

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

40-45, 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.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.41 bu.

Posted county price — \$2.28

Loan deficiency payment — 17¢

Corn — \$1.75 bu.

Posted 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

Bean

afternoon wire

Late news

from the

Associated

Press

1 p.m.

Yugoslavshun Dole's mission

SKOPJE, Macedonia (AP) —

Former Sen. Bob Dole pushed eth-

nic Albanian leaders today to im-

mediately 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 Yugo-

slavia by the government.

The Republican, a longtime ally

of the ethnic Albanians, said the

U.S. government was growing

"frustrated" with delays by the eth-

nic Albanians, whose cooperation

is necessary for NATO to strong-

arm Yugoslav President Slobodan

Milosevic into giving the province

autonomy.

"This agreement should ... not

be delayed one additional day,"

Dole said.

County pledges to hold taxes down

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

About 45 Sherman County employ-

ees and citizens gathered in the court-

room last night to hear about the up-

coming vote on removing the tax lid

and to ask questions.

The session was requested by the

Sherman County Employees Commit-

tee to inform the county employees, as

well as the public, about the reasons for

requesting the removal of the state tax

lid. Road and Bridge employee Kenny

Griffith opened the session and intro-

duced County Clerk Janet Rumpel.

Rumpel went through the history of

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-

praisal.

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-

islature to pass the tax lid.

Rumpel explained how the tax lid is

figured, and how it has changed over

the years. She also explained how the

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 re-

venues come from.

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

revenues by renting storage space at the

fairground.



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.

Rumpel said she did not know what

was being done to ensure vehicle reg-

istrations 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 sev-

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

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-

one at the courthouse driving new pick-

ups 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 coun-

ties.

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 commis-

sioners.

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 com-

ment from the audience. "What assur-

ance do we have that you will continue

to hold things down. If we approve the

removal, is there any control on how far

the taxes could be increased."

Davis explained that when the com-

missioners 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 de-

lay 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

meeting that they are planning to make

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-

tion ballot.

Life as a Jayhawk sweet but sometimes sweaty

By Felicia Haynes

Lawrence Journal-World

LAWRENCE (AP) — It's not easy

being a Jay — it's hot, sweaty work

under the smiling bird's head.

"It's like wearing a fur coat in the

summer," said Le-Thu Tuttle, the Uni-

versity of Kansas mascot coach.

But the men and women inside the

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 appear-

ances.

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

men because of the height require-

ments.

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

to camp to learn how to be good Jays.

"You can be a mascot and be shy, but

once you're in that suit..." it's a differ-

ent matter, Tuttle said.

There is also a certain etiquette to be

followed.

"Birds don't talk," Tuttle said.

Mascots also don't show any skin

and they don't get out of costume in

public. During a hot basketball or foot-

ball game, the Jays sneak off to take

breaks.

For Carpenter, that can mean duck-

ing 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 drink-

ing 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

just 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 Di-

ego Chicken played with my sister's

pigtails."