



## Senate votes to override coal plant bill veto

House may vote today; Neufeld says override has two-thirds support

By SARAH KESSINGER  
Harris News Service

TOPEKA — The Senate voted Thursday afternoon to override Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' veto of

a bill permitting two coal-fired power plants in southwest Kansas. The action clears the way for an attempted veto override in the House.

"Now, it's up to the House," said Sen. Terry Bruce, R-Hutchinson, of the 32-7 Senate vote — more than the two-thirds majority necessary for the override.

The House now has 30 days to

attempt to nullify the veto. House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, said his chamber might also have two-thirds support today.

"We do, unless somebody has lied to me," he said Thursday.



Neufeld

But House Minority Leader Dennis McKinney, D-Greensburg, said he'd be surprised if enough votes were available.

"I'm hopeful eventually we can reach a compromise," said McKinney, who supports the plants.

Sunflower Electric Power of Hays and utilities from Texas and Colorado want to build the twin 700-megawatt coal-fired power

plants near Holcomb. "We're pleased with action in the Senate and optimistic this issue will get resolved," said Lee Boughey, spokesman for Denver-based Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, the largest investor in the Holcomb project.

See VETO, Page A3

### WEATHER ALERT

# TWISTER TIPS

Disaster preparedness summit addresses severe weather myths

By DARRIN STINEMAN  
Salina Journal

When a tornado strikes, you should go to a room in the southwest corner of the building.

If your hair stands on end during a thunderstorm, crouch as low as you can to avoid being hit by lightning.

If you go to the basement when a tornado is approaching, you should be completely safe.

Although you may have heard such advice, none of the above is correct, meteorologist Dave Freeman told a group of about 55 people Thursday at the American Red Cross North Central Kansas Chapter, 145 S. Broadway.

The group of local business representatives, who gathered for a disaster preparedness summit organized by Sunflower Insurance Group, received advice about how to handle disasters at their places of business and picked up severe weather tips.

Freeman, chief meteorologist for KSN News in Wichita, said business people have a big responsibility when it comes to disaster preparedness.

"I really applaud you for taking the time to come today," Freeman said. "Whether you guys are responsible for a business, whether you have a large group of people or schools or whatever, you have a moral, if not a legal, responsibility to take care of those people that are put in your charge."

In a business setting, the best thing to do during a tornado is to find a small interior room with no windows, get under something sturdy such as a staircase or desk and cover yourself with anything available, such as a blanket.

#### A hallway blender

Freeman said he was troubled by several things when he visited Greensburg a week after the town was destroyed by a massive tornado the night of May 4, 2007.



Stock illustration

See TIPS, Page A2

## Housing deficit gets attention

Salina's lack of low- to moderately-priced homes discourages potential employers

By DARRIN STINEMAN  
Salina Journal

If Salina wants to get serious about attracting jobs to Salina, addressing a perceived housing shortage in the \$90,000 to \$190,000 price range is a great place to start, Salina Area Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Dennis Lauer said Thursday night during a public forum on housing issues.

Lauer quoted a housing needs assessment the city of Salina conducted three years ago that indicated that, to meet the need for moderate-cost, owner-occupied housing in Salina, 1,450 units in the \$90,000 to \$190,000 range would have to be built over the next 20 years.

"We're not close to meeting that, for the market as a whole, on an annual basis," Lauer said during "A Place to Call Home," a forum offered by the Salina Area Community Services Council. "This certainly ties back to our ability to work with individuals that are interested in bringing jobs and creating jobs and capital investment in Salina."

To prove his point, Lauer paraphrased a conversation he had with a site consultant who was working on behalf of a "very major employer" that was considering Salina.

"He said, don't tell me, we're going to work on it," Lauer said of the housing shortage. "He said, if you expect me to recommend Salina to a major client, you better show me



Lauer

See HOUSING, Page A3

## Community activist Powell dies at age 80

Salinan was involved in People for Peace, League of Women Voters, other groups

By GARY DEMUTH  
Salina Journal

Community activist Mary Anne Powell, who died Thursday, was considered the matriarch of humanitarian groups in Salina, said Val Krehbiel, a Salina pastor and head of Salina People for Peace.

"She was a person with a lot of intellectual integrity," Krehbiel said. "She was a humanitarian first and foremost, who understood that peace is essential for the survival of our species. She gave me books and magazines to read, and we had a lot of long talks on the subject. I'll miss her a lot."

Powell, 80, died of a heart attack Thursday morning at the Lawrence home of her daughter Johannah Cox. Powell had open heart surgery three weeks ago at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, Mo., and appeared to be recovering, Cox said.

"(Her husband) Bill was already back in Salina preparing for her to come home," Cox said.

Mary Anne and Bill Powell were known in the Salina community for their involvement in humanitarian, political, environmental and social causes. By herself and with her husband, Mary Anne was involved with Salina



Powell

See POWELL, Page A2

## Small items become talismans for soldiers

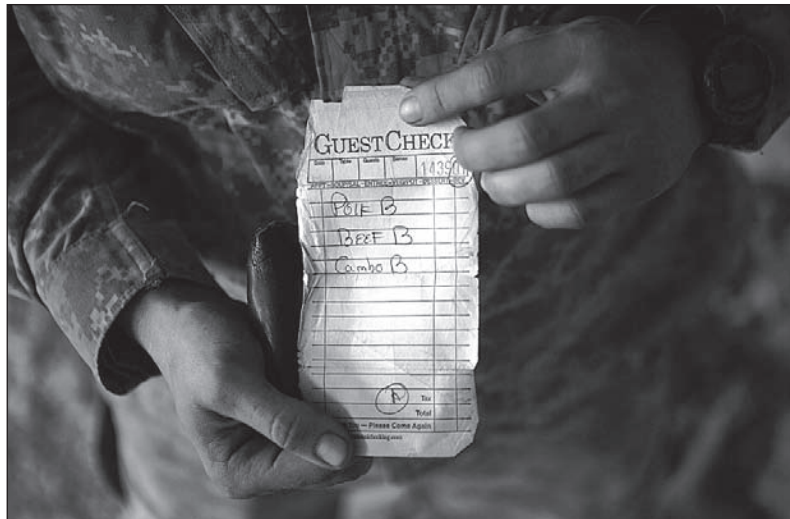
A teddy bear, dog tags, a receipt act as reminders of home

