

weather report **43**° at noon

Today Sunset, 5:42 p.m. Tomorrow Sunrise, 6:12 a.m. Sunset, 5:43 p.m.

Midday Conditions

•Soil Temp. 40 degrees •Humidity 48 percent •Sky cloudy •Winds NW 17-22 m.p.h. •Barometer 29.96 inches and steady. •Record High 82° (1972) •Record Low -13° (1948)

Yesterday's Data	
High	55°
Low	26°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas

Tonight: Mostly clear, low in the 20s, winds northwest at 5-15 m.p.h. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, high 4045, winds northwest at 10-25 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Dry, low about 25. Sunday: chance for snow, high in the 40s. Sunday night, snow likely, low 20-25. Snow ending Monday, high 35, low 20-25. Dry Tuesday, high 40-45, low 20-25. 24-hour weather information is broadcast at

162.400 MHz.



1998 4,286,230

1989

1,776,891

the years. She also explained how the County Commissioner Gary Townsend (left) and County Clerk Janet Rumpel used charts and graphs Thursday to explain the county budget and the need for more tax revenue during a meeting with the public and county employees at the courthouse. A question on whether to eliminate the state lid on property taxes for the county will be on the school election ballot next month. Photo by Tom Betz/Goodland Daily News

Rumpel said she did not know what was being done to ensure vehicle registrations were being done in Sherman County, but that this question had been discussed by the commissioners. She added that the state is eliminating the vehicle tax, phasing it out over a sevrevenues by renting storage space at the eral year period.

Commissioner Gary Townsend dis-

cussed the options facing the county. He said the county does not know how of an increase might be needed if the tax lid is removed. He said commissioners would continue efforts to keep the tax level down, and that over the past years they have been able to stay below a 3 percent growth level.

Commissioners Kenny Davis and

Chuck Frankenfeld agreed that they would try to keep spending down, and meeting that they are planning to make would examine each request from the departments to determine if they are really needed.

One person in the audience said while it was nice to have the county "shine," he did not want to see every- tion ballot.

one at the courthouse driving new pickups or Lincolns.

Another question was how Sherman County ranks in the state in per capita tax rate. Rumpel said she did not have the most recent figures, but that in the past, the county has ranked about in the middle in comparison to the other counties.

Questions were also asked about the cost of the new landfill, and if that would affect the tax rate. Rumpel said the solid waste was a separate fund which draws its money from the fees which are set each July by the commissioners.

Townsend said the need to close the landfill in 1997 had caught the county by surprise, which then resulted in a drain on the General Fund until the fees could be increased to cover the costs.

"We are overtaxed now." was a comment from the audience. "What assurance do we have that you will continue to hold things down. If we approve the removal, is there any control on how fai the taxes could be increased."

Davis explained that when the commissioners had proposed putting a "sunset" clause in the resolution, the legal advice was that since this had not been tested, it would probably have to go to the state Supreme Court and delay the removal by at least a year.

"The ultimate control is that if we are not doing what you think is right, you can either recall us all or vote us out of office," Townsend said.

Townsend and Rumpel said after the presentations at the Senior Centers in Kanorado and Goodland this month, as well as any other group who would be interested in learning about the tax lid issue which will be on the April 6 elec-

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.41 bu. Posted county price — \$2.28 Loan deficiency payment - 17¢ Corn — \$1.75 bu. osted county price — \$1.75 Loan deficiency payment - 24¢ Milo — \$2.62 cwt. Soybeans — \$3.94 bu. Posted county price — \$3.95 Loan deficiency payment - 94¢ Millet — \$4.25 cwt. Sunflowers oil current - \$7.35 cwt. oil 1999 crop — \$8.15 cwt. Loan deficiency payment — \$2.27 conf. current — \$18/\$11 cwt. Pintos - \$13 (new crop) Local markets courtesy of Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun and Collingwood Grain Local bean market courtesy of Prairie Pea and



being a Jay — it's hot, sweaty work ent matter, Tuttle said. under the smiling bird's head.

the current tax lid, which began in 1989.

She said the legislature did not want the

counties to receive a "windfall" from

the increased property valuations

which resulted from a statewide reap-

She said the assessed valuation for

Sherman County in 1988 had been

\$38,360,007, but after the reappraisal,

the county valuation in 1989 was

\$49,444,785. That represented nearly

a 29 percent increase, and it was this

large increase which prompted the leg-

Rumpel explained how the tax lid is

figured, and how it has changed over

county budget is determined and how

the budget is affected by the tax lid. She

presented a series of charts showing the

various departments and where the rev-

Questions from the audience focused

on whether the county was looking for

ways to increase the revenues, such as

making sure all residents are register-

ing their vehicles in Sherman County,

and whether the county could increase

islature to pass the tax lid.

enues come from.

fairground.

praisal.

"It's like wearing a fur coat in the followed. summer," said Le-Thu Tuttle, the Uni-

"You can be a mascot and be shy, but LAWRENCE (AP) — It's not easy once you're in that suit..."it's a differ-

There is also a certain etiquette to be "Birds don't talk," Tuttle said.





Yugoslavs shun Dole's mission

SKOPJE, Macedonia (AP) -Former Sen. Bob Dole pushed ethnic Albanian leaders today to immediately sign a peace plan for Kosovo, hinting that the deal must be settled before rebels can visit Washington.

Dole, who was in the region at President Clinton's request, had to meet the ethnic Albanian leaders in the Macedonian capital of Skopje because he was blocked from entering neighboring Yugoslavia by the government.

The Republican, a longtime ally of the ethnic Albanians, said the U.S. government was growing "frustrated" with delays by the ethnic Albanians, whose cooperation is necessary for NATO to strongarm Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic into giving the province autonomy.

