

weather report

66°
at noon



Today
• Sunset, 4:46 p.m.

Tomorrow
• Sunrise, 6:16 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:45 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 52 degrees
- Humidity 24 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds variable 5-6 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.96 inches and steady
- Record High 4° (1951)
- Record Low 78° (1988)

Last 24 Hours*

High 83°
Low 43°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: clear, low 30s, wind light and variable. Tomorrow: sunny, high 60s, low 30s, wind south 5-10.

Extended Forecast

Saturday and Sunday: partly sunny, high 60s, low 30s.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

- Noon**
- Wheat — \$2.68 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.68
 - Corn — \$1.96 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.74
 - Loan deficiency payment — 25¢
 - Milo — \$1.66 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$3.71 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.64
 - Loan deficiency payment — \$1.28
 - Millet — \$3.75 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$7.95 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.27
 - Confection current — inquire
 - Pinto beans — \$19 (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.
Disease source baffles experts

WASHINGTON — Investigators reported “no clues” to suggest the mail is to blame for the anthrax death of a New York City hospital worker, and the hunt continued for an explanation for how someone outside the mail or the media was infected. More than 170 postal workers in Missouri began preventive antibiotics after traces were found in Kansas City.

Just outside Washington, anthrax was found in yet more government buildings, with preliminary tests showing spores in four Food and Drug Administration mail rooms. Postal authorities began picking through piles of decontaminated mail, searching for a possible unopened tainted letter.

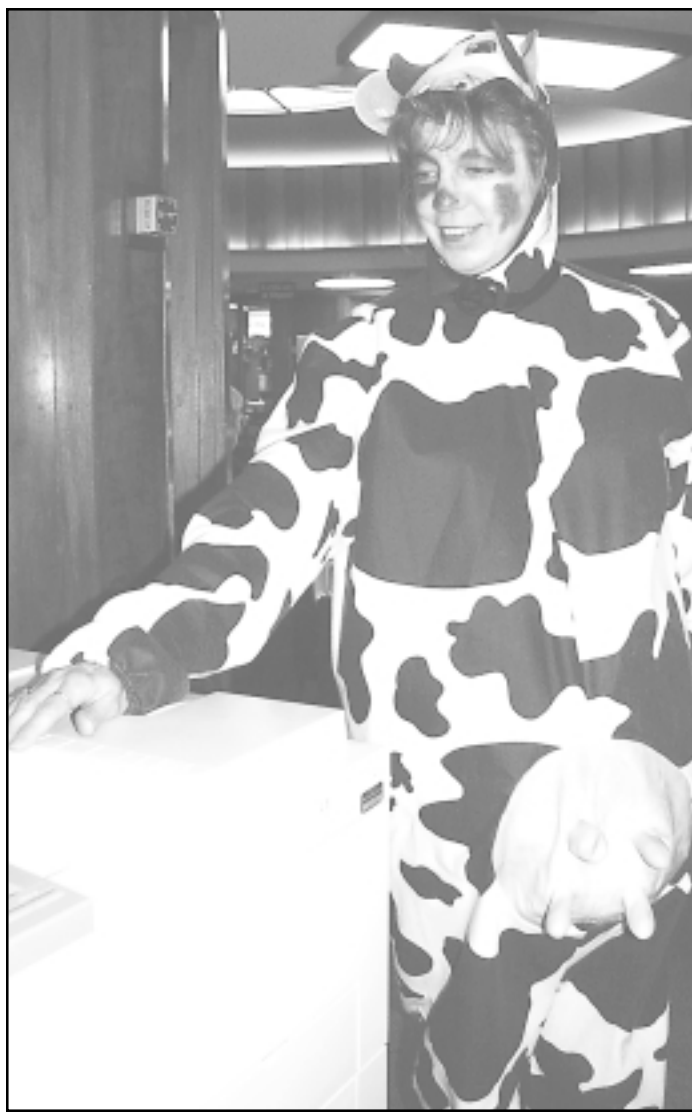
In New York, investigators traced Kathy T. Nguyen’s final steps in an attempt to find out how she was infected with inhalation anthrax.



Cow, bike babe work counter

Cows, babies, wizards, bunnies and hippies showed up for work Wednesday at First National Bank, taking their regular positions behind a desk or counter. It was an average day, except the customer service department was playing with a beach volleyball, a teller was showing off her tattoo and other employees were waving wands or flapping their wings. The bank employees took Halloween seriously, with most taking the opportunity to dress up. Judy Webring (above) in customer service was a “Baywatch babe,” Kathy Hoelting (left) in human resources was a cow and Sandy McElwee, a teller, was a “biker babe.”

Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News



Kyle Railroad has been sold

Deal should be final this year

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

States Rail, the company that owns Kyle Railroad serving Goodland and Sherman County, is being purchased by Rail America in a deal that will be finalized by January.

Kyle has a lease-purchase agreement on the rail lines from the Midstates Port Authority, said John Golden of Goodland, a board member of the port authority. The agency owns the line from Limon, Colo., to Belleville, Kan., that goes through Goodland. The port authority was created by the counties served by the Rock Island Railroad, he said, and purchased it from the bankruptcy trustee when the railroad went belly up in 1984.

