

weather report

58° at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:40 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:41 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 58 degrees

• Humidity 31 percent

• Sky partly cloudy

• Winds west 11 m.p.h.

• Barometer 30.32 inches and rising

• Record High 72° (1965)

• Record Low -13° (1988)

Last 24 Hours*

High 58°

Low 29°

Precipitation none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Tonight: clear, low near 30, winds west 10-15 m.p.h. Wednesday: sunny, high near 70, low mid 20, winds west 10-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast


Thursday: mostly sunny, high upper 40s, low 15-20. Friday: partly cloudy, high lower 40s. Saturday: partly cloudy, high upper 30s, low near 20. Sunday: mostly clear, high mid 40s, low mid 20s. Monday: partly cloudy, high lower 40s, low near 20.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$3.48 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.47

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.44 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.21

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$2.21 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.35 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.21

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$10.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$10.30 cwt.

NuSun — \$11.35 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$16

(Markets 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.

Ex-broker goes on trial

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill. — Prosecutors are calling a former Kansan who promised high returns for investing in foreign bank notes a “liar and a cheat.”

But Richard J. Drakulich’s defense attorney said his client is as much a victim as the customers in Missouri, Illinois and three other states who lost \$2.67 million in deals brokered by Drakulich.

“I don’t dispute that people lost money,” said Phil Kavanaugh, a federal public defender. “My client was not acting to commit a crime, but acting on good faith.”

A former Overland Park, insurance broker, Drakulich is facing charges of mail fraud, wire fraud and securities fraud. Testimony was expected to begin today.

Ex-banker charged in theft case

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Daily News

A former Goodland banker faces charges of felony theft for allegedly stealing about \$11,100 from the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter over a two-year period.

Charges have been filed against Gordon Pettibone, who was the treasurer of the animal shelter when the money allegedly was taken from the organization’s savings account. The court file states the money was taken between Oct. 6, 1995, and Aug. 6, 1997.

Sandy Rodgers, president of the shelter’s board, said the board needed money from savings in August and discovered it was missing.

The savings account had been listed on the treasurer’s report for years, Rodgers said, and the board had no reason to check on the money or to believe it wasn’t in the bank.

“We trusted him (Pettibone) implicitly,” she said, adding that the board had no reason to believe he would steal. Pettibone was a loan officer at Western State Bank at the time and then went to work at the Goodland office of Kennedy and Coe, an accounting firm. Today, the office said he now works at the Wray, Colo., office of the regional firm. Reached there, Pettibone said he did not care to comment on the charges or his job.

Rodgers said the board called the authori-

ties when it discovered the money was missing. Sheriff Doug Whitson said his department investigated the theft when it was reported in August and turned it over to the county attorney. Pettibone was not arrested, he said.

“It’s very emotional,” Rodgers said.

The shelter is important, she said, and everyone on the board is a volunteer. It’s a great organization, she said, and probably the largest animal shelter between Hays and Denver.

The shelter works with the police department, Rodgers said, and takes stray dogs that have been in the holding facility for the maximum of three days without the owners claim-

ing them. The group has a central shelter on private property and volunteers care for animals at their “foster” homes.

The agency has saved most of the dogs picked up by the city, she said, and has accepted animals people have brought in. The dogs from the “pound,” she said, would be killed if the shelter couldn’t take them and find homes for them.

It’s important that the shelter continue, she said, and it will, though things will be difficult without that money.

“I want to reassure the public that the shelter will go on,” Rodgers said, “and that we will see this to the end.”

Access to arts debated

Ramp, lift costs nearly the same

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland City Commission compared the ups and downs of installing a new vertical lift or a ramp at the Carnegie Arts Center at its meeting Monday, but decided to wait for more information before making a decision.

City Manager Ron Pickman said he thought the lift would be a good idea. Building Official Jerry Nemechek talked with a representative of B&K Medical Access of Salina, Pickman said, and found that the lift would cost around \$10,000 in the open, or \$15,000-16,000 if it is enclosed.

The old lift in the building can’t be repaired, the city manager said, because the shaft is broken.

“I don’t like the idea of a ramp,” Commissioner Curtis Hurd said. “It takes away from the building.”

Hurd added that it seemed the ramp and the lift would cost about the same. The ramp would have to go around two sides of the building, Pickman said, making it cumbersome and requiring a lot of scooping in bad weather.

The lift would be affected by the weather also, Commissioner Chuck Lutters said. Both will have problems, he said, and the lift will probably require more maintenance.

Besides, Lutters joked, kids can’t use the lift as a skateboard ramp.

The commission decided to explore options as to the design of a ramp and the cost and benefits of enclosing the ramp before making a decision.

