

**weather report**

**29°**  
at noon



**Today**

- Sunset, 4:49 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 7:04 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:50 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil Temperature 36 degrees
- Humidity 58 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds north 15 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.47 inches and falling
- Record High 65° (1951)
- Record Low -11° (1930)

**Last 24 Hours\***

- High 29°
- Low 10°
- Precipitation trace

**N.W. Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: partly cloudy, low near 10, winds northwest 5-10 m.p.h.  
Friday: partly sunny, high 35-40, low mid teens, winds south 5-15 m.p.h.

**Extended Forecast**

Saturday: mostly sunny, high 35-40, low near 20. Sunday: partly cloudy, high mid 50s. Monday: partly cloudy, high upper 40s, low near 20. Tuesday: mostly cloudy, high upper 30s, low lower 20s. Wednesday: cloudy with chance of snow, high lower 20s, low teens.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**

**Noon**

- Wheat — \$3.29 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$3.33
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
  - Corn — \$2.35 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$2.19
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
  - Milo — \$2.12 bushel
  - Soybeans — \$5.02 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$4.95
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
  - Millet — \$10.00 hundredweight
  - Sunflowers
  - Oil current crop — \$9.50 cwt.
  - NuSun — \$10.75 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.)

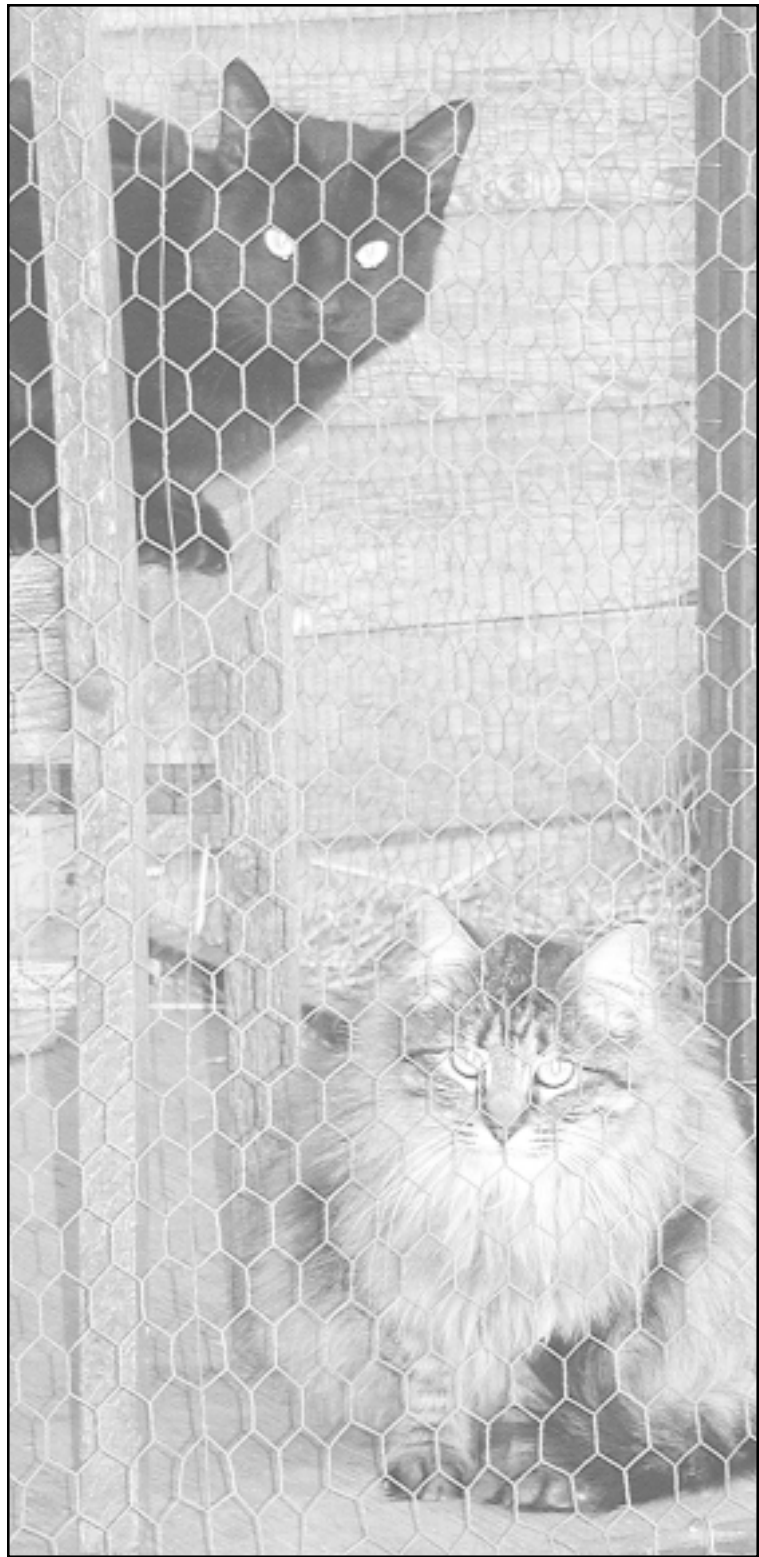
**afternoon wire**

Late news from the Associated Press  
**1 p.m.**

**Inspectors find 11 warheads**

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.N. weapons inspectors today found 11 empty chemical warheads and another one that is still being evaluated, according to a U.N. spokesman.  
Dimitri Perricos, the leader of the U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission team in Baghdad, said the find is "not a smoking gun" that might indicate Iraq had violated U.N. resolutions.  
Inspectors visited private homes for the first time today, as the chief U.N. inspector described the situation in Iraq as "very tense and dangerous."  
An inspection team made the warhead discovery at the Ukhaider ammunition storage area, 93 miles southwest of Baghdad, where they went to inspect a large group of bunkers constructed in the late 1990s.

# Saving our furry friends



Jamie Helmut (above right), animal shelter board member, fed a dog at the shelter's site Tuesday afternoon. She took food to all of the dogs and cleaned their pens. It's a relaxing job at the end of her day, she said: "Some people read. I scoop poop." The dogs at the shelter (right) lined up at the doors of their pens, eagerly awaiting food and company. A couple of cats (above) were also anxious to have company. Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

**By Sharon Corcoran**

*The Goodland Daily News*

The volunteers of the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter have a mission: to see that no pet dies a needless death.