When the sale is final, Golden said, Rail America will become the fourth operator on the line since the port authority bought it. The merger should be a positive change for the railroad, he

said, as Rail America is a larger company than States Rail and should provide financial stability.

“The railroad will be in a stronger financial position,” Golden said, “and service will continue as in the past if not improve.”

Kyle is a short line, he said, which feeds into major railroads such as the Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Union Pacific. Rail America is the largest short line operator in the country. States Rail owns several other shortlines, and bought up the Kyle holdings a few years ago.

“The vitality of the railroad should be enhanced by the merger,” Golden said.

The railroad is important to the economy of Kansas, he said, as it moves grain grown in the state to markets as well as other commodities. The Northern Sun sunflower plant west of Goodland is one of its largest customers.

County purchases generator for jail

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County commissioners decided to go for a larger emergency generator for the Bastille because it might also handle some of the essential power needs of the courthouse.

Trent Blythe of B and B Electric and Sheriff Doug Whitson met with the commissioners Wednesday at their final meeting of October to review the details of the generators.

The bid, which was opened at the Oct. 16, commissioner meeting had two options, a 30,000-watt generator for \$21,182, and a 50,000-watt unit for \$22,700.

Blythe said the 30,000-watt generator would provide about 120 amps of power, and his survey of the current use at the Bastille adds up to just about 100 amps. This would leave about 15 percent available for expansion of power use at the jail.

The 50,000-watt generator will produce about 190 amps, and with the excess the county could run a line into the courthouse that could handle some of the essential power needs including heat, a few lights and the main computers.

Sheriff Whitson said that when the power goes off, he has no way to keep the prisoners in the Bastille. He said the

essential services of lights, ventilation and feeding the prisoners are not available when the power is off.

“I have to transfer my prisoners to another jail,” Whitson said, “and they charge \$45 per day.”

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he felt the larger generator was a better buy and gives the county more options. He made the motion to purchase the larger unit for \$22,700. Commissioner Kevin Rasure seconded the motion, and Chairman Chuck Frankenfeld voting for the purchase also.

The commissioners asked County Clerk Janet Rumpel how they would handle the cost through the budget.

She said the commissioners could do it as a two-phase project with the cost of the concrete pad and installation of the gas line being part of this year’s capital costs, and the actual generator part of next year’s budget. She said the money is available for the whole project in this year’s budget, though, and all it would do is reduce the end-of-year carryover in that item.

Whitson said Blythe had said it would take six to eight weeks for the generator to be delivered, which would be in late December or early January. He said he would work with Blythe to

See COUNTY, Page 4

Ghouls raise 560 pounds of food for Genesis

Cans, boxes fill empty cupboards

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Volunteers delivered 560 pounds of food and a \$219 check to the Genesis Food Bank at the First United Methodist Church on Wednesday, filling the organization’s bare cupboards with the take from a Halloween haunted house.

Pat Jordan, Genesis director, was ecstatic.

“This came at a very opportune time,” Jordan said, standing beside 45 plastic bags filled with cans and boxes in the basement of the church’s Fellowship Hall, where Genesis stores its food. “We really were getting pretty low.”

The bounty was brought in by Goodland Development Corp. members, who built a haunted house in the Northwest Kansas Technical College’s storm shelter last month.

As a community project, they decided to charge people food instead of money for admission. The group also accepted cash donations, with all proceeds going to Genesis, which helps feed hungry families in Sherman County.



Pat Jordan, Genesis Food Bank director, worked Wednesday to put away 560 pounds of food the Goodland Development Corp. collected for the organization with a Halloween haunted house.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

dent, said someone left a \$100 bill and the group collected more food than they expected. He said the Girls Scouts, Grass Roots

Lawn Service, Bankwest, Jo and Bob Simmons, Kiwanis and the technical college helped by donating materials, labor, insurance and money, and the Frontier Equity Exchange grain elevator weighed the food for free.

Goodwin and other twenty-something Goodland residents formed the corporation earlier this year, with members working on several projects to help businesses, people and children in the area.

Genesis holds a large food drive before Christmas each year, Jordan said, and the group didn’t want to ask people for food right before the drive, but the supply was starting to dwindle. The need for food has started to increase as the weather has gotten cooler.

“We’ll give away at least a third of this by Christmas,” she said, adding that the collection was the largest Genesis has received from another group.

Goodwin said corporation members plan to make the haunted house and collecting food for Genesis an annual thing.

Jordan said the organization has never had to ask the state or city for money, because people in Goodland always seem to donate plenty of food.

“We’ve never had to turn anyone away that needed help,” she said. “I’m a fan of Goodland.”

Senator waiting on race

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Senate President Dave Kerr plans to wait until the 2002 legislative session ends before announcing whether he’ll run for governor.

Kerr said Wednesday that since he expressed an interest about a month ago, people have been encouraging him to run. However, he noted that legislators face a tough session, particularly on budget issues.

“My first responsibility is to the people who elected me to represent them in the Kansas Senate and to my colleagues who chose me as Senate president,” Kerr said. “It will take all my time and energy to bring this challenging session to a positive conclusion.” Gov. Bill Graves won re-election.

See RACE, Page 4