

weather report

59° at noon

Today

- Sunset, 4:46 p.m.
- Sunrise, 7:05 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:47 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 22 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds southwest 9 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.15 inches and falling

- Record High 70° (1928)
- Record Low -17° (1997)

Last 24 Hours*

High	53°
Low	22°
Precipitation	none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, low mid 20s, winds north 10 m.p.h. Tuesday: cloudy, high mid 40s, low lower 20s, winds north 5-10 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: cloudy with 30 percent chance of snow increasing to 60 percent at night, high lower 30s, low near 10. Thursday: mostly cloudy, high upper 20s. Friday: partly cloudy, high mid 30s, low 5-10 m.p.h. Saturday: partly cloudy, high mid 40s, low mid teens. Sunday: mostly clear and breezy, high upper 40s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.19 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.25
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.36 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.21
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2.13 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.04 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.02
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$10.00 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$9.75 cwt.
NuSun — \$11.00 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$15

(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.

Korean crisis might ease

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea might get energy aid from the United States and other countries if it resolves concerns over its nuclear weapons development, a top U.S. envoy said today after meeting South Korea's president-elect.

Assistant U.S. Secretary of State James Kelly appeared to be offering an incentive to North Korea to give up its nuclear programs, though he did not say whether his comment represented a change in U.S. policy.

U.S. officials have previously said they would not reward North Korea for abandoning its nuclear promises, and that discussions of aid and better ties can only follow steps to dismantle the programs.

Sebelius sworn in as 44th governor

By John Hanna
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Kathleen Sebelius became the state's 44th governor today, taking the oath of office under a clear sky on a crisp winter morning.

Sebelius took office amid a budget crisis that some officials have called the worst since the Great Depression. The gap between spending commitments and general tax revenues could exceed \$1 billion over the next 18 months.

But Sebelius struck a note of optimism in her inaugural address. "I stand here with genuine humil-

Sebelius

ity, with the confidence and faith the people of Kansas have placed in me," Sebelius said, "and with the utmost determination to meet the challenges which lie ahead, and to make the changes necessary to move Kansas forward."

An estimated 1,500 people watched Sebelius take the oath of office and deliver her inaugural address on the south steps of the Statehouse. Broadcaster Bill Kurtis was master of ceremonies.

Beth Irunge, 11, of Topeka, attended the inauguration with about 200 students from Williams Science and Fine Arts Magnet School.

"I thought it would be cool to see," she said.

Sebelius touched on a campaign theme about the value of education and of the Kansas tradition of perseverance.

"There is a continuing struggle in these difficult economic times, but Kansans have endured and conquered difficult times before," she said. "The same determination to succeed is alive and well in communities across this great state, and the energy of entrepreneurs is evident in every corner of this state."

Sebelius urged all Kansans to rededicate themselves to the values of the pioneers:

"To commit to excellence in education, the value of hard work, the sense of shared purpose and commitment to the common good — to focus on family and faith."

She recalled the pioneer settlers as "the ultimate optimists — leaving the comfort and safety of the territory they knew for the promise of a better future."

After her speech, there was a 19-gun salute in her honor fired by four, 75mm howitzers manned by the Kansas National Guard. That was followed by a flyover of a KC-135 tanker plane from the state's 190th Air Refueling Wing.

Sebelius is the 10th Democrat elected governor and the second woman to hold that office. She faces a Legislature with large Republican majorities in both chambers. The Legislature was to convene its annual session later.

She succeeds Republican Gov. Bill Graves, who served eight years and plans to leave Kansas to become chief executive officer of the American Trucking Associations.

Sebelius' father, John Gilligan, also a Democrat, served as Ohio governor in 1971-75, making the two the only father-daughter gubernatorial team in the nation's history.

She was the last official sworn in during today's ceremony, following

See GOVERNOR, Page 4

Another arrested for meth

By Michelle L. Hawkins
The Goodland Daily News

A seventh arrest was made Saturday evening in the investigation of two methamphetamine labs which were busted last Wednesday in Goodland.

