

weather  
report

46°  
at noon

Today  
• Sunset, 7:13 p.m.  
Tomorrow  
• Sunrise, 6:25 a.m.  
• Sunset, 7:13 p.m.

Midday Conditions  
• Soil Temperature 47 degrees  
• Humidity 93 percent  
• Sky overcast  
• Winds east 5 mph  
• Barometer 30.03 inches and rising  
• Record High 86° (1942)  
• Record Low 9° (1945)

Last 24 Hours\*  
High 59°  
Low 41°  
Precipitation 0.01 inch

Northwest Kansas Forecast  
Tonight: Cloudy with periods of fog and drizzle, low 45-50, southeast wind 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 75-80, low 45, south-west wind 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast  
Friday: chance of thunderstorms, high 70-75. Saturday and Sunday: dry, high 50s-60s, low 30s-40s.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets

Noon  
Wheat — \$2.74 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.58  
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢  
Corn — \$1.96 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.81  
Loan deficiency payment — 18¢  
Milo — \$3.13 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$3.82 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.67  
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.23  
Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$6.75 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$6.90  
Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$14 (new crop)  
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures. )

afternoon  
wire

Late news from the Associated Press  
1 p.m.  
Senate rebuffs tax cut trim

WASHINGTON — Narrowly avoiding their first setback in the budget debate, Senate Republicans headed off a Democratic effort today to shrink President Bush's prized \$1.6 trillion, 10-year tax cut.  
Sen. James Jeffords, R-Vt., was considering endorsing a \$1.25 trillion tax-cut alternative written by moderate Democrats led by Sen. John Breaux of Louisiana.  
If Jeffords announces his support for the Democratic plan, it could build pressure on the White House to negotiate over the size of its tax package. Bush has repeatedly said that he wants the tax cut, the center of his economic plan, to remain at \$1.6 trillion.  
One Democratic supporter of Breaux's tax cut said Jeffords would back the plan.  
Jeffords told a reporter, "It's not certain yet."

# City voters elect retiree, incumbents

## Businessman to try hand at commission

**By Rachel Miscal**  
*The Goodland Daily News*  
Two long-time incumbents, one Goodland's current mayor, and a retired business owner beat out a hospital administrator and a former city worker Tuesday night for three open seats on the City Commission.  
Newcomer Dean Blume and incumbents Rick Billinger and Chuck Lutters, the mayor, took an early lead in the general election — as a count of the advance voting ballots put them on top — and stayed there until the end.  
While Brenda McCants, Goodland Regional Medical Center's director of



Dean Blume smiled Tuesday night after county election workers at the courthouse told him he had won a seat on the Goodland City Commission.  
Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

patient relations and volunteer services, and John Nichols, who retired in June after 24 years with the city crew, had good showings, they fell hundreds of votes behind Lutters — the top vote-earner with a total of 686.



Lutters Billinger

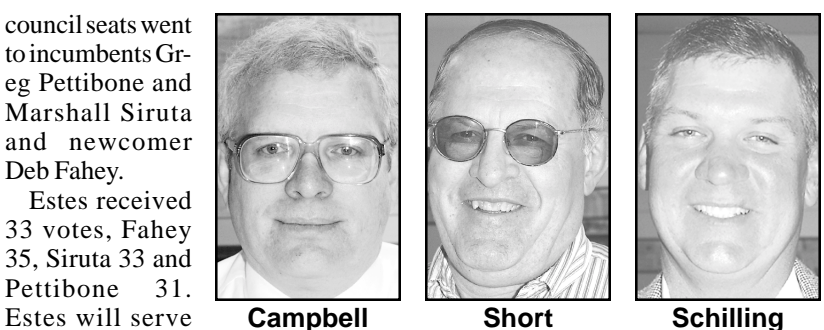
McCants and Nichols said that they weren't as well-known as the other candidates and didn't do much campaigning. Blume, who owned Blume's Lawn and Garden Supply with his wife Erna before retiring in 1997, said he hopes he can live up to voters' expectations, while the incumbents welcomed him to the commission.  
County election workers were done counting about 8:45 p.m., showing a total of 521 votes for Billinger, who has been a commissioner for 10 years; 686 for Lutters, a commissioner for six

