

weather report

50°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:33 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:30 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:32 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 43 degrees
- Humidity 56 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds north 15 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.07 inches and steady
- Record High 75° (1975)
- Record Low -4° (1940)

Last 24 Hours*

High 67°
Low 31°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, low upper 20s, winds northwest 10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly cloudy, high lower 50s, low upper 20s, winds northwest 10-20 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: sunny, high upper 40s, low lower 30s. Sunday: sunny, high near 60. Monday: clear, high near 50, low lower 30s. Tuesday and Wednesday: mostly clear, high 55-60, low 25-30.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHZ.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$4.07 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.91
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Corn — \$2.60 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.25
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Milo — \$2.27 bushel
- Soybeans — \$5.22 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.04
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Millet — \$14.00 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$12.45 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Confection current — \$17/\$7 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$16

(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.

Inspectors head for Iraq

UNITED NATIONS — Iraq's acceptance of a new U.N. resolution gave a green light for the return of weapons inspectors whose searches will test Saddam Hussein's commitment to disarm and avert a new war.

An advance team is set to arrive on Monday, and the first U.N. inspectors are to begin work on Nov. 25, U.N. officials said Wednesday.

In a nine-page letter of acceptance delivered to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Iraq said it wants to prove to the world that it has no weapons of mass destruction. But the letter's harsh, anti-American and anti-Israeli tone raised questions about Iraq's future cooperation and treatment of the arms inspectors.

Sebelius forms groups to fix budget

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Gov.-elect Kathleen Sebelius acknowledges some Kansans are skeptical about the top-to-bottom review of state government that she's long promised and just started.

But she expects it to bring results they can see — and savings she can include in her budget recommendations to legislators next year.

"I am very confident that the process will yield some tangible results that will be very helpful to me in a new administration, will be very helpful to Cabinet secretaries and ultimately will make for a much more strategic state govern-

ment," she said Wednesday during a Statehouse news conference.

Sebelius created five teams to conduct her review. The Democratic governor-elect's team leaders include a corporate executive and a Republican legislator.

While she hopes to find savings quickly, Sebelius said the review will be ongoing and examine eliminating, consolidating and restructuring programs and entire agencies. Eventually, she said, it could result in a permanent commission with independent auditors.



K. Sebelius

Teams will examine social services, general government, public safety, economic development, and agriculture and natural resources agencies. A sixth team for education has yet to be named.

Sebelius expects meetings to begin next week. "They are not to be hampered by some kind of preset conclusions, and we really want these recommendations to be as creative and strategic as possible," Sebelius said.

See SEBELIUS, Page 7

Vatican must OK abuse plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's Roman Catholic bishops asked scandal-weary Catholics to be patient as church leaders implement the sex abuse policy they revised to address Vatican concerns about fairness for priests.

The plan, which the bishops adopted Wednesday, could take at least a year to put into effect, the prelates said.

"This is a difficult moment for the church so we had to do something to get past it," said Bishop Thomas Doran of Rockford, Ill., who helped oversee the revisions. "Will it work? None of us is a prophet. We hope it will."

The Vatican still must approve the policy to make it church law, and therefore mandatory, but the changes were worked out by a joint U.S.-Vatican commission last month.

U.S. prelates are certain the document will win endorsement from the Holy See. The prelates voted 246-7 with six abstentions to adopt the changes, which they said still require guilty clerics to be removed from public ministry — saying Mass, teaching in Catholic schools, wearing a Roman collar — after a single case of abuse with a minor.

The policy allows bishops to conduct a confidential, preliminary inquiry when a molestation claim is made to determine whether it is plausible. If it is, the accused priest is to be put on leave, then must go before a clerical tribunal to determine his guilt or innocence.

The old policy that the bishops approved in Dallas five months ago allowed church leaders to pull priests out of their jobs as soon as they were accused.

Vatican officials expressed concern the approach denied priests due process. The Holy See withheld its approval of the plan until the changes were made.