Mark Struckhoff, 41, a former Goodland resident who now lists Lakewood, Colo. as his home, was arrested while walking at 8th Street and Sherman Ave.

Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson said that his arrest came as a result of the arrests of Jimmy and Elaine McClelland, who allegedly were operating a meth lab in their home.

"This is more of the snowball effect," said Whitson.

Struckhoff was booked into the Sherman County Bastille for conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamines. His bond was set at \$50,000.

The six who were arrested last Wednesday, Justin Kibel, Curtis and Leslie Wiley, Jaqueline Bowling, and the McClellands, are still being held in the Bastille awaiting preliminary hearings. Bond has been set at \$50,000 for each.

Kibel, Bowling and the Wileys were all arrested at the rented mobile home of the Wileys at the corner of 16th Street and Kansas Avenue.

The McClellands were arrested at their rural Sherman County home. Officers determined that meth labs were being run out of both locations.

In a separate meth case, Scott Baumfalk of Kanorado was arrested Dec. 19, for production of methamphetamines.

Baumfalk was scheduled for a preliminary hearing on Jan. 7, but the hearing was continued. Whitson said it has not been rescheduled.

House gets decorated with plastic wrap

Stephanie and Megan Sheldon worked this morning to clean up their home five miles south of Goodland on K-27, which was decorated with toilet paper and plastic wrapping material sometime Sunday night. The girls were assisted in the cleanup by two of the culprits, Kenton Keith and Bryant Nemechek. The Sheldons said their family was out of town when the "antics" occurred, but were not too surprised. They said this was a pay back for an event which was organized by Stephanie on New Year's Eve.

Photos by Michelle L. Hawkins
The Goodland Daily News.

Search on for missing baseball plaque

By Michelle L. Hawkins
The Goodland Daily News

Has anyone seen this plaque?

This is the question being asked by area baseball fans since the move to the new ball diamonds in Centennial Park. The memorial had been put up to honor Bill Becker, who started American Legion baseball in Goodland.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the plaque was missing before city workers made the transition to the new fields two years ago. Legion officials thought it made the move, then disappeared.

Pickman said after talking with Public Works Director Ed Wolak, he found that the stone pillars are in place at the new site, but the installation at the new Memorial Field won't be complete until the plaque is recovered or replaced.

Ken Baum, commander of the Goodland American Legion Post, said the stone posts have been moved. Baum, who works for the city public works department, said he believes the plaque was taken and put into storage, but wasn't sure where it had gone.

"I know it was on the posts when we moved them to the new field," said Baum. "We would just like to have the memorial put back up."

Wolak told Pickman he thought that when city workers went out to the old ball diamonds to move the memorial two years ago, the plaque was already missing. Pickman did say that since the city didn't own the memorial and since he believed it was missing before the move, the city is not liable for replacing it.

Wolak later today said the posts were in fact in place at the new ballpark, and it is only the plaque that is missing.

Anyone who knows anything about the missing plaque or its whereabouts should contact Baum at 899-7364 or Merna Dautel at 899-2938.

County to reorganize, swear in Chuck Thomas

The Sherman County commissioners will select a new chairman and vice chairman once Chuck Thomas is sworn in at 8 a.m. Tuesday.

Later, commissioners plan to rescind the old resolution for the Sherman County Economic Development Council and pass a revised one to clarify the terms of the council members as three years.

They will also adopt a resolution establishing new construction and demolition rates for the landfill. This plan would grant everyone a two-ton credit each month on this type of material, but everyone would pay for amounts above this especially on concrete, bricks and cement blocks to cover the cost of having them crushed.

The commissioners will hear from Schyler Goodwin about a project for Big Brothers-Big Sisters.

Curt Way, county public works manager, has requested a closed session for an employee evaluation.

The commissioners will review the bills for the first half of the month.

Posts are in place, but plaque is missing.