

# Events for the family held at Expocentre

**By Emily Fredrix**  
*Associated Press Writer*  
TOPEKA — Levi Kickhaefer needed mom's help to write his name with a marker on the big "Kansas Is Cool" banner, but the red-haired 2-year-old picked out a blue star to go with it all by himself Sunday.

The banner will hang at the Kansas Expocentre for a dinner and dance celebrating the inauguration of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. Levi and hundreds of other children played games, heard stories and learned about all things Kansas at the inaugural's Family Festival.

Sebelius and her supporters planned four days of inaugural events, ending with Monday night's black-tie-optional events.

The made the third day for families — the first time anyone could recall an inaugural event designed to include children. Admission was free. Around 8,000 people came to the Expocentre, at the old Free Fair

## Inaugural dinner by the numbers

*By The Associated Press*

Kansas inaugural by the numbers

- Tables at the inaugural dinner: 206.
- Guests for the dinner: 2,060.
- Cost of tickets: \$65.
- Total pounds of meat: 800.
- Pounds of buffalo: 400.
- Hours needed to prepare the meat: 12.
- Hours to cook it: 1.5.
- Number of dinner rolls: 3,000.
- Gallons of specially-made salad dressing: 32.
- Gallons of honey in dressing: 8.
- Pounds of onions: 150.
- Pounds of celery: 50.
- Pounds of vegetables: 200.

- Pounds of starch: 600
- Number of people to put food on plates: 42.
- Number of assembly teams to do it: 6.
- Minutes needed to put food on plates: 60.
- Gallons of coffee if every guest has one cup: 95.
- Number of wine bottles at each table: 2.
- Total number of wine bottles: 412.
- Gallons of water served at dinner: Between 130 and 140.
- Number of servers to clean up: 85.
- Number of minutes expected for cleanup: 90.
- Estimated cost of inaugural festivities: Between \$320,000 and \$350,000.

Sources: Capitol Plaza Hotel and Sebelius Inaugural Committee.

grounds, for the festival.

Before he wrote on the banner, Levi played basketball and touched a rabbit in a row of cages that also held hamsters and chickens.

"We don't know what we'll do next," said his mother, Glynis Kickhaefer, a first-grade teacher from Alma.

Tables and exhibits around the

perimeter of the Expocentre's exhibition hall allowed children to touch animals, make their own fossils and even go on a virtual bird hunt.

They also played miniature golf,

listened to stories and music and mingled with mascots and cheerleaders from state universities.

Members of Kansas State University's cheerleading squad stood on stilts that made them 12 feet tall.

"I tell the kids to drink milk and eat their vegetables and they'll grow tall like us," said Mark Diltz, 20, of Sedgwick, one of nine squad members on stilts.

Sebelius greeted people in the exhibition hall before taking up her storytelling duties.

The governor-elect returned to Topeka for the event after crisscrossing the state Friday and Saturday to attend regional celebrations in Hays, Garden City, Wichita, Salina, Pittsburg and Kansas City.

Rosemary Weishapl and three friends drove more than 400 miles from the northwest Kansas town of Atwood.

She had Sebelius autograph a T-shirt, which she plans to frame.

"It's important for children," the 66-year-old said. "They need to see Kansas for their own little eyes and who it is that's in charge."

When she came to the banner that will hang at the inaugural dinner and ball, 8-year-old Erin Funk, of Topeka, drew a sunflower.

"Because it's a Kansas thing," she said.

Erin's mother, Sue Ann Funk, who works at the Stone Nature Center in Topeka, showed children owls, snakes and the official state reptile — the ornate box turtle.

Broadcaster Bill Kurtis signed copies of his book "Forever Kansas" and artist Stan Herd showed fans a poster he designed for Sebelius' inauguration.

Children's choirs, dance groups and American-Indian groups performed throughout the day as well. In nearby Heritage Hall, guests sampled Kansas cuisine such as apple pie, fried chicken and fried-dough tacos.

**GOVERNOR, from Page 1**

Lt. Gov. John Moore. Kansas Chief Justice Kay McFarland administered the oath of office.

## Subsidized lunches on increase

LAWRENCE (AP) — Though enrollment in Kansas public schools has declined by 16,000 students in the past three years, the number of children getting free or reduced-price lunches rose by 12,000.

Statewide, 36 percent of the roughly 484,000 students in public schools are enrolled in the federal program, according to a state report.

Nationally, the program serves meals to 27 million children each school day. It is operated in nearly 100,000 public and nonprofit private schools, with about one-third of all students taking part.