The bishops must now create the courts, train church prosecutors and judges and take other steps to put the system in place, Doran said.

The prelates voted to spend nearly \$1 million in each of the next two years on addressing abuse. Part of the money is for their newly created Office for Child and Youth Protection.

They appointed a director for that office just last week.

The Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests objected to the policy, saying it gives too much discretion to bishops, whose negligence caused the molestation crisis.

"Bishops have voted to give themselves more power and backtracked from their earlier promises," said Barbara Blaine, the group's president. "It is critical that survivors keep coming forward, regardless of the obstacles."

Bishops are compelled to obey local civil law on reporting abuse claims, but not more than that. The church leaders, however, pledged to report all allegations involving children to civil authorities.

Under the new policy, bishops can ask the Vatican to waive the church's statute of limitations, which requires victims to come forward by age 28. Review boards including lay people will monitor how dioceses respond to abuse, but the policy stresses that only bishops can manage clergy.

The bishops are trying to heal a church under siege following 10 months of revelations about church leaders sheltering molester clergy. Dioceses are facing grand jury investigations, hundreds of civil lawsuits and parishioner dissent.

At least 325 of the nation's 46,000 priests have resigned or been removed from their posts this year because of accusations of sex abuse. Assuming the Vatican backs the policy, many of those cases will be heard by church courts, said Cardinal Francis George, who helped negotiate the revisions with the Vatican.

The crisis started last January when Boston's Cardinal Bernard Law acknowledged reassigning a priest who had been accused of abuse, putting every diocese under scrutiny.

The bishops approved a statement Wednesday apologizing for the damage from the mistakes they made.

Bishop Wilton Gregory, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, acknowledged that it's been a "painful year" but felt progress had been made.

"I think the church is in a much better place than it was before," he said.

IT'S PLAY TIME...



Pirates take over stage

Amanda Hoffman (Mabel-above) sang to her sweetheart pirate Timothy Kafka (Frederic) in the Pirates of Penzance, to be performed at 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday. Ian Scherling (Pirate King-left) played with Josef Felver's costume (Major General) to show he is not impressed.

Photos by Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

Little guy left alone on farm

Dog has no place to go now that owner has passed away

By Rachel Hixson

The Goodland Daily News

Does anyone out there have a home for a fun-loving, frisky, friendly little guy, who has spent the past few months living all alone on a farm southwest of Goodland?

Sandy Rodgers, co-chair of the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter board in Goodland, said after Norma Topliff's husband Gale died a few years ago, she decided she needed some company on the farm.

The animal shelter had just started its foster care program for dogs, Rodgers said, and Norma called to ask about adopting a farm dog. They paired her up with "Curly," a puppy Rodgers described as an Australian-Shepherd

spaniel mix of some kind, and a close, sometimes comical, friendship developed.

The friendship ended in May when Topliff died at the Goodland Regional Medical Center, where she had been a patient for more than a month. Curly was left alone on the farm, and Rodgers said while Norma's family made sure the four-year-old dog had food and water, they couldn't give him a new home.

"He spent several months out on the farmstead missing her," she said. Rodgers said it wasn't safe to keep Curly on the farm, so he went back into foster care last week and is now living at her home. She said the animal shelter is hoping to find a new owner for

Curly. Curly has always been adventurous and fun-loving, Rodgers said, recalling the time the puppy escaped from foster care during a rain storm in the summer of 1999. She said animal shelter volunteers weren't sure what to do and ended up chasing Curly all over the west side of Goodland.

Rodgers said she was soaked by the time they finally caught Curly, but the dog was elated. "He thought he had a great time," she said. Curly is more obedient now, Rodgers said, but is still energetic and friendly. He had to be groomed after coming off

See DOG, Page 7



When Curly's owner died he was left alone at the farm. The animal shelter is trying to find him a new home. Photo by Kelley Rodger