And thanks to a dedicated crew working with the "no-kill" shelter, that's become a rarity in Goodland and Sherman County. The shelter estimates it's saved nearly 200 dogs in the last 2 1/2 years, saving the city and county about \$4,000 in expenses to put the dogs to sleep and dispose of the bodies.

Things aren't perfect, though. A lot of animals need someone to give them a home, and while the agency usually saves those the dogcatcher brings in, it can't place all the pets people would like to give away. There's a waiting list for those.

The shelter keeps all the animals it accepts until homes are found, rather than letting the city put them to death. Right now, it has 74 dogs and 12 cats that need homes.

The shelter has been operating about 12 years and has had a foster care program for four. For almost three years, it's taken dogs from the city pound.

The shelter's board recently gave up a long-time dream to build a new building on Goodland's south side, at the old roadside park on Business U.S. 24. The board decided the ani-



mals will be better off at its current shelter in rural Sherman County, or in foster homes with volunteers, rather than in a big shelter. Plus, it would cost more to operate a single big shelter.

The best way to control the animal population, said Sandy Rodgers, president of the shelter's board, is to have animals neutered, not to kill healthy animals.

The board sold the shelter's land

at the roadside park site, Rodgers said, for several reasons, including money, objections from the neighbors and considering what is better for the animals.

The shelter depends on donations and fund raisers, Rodgers said, and selling the land raised more money more quickly.

"We broke it down," said board member Lorna Thorpe, "and figured we would have to sell 36,000 cookies at a bake sale to make the \$12,000 we sold the land for."

Selling the land saves the shelter from paying taxes on it, Rodgers said, and eliminates the cost of insurance, mowing and other upkeep. Building a shelter there seemed like a good idea at the time the property was bought, Thorpe said, but it turned out it's cheaper to keep things as they are.

And it is better for the animals, she said, since they get more attention from foster families than they would from a hired boarder. And the animals have more room.

"Since it's a no-kill shelter," Rodgers said, "we have the same animals for a long time sometimes."

"We can't keep them in small cages indefinitely, which is what would happen with large numbers of animals in one building."

**See SHELTER, Page 4**



# Rasure named chair; Thomas sworn in

**By Tom Betz**

*The Goodland Daily News*

Kevin Rasure was elevated to chairman of the Sherman County Commission Tuesday morning after new Commissioner Chuck Thomas was sworn in by County Clerk Janet Rumpel.

Thomas was elected in November to fill the seat of outgoing Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld, who had been chairman.

Thomas has been attending commission meetings in the past several months to get a feel for the issues facing the county.

"I am glad I have been attending the meetings," Thomas said. "At least this way, I am sort of familiar with what the county has been facing, but know it will take nearly a year to really get up to speed."