"This agreement should ... not be delayed one additional day,' Dole said.

versity of Kansas mascot coach. But the men and women inside the and they don't get out of costume in Big Jay and Baby Jay costumes say the reactions from fans make it bearable. "I just love little kids running up to you," said Josh Cox, a Big Jay. "They'll

run up to you with a big grin." Six students trade off filling the shoes of KU's Big Jay and Baby Jay. They work a lot, sometimes 20 hours a week, to root for the Jayhawks at sporting events and to cover the 250 outside appearances a year the mascots make at events like weddings and birthday parties.

The students don't get paid for their appearances at sporting events, but they do get a stipend for outside appearances.

Mascots, all full-time KU students, go through tryouts in the spring. They perform impromptu skits, learn the Rock Chalk chant and perform some basic stunts. Tuttle said that along with some degree of physical fitness, she looks for expressive movements and a certain height.

To be Baby Jay, a person can be no taller than 5-foot-2; Big Jays need to be between 5-foot-11 and 6-foot-2. Most Baby Jays are women and Big Jays are try and make it a story for someone," men because of the height requirements.

The costumes are bulky and heavy: Baby Jay's costume weighs between 15 and 20 pounds, while Big Jay's duds and head weigh 25 to 30 pounds.

"The suit is kind of like a 30-pound carpet hanging on you," Big Jay Brian Carpenter said.

Once chosen as a mascot, students go through trial and error.

Mascots also don't show any skin public. During a hot basketball or football game, the Jays sneak off to take breaks.

For Carpenter, that can mean ducking into a concession stand or even an Allen Fieldhouse broom closet. Once out of the public's view, he takes Big Jay's head off and guzzles water.

"I cramp up if I haven't been drinking enough water during the game," he said.

Wearing the costume, it's easy to dehydrate. There is no way to avoid sweating at a game.

"I've heard of people losing 5 to 10 pounds during a game," Cox said. "I ust hope someone opens the door once in a while and I stick my beak into the breeze.'

Carpenter said he always wanted to be a mascot.

"When I was a little kid," he said, "we went to a Royals game and the San Diego Chicken played with my sister's pigtails.'

His mother still tells the story, and that inspires Carpenter.

"Every time I go out on the court, I he said

The birds' antics include rubbing people's heads with their wings, tickling children and shaking hands. The Jays also gets lots of hugs, "and it's not just from kids," Carpenter said.

Cox says he likes to direct the band and joke with the cheerleaders.

Carpenter says he finds his "gags"

The University of Kansas Jayhawk was hamming it up among the fans at a recent game at Allen Fieldhouse in Lawrence. Inside is a KU student who's sweating the night away, but having fun.

Photo by Melissa Lacey/Lawrence Journal-World

said. "You kind of have to be a little goofy ... I can even just go up in front of someone and stare at them and they'll start laughing."

While Big Jay has to act tough, Baby Jay gets to have more fun, Tabby Anderson said.

We can hide behind Big Jay, act frightened, act bashful, act flattered," she said. Because the costume is more maneuverable, she even does some cartwheels.

It's hard to tell who is who in costume; only little character quirks like their walks give them away to those

"It's if it's funny, I keep doing it," he who know them well. The anonymity gives the mascots freedom.

"It's just a lot easier to be silly," Anderson said. "It's Halloween, but we do it all year long.'

Big Jay and Baby Jay get to be silly together, but they also tangle with other mascots, particularly at football games.

Cox said he had a run in with Iowa State's mascot. It bonked him on the beak, so he chased after it.

"It's not like we're the most graceful me smells." creatures in the world when we're trying to run," he said.

Eventually, the Iowa State dance squad grabbed him and ran him into the

goal post.

"My yell leaders came and saved me," he said.

While it is mostly fun and games, Tuttle said some antics leave the students bruised and sore. Wearing the Jays' heads leaves many necks sore.

After a game is finished, most of the people inside the birds want the same thing — a shower.

"I'm nasty," Cox said. "Every part of

For Anderson, the post-game need is simple: She just wants fresh air:

"It takes a little getting used to, after you take the suit off."

School board to consider plan to change junior high colors

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News A recent discussion about what colors would be used in the new gym addition to the Max Jones Fieldhouse brought up a potential controversy over team colors between the Goodland High School and Grant Junior High.

During Monday's school board meeting, a request from Grant Junior Monday, March 22, agenda. High will be discussed to allow them to change from their current Orange and

Black used by Goodland High School. Principal Jim Mull has told Superintendent Marvin Selby that the junior high would phase out the old uniforms. Mull will present the plan to the board.

Selby said the board probably will not take final action on the color change request Monday, but will discuss it and would then be an action item on the

Part of the reason to change the color is a plan to use the junior high colors in Black colors to the same Gold and the Max Jones expansion and the fact dressing rooms which they hope to pour

School's colors, Selby said.

The superintendent said the Max Jones project is continuing to progress well, and that the block layers are to begin work on masonry walls Monday, weather permitting. He said they have completed the concrete work on the north side and today were finishing the area which connects the old building with the new addition. They are leveling the floor for the gym floor and

that orange and black are Colby High on Wednesday unless the weather delays this.

> A related item on Monday's agenda will be the acceptance of bids on the bleachers for the new gym. Selby said the bids were opened Thursday and there were two bids that were very close. He said both bids were below the \$35,000 that had been reserved in the budget, and the architect will be making a recommendation to the board at the meeting.

to demonstrate to the board the projects they will be taking to the Science Olympiad state competition in Wichita later this month.

Also there is to be a progress report from Jane Philbrick on the School and Community Acting Together program, which is to address violence in the schools.

The board will be looking for a date to hold a special meeting for discussion

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Students are expected to be present