Under the program, free meals are provided to children in families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level. Families with incomes of up to 185 percent of poverty level are eligible for reduced-price lunches. For a family of four, the 2002 poverty level was \$18,100.

Peggy McAdoo, who administers the program at the Kansas Department of Education, attributed the increased participation to a bad economy and new restrictions on welfare programs.

There is a great disparity in free-and-reduced-lunch enrollment among Kansas school districts.

At one end of the spectrum is Blue Valley school district, which has 2.1 percent enrollment rate, while at the other is Chetopa, where 74.4 percent of the students are in the program.

"There are no jobs here for young people," said Harold Canady, Chetopa's school superintendent. "Some of the kids are so poor, if not for the free-and-reduced program, they wouldn't be eating very good."

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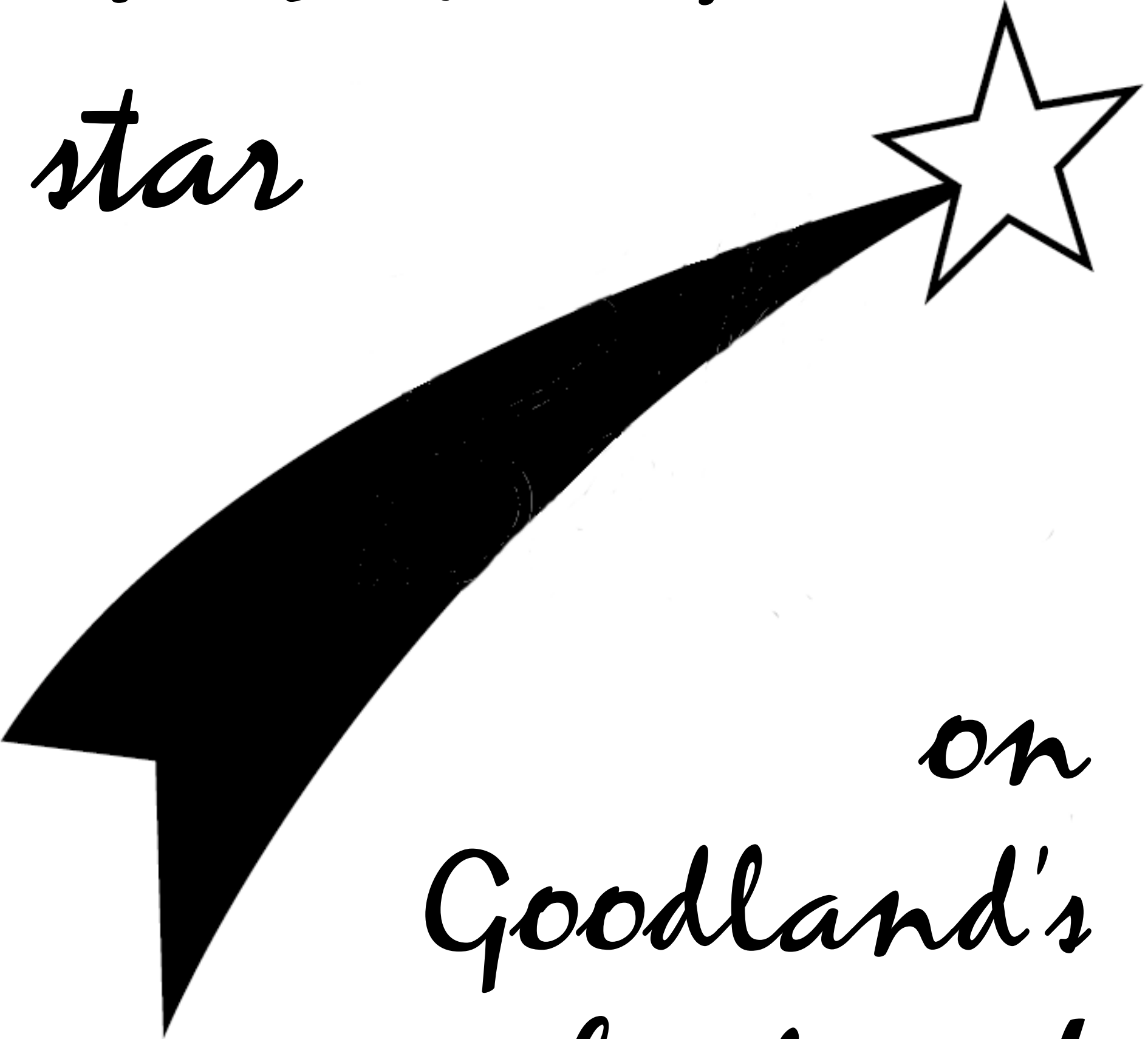
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