After the vote Tuesday, moderate senators claimed they had a deal with Speaker Mike O'Neal to pass the redistricting bill, including a House-passed map of representative districts. The Senate had modified it's map to put two House members back into Senate districts they had filed to run in.

However, the Associated Press quoted the speaker as saying he had spoken only for himself, not the House.

The redistricting controversy is holding up all the rest of the Legislature's work, Ostmeier said. Redistricting is required

by federal court decisions after each federal census. If the plan isn't done by mid-May, the state's August primary election might have to be put off.

"We haven't got anything solved up here," the senator said. "We haven't got a budget. We haven't got anything."

"We're already the butt-end of a bunch of jokes."

He listed school finance and tax changes as other major issues held up by the fight.

The hijinks stems from the continual battle between Republican conservatives and moderates for control of the Legislature. The House is firmly in conservative hands, but the Senate still has enough moderate, or liberal, Republican members to elect the leadership.

Conservatives, led by the state Chamber of Commerce, hoping to change that recruited five to eight House members to file against incumbent moderate Senators this year, creating primary fights in their districts. In retaliation, the leadership drew a map, Sen. Ostmeier said, that ruled at least three of the challengers out of the districts they filed for.

Pure and simple, he said, the leadership, especially Senate President Steve Morris, wants to hold on to its power. His district is just a victim of the larger battle.

"People in western Kansas get shortchanged enough," he said. "There's a lot of things we (senators) can't get to. You'd probably never get to Jewell County, maybe once or twice a year."

Western legislators have attempted to keep the number of Senate districts serving part of the region where it is, he said, but under the Ad Astra map, one more western district will go to Johnson County.

## A generous donation



Lions Club Director Joyce Moore (right) and club member Dr. Travis Daise (left) presented a donation of tote bags to Angela Heape, dialysis nurse manager, and Judy Snyder, technician, at Goodland Regional Medical Center. The bags will be given to dialysis patients and will contain a new patient guide, hand sanitizer, a blanket and other items they might need during treatment. The new dialysis unit is nearly ready. The hospital is currently working on hiring a medical director. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

# Veto session in full swing; tackling budget, tax bills

We returned to Topeka for the Veto session last week.

Veto sessions traditionally are dedicated to addressing bills vetoed by the Governor, however, this year a number of issues still need our attention. We still need to pass redistricting maps, finalize the budget along with KPERs and possibly a tax bill. The main hold up at this time is the redistricting maps. Kansas is the only state that has not passed maps. A continual struggle between the Senate chamber and the House chamber will make it very difficult to produce maps anytime soon.

The House Committee on Taxation heard our carnival bill, which was finally sent over from the Senate. The original proposal from the Department of Labor was home owned carnivals would be required to have an annual inspection of the rides. The bill was passed out of committee with one no vote. The bill will require each carnival to annually provide the Department of Labor with proof of insurance. Even the no vote was supporting our stand he did not think we should be required to send insurance to the state.

I had a chance to visit with, Sen. Jerry Moran, Friday at the Capitol. He informed me the U.S. Department of Labor finally withdrew the youth farm labor rules, which would have fundamentally altered the future of Ag. If the Department of Labor would have enforced this policy our youth would not have been able to work on the family farms or any farm until the age of eighteen. Great Job Jerry!

**Budget:**  
Governor Brownback released this governor's budget amendment, which includes \$43.8 million from the states general fund to fully finance expected Medicaid caseload cost increases for the fiscal year starting July 1.

Governor Brownback also proposed an additional \$1.9 million



**rick billinger**  
state rep.

from the state general fund for pay raises and staffing at Larned State Hospital, where inadequate staff levels threaten the accreditation of the hospital. Governor Brownback has proposed to add \$440,000 from the state general funds to hire more staff at the Topeka Correctional facility.

Both Chambers have agreed on most of the budget line items, however, the final budget will not be voted on until the redistricting maps are settled.

**Tax Bill:**

There has been a lot of discussion about the proposed tax bill, which is under consideration. The tax bill spans from sales tax, individual and corporate income tax and property taxes. The numbers are not available at this time even though some of the news articles are quoting possible ending balances. There are many moving parts to the tax bill and without accurate numbers it is hard to predict what will transpire.

**Developmental Disabled:**

Throughout the session legislators have been contacted, in impressive numbers, by stakeholders and members of the developmentally disabled (DD) community to express their concerns on the inclusion

of DD long-term care services in the new state managed care system, known as KanCare. Many have requested more time to evaluate the proposal and understand how changes will be incorporated before full implementation.

As a result, the House Appropriations Committee, with the support of the Brownback administration, moved this week to postpone the inclusion of waiver services for individuals with developmental disabilities into KanCare until Jan. 1, 2014 and allow voluntary pilot programs. The pilot programs would allow service providers to voluntarily participate in the DD waiver service program under the KanCare during the 2013 calendar year. This one-year delay provides members of the DD community, the Legislature and the Brownback administration additional time to discuss concerns regarding DD services under KanCare.

**Court Furloughs:**

The House Appropriations committee met last week, and members - Republicans and Democrats - were equally eager to hear from the courts their reasoning behind furloughs. A representative of the courts said remaining furlough days

might be rescinded, which was great news. The question is, why, since nothing had changed? The reason was the judicial branch had funds to cash flow.

Thank you for the honor of serving you in the House. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 785 899-4700 or email me at rick.billinger@house.ks.gov.

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### \*\*\*\*\*NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC\*\*\*\*\*

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT REPLACEMENT OF THE BRICK STREET BETWEEN 11th AND 12th OF MAIN STREET WILL BEGIN THE 14th DAY OF MAY 2012. THIS IS BARRING UNFORESEEN WEATHER OR MECHANICAL DIFFICULTIES. SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SAME, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY OFFICE AT 785-890-4500.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.  
CITY OF GOODLAND