


weather report

35°  
at noon



Today

Sunset, 4:50 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 7:04 a.m.

Sunset, 4:51 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 32 degrees

• Humidity 36 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds southwest 8 m.p.h.

• Barometer 30.10 inches and steady

• Record High 71° (1923)

• Record Low -20° (1930)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 34°

Low 13°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly cloudy, low 10s, wind northeast 10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly cloudy, high upper 20s, low lower 10s, wind east 10 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast


Saturday: partly sunny, high near 30. Sunday: partly cloudy, low mid 10s, high upper 30s. Monday: partly cloudy, low 10s, high mid 40s. Tuesday: mostly cloudy, low upper 10s, high near 50.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.69 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.61

Corn — \$1.99 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.89

Loan deficiency payment — 10¢

Milo — \$1.71 bushel

Soybeans — \$3.91 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.90

Loan deficiency payment — \$1.02

Millet — \$3.50 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$8.70 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 67¢

Confection current — inquire

Pinto beans — \$25 (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.

Powell vows U.S. support

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Afghan prime minister told Secretary of State Colin Powell during a historic visit today that Afghanistan needs a long-term commitment from the United States so it can become a normal country after years of being run by terrorists. Powell promised, “We will be with you.”

Powell told Hamid Karzai, head of the interim Afghan administration, that the United States would make a substantial financial commitment at next week’s international aid donors conference in Tokyo.

He also vowed that U.S. forces would pursue the remnants of Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaida terror network and the ousted Taliban militia so they do not threaten Afghanistan’s stability.

“We don’t want to leave any contamination behind,” he said.

# ‘Tax Me More’ not funny to Graves

**By John Hanna**  
*Associated Press Writer*

TOPEKA (AP) — Conservative legislators have an alternative to Gov. Bill Graves’ plan to increase taxes, a “Tax Me More” Fund to collect voluntary contributions to state government.

Graves refused to ignore or brush off their facetious suggestion Wednesday. He called it nonsense and criticized conservatives for not being serious enough about solving the state’s budget problems.

About a dozen conservatives, led by Sen. Tim Huelskamp, R-Fowler, had a Statehouse news conference to unveil their proposal, promising a bill would be introduced in both houses next

week.

They passed out envelopes provided by the Kansas Taxpayers Network, an anti-tax group with its headquarters in Wichita, and said Kansans could start sending contributions to the Department of Administration immediately.

Huelskamp mocked a suggestion Graves made in his State of the State address that Kansans would accept a tax increase to prevent cuts in some government programs.

“Obviously, there are some differences of opinion, a different understanding and reading public opinions,” Huelskamp said. “We’d like to introduce a means which would allow Kansans to speak for themselves.”

Graves had his own news conference immediately afterward, in his office one floor up. He labeled the conservatives’ event “theater made up of bad actors.”

“Whoever those folks were downstairs would be better off staying home and just mailing in their no votes,” he said. “The next group can have their theatrical road show, and I’ll be happy to respond as well.”

The exchange showed how much some of Graves fellow Republicans oppose increasing taxes to help close a projected \$426 million gap between expected revenues and spending commitments for the state’s 2003 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Graves has proposed \$228 million in tax increases. They include raising the tax on a pack of cigarettes 65 cents and on a gallon of gas by a penny. The state’s sales tax would increase by a quarter-cent on the dollar.

The governor contends the tax increases are necessary to avoid cuts in education and some social service programs. Senate Republican leaders have drafted a plan that relies more heavily on budget cuts and would dip into rainy day funds — but not increase taxes.

The conservatives said they got the idea for their fund from one Arkansas Gov. Mike

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# 13-year-old to kick at Steelers game

## Ambassadors wish quarterback luck

**By Doug Stephens**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

Pittsburgh watch out; Bobby Miller is on his way to compete in the National Punt, Pass and Kick competition before the Baltimore Ravens- Pittsburgh Steelers game Sunday.

Miller, an eighth grader at Grant Junior High, was sent off today by the Goodland Ambassadors in a ceremony at the school.

He and his parents, Randy and Tammy Schoenthaler, are being flown to Pittsburgh by the National Football League and Gatorade, the sponsors of the contest, and will be put up in a hotel for two days.

Miller is one of four finalists in the 12- to 13-year-old boys division who will compete before the Ravens-Steelers game Sunday on the Steelers’ indoor practice field. Miller represents the Kansas City Chiefs and will wear their jersey during the contest.

The family will be seated on the field during the game, and the competitors will have a throwing exhibition on the field during half-time.

CBS Sports will televise the award ceremonies and may show highlights of the competition during the game, according to an NFL website. Winners of the competition will be introduced to the crowd between the third and fourth quarters.