In other business:

• Pickman told the commission a public forum on trash collection is scheduled from 6-7:30 p.m. Monday in the high school auditorium with the Economic Development Council moderating the discussion.

The city and county have been discussing changes in the system. The city had planned to sell its equipment to a Colorado firm, but the development council hopes to keep the trash going to the county’s new landfill.

• The commission voted to vacate a portion of the street right-of-way on Eustis Ave. in the Campus Addition and on 11th Street in the East Ridge Subdivision near the Northwest Kansas Technical College. This will allow the college and the Goodland School District to complete a land swap.

Almost ready for calls



Workers for Mastec, the Minnesota firm that is laying fiber optic cable for S & T Telephone, were opening an access hole across from Goodland Greenline on old U.S. 24 west of K-27 today.

Mastec has been laying cable around the city, and S & T started taking sign ups for service Monday at their new office at 1318 Main. Photo by Sheila Smith / The Goodland Daily News

Visitor board gets leader, office

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

There will be a new office on Main in February when the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau moves into the building at 1206 with a new executive director.

A special board meeting Monday at the Chamber of Commerce conference room, the visitor’s board discussed options for new office space and voted to accept the offer for space at the Main location.

The board also voted unanimously to remove Ron Harding as the executive director, and appointed Donna Price as acting director for the next year. Price has been Harding’s assistant for tourism and the principal staff person at the Chamber for the visitor’s board.



Four billboards featuring Goodland have been updated with a field of sunflowers. This one is near Kanorado on the south side of I-70.

The building had been occupied by an Internet service, goto-

nwks.com. The rent will be \$300 per month plus utilities, and there is a

possibility sharing some things with the Sherman County Economic Development Council, which has its office next door. Opening up a door between the two offices was discussed.

Other possible locations included space at the Buffalo Inn Convention Center, a suite of offices at Rhoads Construction on West 17th Street, and space in the newly remodeled complex that used to be Q’s billiard parlor. Another was the old liquor store near the Van Gogh painting, but the monthly rent of \$650 was more than the board could afford.

Norma Notz, owner of Motel 7, said she was torn because she liked the convention center location out-

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Bush pushed tax cuts, job growth

By Scott Lindlaw
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — President Bush proposed “growth and jobs” plan to stimulate the economy today, offering a sweeping package of tax cuts and incentives that would eliminate all federal taxes on stock dividends.

Bush also proposed quick tax relief for married couples and a \$400-per-child increase in the tax credit

for families with children.

The president said his \$674 billion, ten-year plan would reduce taxes for all Americans who pay them, brushing aside Democratic criticism that the plan favored mainly the wealthy.

“We can preserve the hard-won gains our economy has made and advance toward greater prosperity,” he told the Chicago Economic Club.

The president said the centerpiece of his proposal — the complete elimination of federal income taxes on stock dividends — would help correct an imbalance in the tax code under which dividends are now taxed more heavily than profits from stock sales.

His plan would also accelerate and make permanent tax cuts passed two years ago.

“Americans deserve to know their tax cut will not be taken away,” he said.

Bush asked Congress to make the tax cuts effective this year.

The pricetag on the plan was nearly twice as large as White House advisers had been considering as recently as a week ago, representing

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Sebelius names six to fill Cabinet posts in administration

By John Hanna
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Gov.-elect Kathleen Sebelius announced six Cabinet appointments today, including two former legislators who may help reorganize the agencies they will lead.

Sebelius, a Democrat, plans to retain two secretaries appointed by outgoing Gov. Bill Graves, a Republican. They are Janet Schalansky,

social and rehabilitation services, and Mike Hayden, wildlife and parks.

The governor-elect announced that former House Minority Leader Jim Garner, of Coffeyville, will lead the Department of Human Resources and former Rep. and Topeka Mayor Joan Wagnon, the Department of Revenue. Both are Democrats who will have the title of acting secretary for what Sebelius said

were “special projects.”

Those tasks could include agency reorganization. Sebelius has said she doesn’t think Revenue is doing enough to collect delinquent taxes, particularly from corporations. She told reporters today that she wants Garner to examine Human Resources’ operations.

Sebelius named Deb Miller, chief planner for the architectural and engineering services firm HNTB, as

secretary of transportation. Her secretary of health and environment will be Rod Bremby, a researcher and associate director for a health policy group at the University of Kansas.

As she has for past appointments, Sebelius tapped a network of friends and former legislative colleagues.

“All of them, with the exception of Rod, who is a recent friend, I have known for, literally, decades,” she

said.

Sebelius’ inauguration is scheduled for Jan. 13, the same day the Legislature convenes for its annual session.

The appointments of Bremby, Hayden, Miller and Schalansky must be confirmed by the Senate. Because Garner and Wagnon are acting secretaries, Senate confirma-

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