After Thomas was sworn in,



**Rasure Thomas Tiede**

Rumpel asked for a motion to nominate a new commission chairman.

Rasure was nominated by Commissioner Mitch Tiede and seconded by Thomas.

As the new chairman, Rasure asked for nominations for vice-chair and Thomas nominated Tiede.

Rasure then opened the first meeting of the new commission.

In other action, the commissioners:

• Discussed a prairie dog problem in Shermanville Township.

Lloyd Harden, of the Voltaire Township board said they have been working to keep the prairie dogs under control, but wondered if the county could help with the problem next door in Shermanville. The commissioners said they would talk to Daryl West, county noxious weed director, and have him contact the landowners to work out a plan.

• Approved new construction and demolition rates. Under the resolution, everyone bringing these materials to the transfer station will have their loads weighed, and everyone

will receive a two-ton credit before anything is billed. The commissioners felt this was a reasonable way to handle the material.

"It keeps it simple and to the point," Tiede said.

• Schyler Goodwin asked if the county would consider having a team in the upcoming Big Brothers-Big Sisters Bowl for Kids fund raiser on Saturday, April 5. He said he is asking the banks to compete against each other with four-man teams and had asked the school board to participate. The commissioners said they would try to have a team. Goodwin said he would ask the city as well.

• Approved an agreement with American Fidelity Assurance to comply with the new federal health privacy regulations. County Attorney Bonnie Selby said she did not

see anything in this that was not standard.

• Approved a six-month evaluation raise for Marshall Squire of the road and bridge department. He receives a 3.2 percent raise, which brings him to \$8 per hour.

• Rescinded the old resolution for the Sherman County Economic Development Council and passed a revised version to correct the terms for the board. The original had an error and the new version sets all terms at three-years.

• Approved vouchers for the first half of January totaling \$142,212.

The next meeting will be 8 a.m. Tuesday in the commission room of the Sherman County courthouse, 813 Broadway Ave. The commissioners plan to finish their proposal to the city to take over the trash collection system.

# Sebelius budget hits transportation, protects education

**By John Hanna**

*AP Political Writer*

TOPEKA — Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' proposed budget would take money from cities, counties and highway projects to protect some social services and save education from further cuts.

Sebelius also is recommending that the state operate like a family living paycheck-to-paycheck, building up almost no cash reserves before the 2004 fiscal year ends on June 30 of that year.

The \$10.2 billion budget she presented to legislators during Wednesday night's State of the State address does not require tax increases, but some agencies would increase fees.

For example, the cost of a driver's license would jump to \$18 from \$12. Some cities and counties could face cutting the services they provide or increasing property taxes.

Also, the state's small administrative agencies would see cuts averaging almost 13 percent.

Sebelius defended her proposals, saying she wanted to put money into education and vital social services.

"There's no question that, like a family, if you have to tighten your belt you may put off the remodeling of one room in the house," she said after her address.

While Sebelius, a Democrat, endorsed many actions former Gov. Bill Graves, a Republican, took in his final months in office, she asked lawmakers to undo about two-thirds of the cuts he ordered in social services.

Those proposals encouraged some advocates. In the audience for the address was Sharon Joseph, a 51-year-old Topeka resident who volunteers at the Topeka Independent Living Resource Center, which provides services to the disabled.

"I thought it was very hopeful that she paid attention to what we've said about seeing the most vulnerable people get services," she said. "She'll spread what there is of the wealth."

As expected, Sebelius' fellow Democrats were pleased with her speech and began the applause that interrupted her 20 times. Reactions from Republicans were mixed.

Sebelius acknowledged after her address that she gave legislators "a tough message."

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**See BUDGET, Page 3**

# Community Foundation elects officers

Officers were elected Tuesday night at the meeting Sherman County Community Foundation.

Schyler Goodwin was elected president, with Dan Golden vice president, Linda Knott secretary, and Mark Scheopner treasurer.

The foundation is incorporated as a non-profit organization, but they expect it to take at least five months to be recognized as such by the Internal Revenue Service.

The group decided to reduce the size of the board from 25 to 11 to make it easier to have a quorum. Ten seats were filled with suggestions for the last one.

Brenda McCants and Goodwin were named to draft a mission statement and objectives for the next meeting.

The board talked about possible projects and a long-term commitment to establish an endowment fund.

Members decided to ask City Manager Ron Pickman and engineer Darin Neufeld to come and talk about Pioneer Park and the sunflower painting area.

The next meeting will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, at Bankwest.