years; 531 for Blume; 430 for McCants; and 308 for Nichols.  
Lutters and Blume will serve four-year terms, while Billinger, who had the fewest votes of the three, will serve a two-year term. City Manager Ron Pickman said that way a majority of the commission seats are up for election every two years.  
Blume, the only candidate at the courthouse when results came in, said he felt relieved and ready to focus on his goals, including finding ways to keep small businesses here and attract more to the community.  
After results were announced, Blume, a Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce board member, shook hands with Ron Harding, Chamber director, who was also at the courthouse.  
"I had a good feeling I was going to get a seat," Blume said, adding that during the campaign, he had enjoyed talking to residents who shared their

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# Ex-member voted onto board

**By Janet Craft**  
*The Goodland Daily News*  
Incumbents Dick Short and Mike Campbell will be joined on the Goodland School board by former member Ron Schilling after Tuesday's general election in Sherman County.  
Campbell received 790 votes, Short 780 and Schilling 716. They will each serve four years.  
There were only three candidates for three posts on the board, so the outcome was no surprise.  
In the Kanorado City election, where there also were no contests, Hazel Estes was re-elected as mayor, and the three



Campbell Short Schilling  
ward to providing four years of service to the district and Sherman County. He

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# Low number of voters turn out for city, school general election

The county's chief election official said 25 percent of Sherman County voters turned out for Tuesday's general election, while 31 percent of Goodland's eligible voters went to the polls.  
County Clerk Janet Rumpel said including advance and absentee voting ballots, which were due when the polls closed at 7 p.m., 1,065 of the county's 4,230 eligible voters turned out and 923 of Goodland's 3,026 voters.  
Rumpel said she wasn't surprised

voter turnout was low, considering the only real race was for three seats on the city commission and there were no special questions.  
"If there had been a local issue or special question," she said, "more people would have voted."  
Voter turnout was lower in the rural areas, Rumpel said, because most of those residents were only voting for candidates who were virtually guaranteed an office. There were no races in school or Kanorado city balloting.

# Bush refuses to apologize to China

## Powell says U.S. regrets death of Chinese pilot

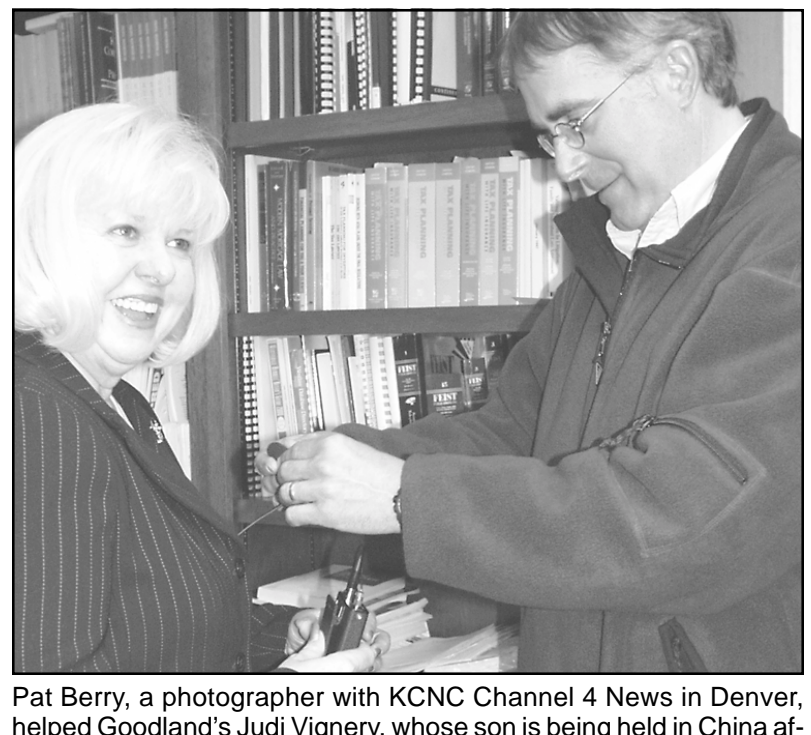
WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of State Colin Powell expressed regret today over the death of a Chinese pilot when his jet fighter collided with a U.S. spy plane. But the Bush administration stood firm in its refusal to apologize.  
"We regret the loss of life of that Chinese pilot but now we need to move on," Powell told reporters. "We need to bring this to a resolution and we're using every avenue available to us to talk to the Chinese side to exchange explanations."  
White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said the position stated by Powell was expressed earlier in the day by the U.S. ambassador to Beijing in a meeting with the Chinese foreign minister.  
"The United States is concerned about the missing Chinese serviceman and we have expressed our concern and our regrets about that incident," Fleischer said.  
Powell called the collision a tragic accident, and credited the skills of the U.S. crew for safely landing the aircraft.  
Earlier, Fleischer gave what has become the administration's standard response when asked whether there would be an apology: "The United States doesn't understand the reason for an apology. Our airplanes are operating in international airspace, and the United States did nothing wrong."  
Fleischer said U.S. Ambassador Joseph Prueher was summoned to a meeting earlier today with the Chinese foreign minister, Tang Jiaxuan, in Beijing. Tang demanded an apology for the incident and Prueher refused, Fleischer said.  
"He reiterated what the president said yesterday about President Bush's desire to end this situation, to allow our men and women to come home and have the plane returned as well," Fleischer said.  
The Chinese ambassador to Washington, Yang Jiechi, repeated Beijing's assertion that the United States is completely at fault and re-