The 6-foot 1-inch, 185-pound 13-year-old doesn’t seem too worried about the competition.

“If I do it the way I know I’m capable of,” Miller said, “I have a good chance of winning.”

He says he has been trying to practice at least once a day during the week, and five to 10 times a day on weekends. He says he has started weight training since Christmas break, and his practice scores are about 55 feet farther than they were when he competed in the Kansas City Chiefs’ regional contest last month. The local contest was held at Cowboys Stadium in September.

Miller says he is more confident in his passing than his kicking, after playing quarterback for the eight grade football team, but the weight training seems to be adding yards to his kicks.

He is throwing the ball 160 feet in practice, he says, and his kicks are about 120 feet.

“I’m proud of him,” said Randy Schoenthaler. “I told him, ‘Let’s have some fun. Even NFL place-kickers sometimes hit it on the side of their foot.’ He’s done a good job, and you can’t ask for more than that.”



Linda Charron and the Goodland Ambassadors gave a send-off to Bobby Miller at 8 a.m. today at Grant Junior High. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

# Event features auction, food

**By Doug Stephens**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

The High Plains Roosters chapter of Pheasants Forever will hold their second annual fund-raising banquet Saturday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary will serve a prime rib dinner, and 17 hunting prints will be sold at a silent auction.

The doors will open at 5 p.m. for a social hour, giving guests a chance to browse the prints to be auctioned. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

The cost for tickets will be \$15, and memberships will be available for \$35 a person, or \$45 a couple.

Three raffle tables have been set up

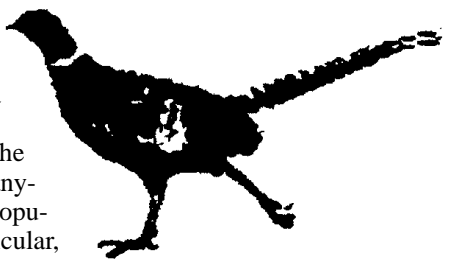
with prizes donated from Goodland businesses.

There will be one for youths, one for ladies and a general table.

Thad Hahn, president of the chapter, said he encourages anyone concerned with wildlife populations, and pheasants in particular, to attend.

He says all proceeds from the fund-raiser will be used for habitat work in our area. Pheasants Forever provides habitat for pheasants and other wildlife by planting seeds on farmland, educates the public about what pheasants need and supports ethical hunting.

The High Plains Rooster chapter



# County buys vehicles for sheriff

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

Sherman County Commissioners approved paying about \$35,000 for two vehicles and about \$2,000 for a water softener for the sheriff’s department on Tuesday at a regular meeting.

Sheriff Doug Whitson presented bids for a new car and a new 4-wheel drive pickup. Dan Brenner Ford was the sole bidder on the car at \$16,225. Both Finley Motor and Dan Brenner Ford submitted bids on the 4-wheel drive pickup. Finley’s bid was \$19,300, and Brenner’s was \$18,885.

The commissioners approved the low bid by Dan Brenner Ford on the pickup, and accepted the Ford bid on

the car.

Sheriff Whitson also presented a bid to have a water softener system installed in the Bastille.

He said there has been several times plumbers have been called to repair faucets and pipes because of the hard

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# District can’t afford baseball program

**By Rachel Miscal**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

About 15 people attended the Goodland School Board meeting on Monday to ask for a boys baseball program, but members said the district can’t afford to start a new sport this year.

The discussion led into talk of how to save money. Members reviewed a list of teachers’ ideas, including closing a building, switching to 4-day weeks and reducing the superintendent’s salary.

Parents and baseball players and fans came to the session to show there is a demand for baseball in Goodland. Dick Liess, district athletic director, proposed adding the program to the district’s list of spring sports.

After discussion, board members said the district is having money problems this year and may be forced to cut current programs. Superintendent Marvin Selby said later they pointed out the district would also have to add a girls sport to comply with Title IX, a federal law requiring gender equality in sports.

Members decided to put off talking about baseball until school finances are in better shape, which could be awhile.

Enrollment is steadily declining and state aid depends on student numbers. Selby told the board enrollment has dropped by 26 students since Sept. 20, the state’s official count day. That may mean less money from the state in the future.

“We’ve been going down some each year,” he said after the meeting.

Selby presented to the board a list of 14 ideas on ways to save money. He said he sent letters to every teacher asking for suggestions and the list was compiled from their responses.

One of the suggestions was to sell the gymnasium in the Edson school, which is now closed. Selby said the district spent about \$20,000 in 2001 for heat and lights in the gym, which some sports teams use for practice space.

Members decided to put the gym up for sale and ask for sealed bids until March 1. Selby said if any or all of the bids are less than the board considers acceptable, the district has the right to refuse them.

Another idea was to close a building. The board has talked about closing

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