First and second graders at West Elementary School tied yellow ribbons to the school's fence Tuesday in support of the U.S. Navy crew being held in China. From left, Riley O'Hara, Sydnee Thornburg, Jordan Garza and Chauntell Peter, all first graders in Janet Davis' class, took their turn tying ribbons on the fence.  
Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

sponsible for ending the standoff. "China is the injured party," he said in an interview with CNN.  
Asked how much longer the diplomatic standoff will go on, he said: "I don't know. I think maybe you should ask some of your countrymen. ... I think it should stop right away and ... should be handled with great care."  
Would his government accept a statement of regret? "I think people in your government know how to say it," Yang replied.  
China maintains the crew of 24, which made an emergency landing after the collision Sunday, is being held in "protective custody" and that the United States should apologize for the incident that landed them there.  
"This accident has the potential of undermining our hopes for a fruitful and productive relationship between our two countries," Bush said Tuesday. "To keep that from happening, our servicemen and women need to come home."  
U.S. diplomatic representatives met Tuesday with the crew members on

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Pat Berry, a photographer with KCNC Channel 4 News in Denver, helped Goodland's Judi Vignery, whose son is being held in China after a military plane accident, put on a microphone Tuesday at the Vignery and Mason office. After avoiding out-of-town reporters Monday, Judi and her husband Ron spent the afternoon giving interviews to newsmen from across the state and country.  
Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

# County says no to tax request

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Daily News*  
Sherman County commissioners approved buying a new pickup for the sheriff's department, but turned down a request to prorate delinquent property taxes at Friday's regular meeting.  
County Attorney Bonnie Selby and Treasurer Shelby Miller met with the commissioners to discuss a request that had been received from an attorney in Oklahoma who was handling the Gibson's Chapter 11 bankruptcy case.  
Selby said the attorney was asking the county to split the delinquent property taxes so a section of the property on the east side could be sold to Rick Billinger of Nationwide Homes. She said the attorney said the property sale was in the process when the bankruptcy was filed, and that Billinger had already given Gibson's a down payment of \$8,000.  
Miller said the total tax owed is \$47,500, but they had no way to prorate the portion of the taxes that would apply to the piece they are trying to sell.  
"I don't split parcels after they have become delinquent," Miller said.  
Selby said the whole property now belongs to Bank of America, and they have at least another three years before they have to settle the case. She asked the commissioners for their recommendation on how to proceed.  
All three commissioners said they did not want to split the delinquent taxes and recommended that Selby tell the lawyer they could sell the property if the taxes were paid in full, but that they would not split the amount.  
Selby said she felt that was the right decision, and would write to the attorney telling him they could settle the case any time they wanted, but the county would not agree to splitting the taxes.  
William McKnight presented bids for the aeration of the lawns and fairgrounds, with the commissioners approving the bid from K and K Tree Service of Goodland for \$175. The commissioners also asked McKnight to get bids on tree trimming.  
Sheriff Whitson presented two bids

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