By EVAN VUCCI  
and MAYA ALLERUZZO  
The Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq — As he travels through Iraq, Army Sgt. Jon Fleenor carries a scorched and blackened teddy bear. After surviving a roadside bomb attack with the stuffed animal beside him, Fleenor doesn't like to part from it.

"I don't necessarily believe in it, but when I don't take it out when I go out one day, if I forget it, I don't feel right. So I guess it works. I'm still alive so far," he said about the gift from his wife.

Comforts don't come easy for Fleenor, Sacramento, Calif., and others with Killer Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, based at Fort Hood, Texas. The unit spends many days at Combat Outpost Rabi on Mosul's volatile west side, sharing the post, which has



The Associated Press

U.S. Army Spc. Nathan Stopps, Deerfield, Ill., holds his receipt from a burrito-eating contest he won back in the states. He carries the receipt in his wallet while stationed in Mosul, northwest of Baghdad, Iraq.

no running water, with Iraqi army troops.

In these ravaged parts, comfort comes in the form of a grandfather's dog tags, a library card, an ultrasound image of a daughter still

in the womb — any personal good luck charm to keep up motivation and hope of safely returning home.

"When your life is at risk, you just try to hold on to anything that you think will help keep you going

and get you home safe to see your family," said Army Spc. Derek Griffard, Santa Monica, Calif. He carries a rosary chain from his first communion.

Some soldiers keep relatives' military mementos from the past to remind them it's possible to return from the battlefield.

Army Lt. Rusty Morris, of Sumter, S.C., carries his grandfather's World War II-era prayer book. "People go to war and come back and, you know, I'll do the same I hope," Morris said.

For others, the charms are a reminder of life before Iraq. Army Spc. Nathan Stopps' wallet contains a Blockbuster movie card and a receipt from a restaurant that gave away a T-shirt for eating two burritos. Stopps ate three.

"No one calls you by your first name here," he said. "But back home, I was Nate Stopps who had always had his wallet in his back pocket. It's been the same size for years, and it's still the same size in Iraq as it is back in Deerfield, Ill., where he's from."



### FORECAST

High: 59 Low: 36  
Mostly sunny, with northwest wind around 7 mph. Tonight, mostly clear. / B4



## History reveals a lot about current Fed actions

A column by Thomas Sowell / Page A7



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## A Look Ahead

## 4 Friday

◆ **Salina Public Library free computer lab** for seniors and new computer users. 9:15-11 a.m. Lesson: Web search basics, 9:15-9:45 a.m. 301 W. Elm. 825-4624.

◆ **PrairieLand Market.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-6 p.m., 138 S. Fourth, 827-5877.

◆ **Art a la Carte.** 12:20 p.m., Campbell Plaza, 100 block North Santa Fe. Music by Dru Davis.

◆ **Salina Senior Center program,** free genealogy workshop by Jim Brown. 1 p.m., 245 N. Ninth. 827-9818.

◆ **Salina Public Library free computer class,** Glide Digital. 2-3 p.m., 301 W. Elm. 825-4624.

◆ **Emergency Aid-Food Bank adult cooking class,** Ground Beef and Potato Slow-Cooker Recipe. 3:30 p.m., 255 S. Chicago. 827-7111.

◆ **Salina Public Library children's program,** Once Upon a Beast. 4 p.m., 301 W. Elm. 825-4624.

◆ **John Corbett Band in concert,** country rock. 7:30 p.m., Stiefel Theatre for the Performing Arts, 151 S. Santa Fe. \$25, \$20, \$15. 827-1998 or online at [www.stiefeltheatre.org](http://www.stiefeltheatre.org).

◆ **Salina Twirlers Square Dance Club.** 8-10:15 p.m., Belmont Boulevard Christian Church, 2508 Belmont. 827-9225.

◆ **CONCORDIA: Cloud County Community College's annual High School Art Show.** 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Arley Bryant Gymnasium.

◆ **McPHERSON: Benefit concert** for Mt. Hope Sanctuary, featuring five local bands. 6:30 p.m., Greer Auditorium, Central Christian College.

◆ **LOGAN: Schaffner Oil Painting Workshop.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Dane G. Hansen Museum, 110 W. Main. (785) 689-4846.

## 5 Saturday

◆ **Book signing** by Norma Linenberger, author of "The Final Floor." 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m., I-Hop Restaurant, Central Mall.

◆ **Third annual fundraiser walk for Salina Family Healthcare Center.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Jerry Ivey Park. 825-7251. \$15 registration. 825-7251, ext. 222.

◆ **Trinity Lutheran Church youth group aluminum can recycling fundraiser.** 9-11 a.m., 702 S. Ninth. 823-7151.

◆ **PrairieLand Market.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m., 138 S. Fourth, 827-5877.

◆ **Salina People for Peace.** 10 a.m., Riverside Plaza, 600 E. Elm. 577-9116.

◆ **Salina Public Library children's program,** lapsit story time, for babies to 18 months and caregivers. 10 a.m., 301 W. Elm. 825-4624.

◆ **Book signing** by Norma Linenberger, author of "The Final Floor." 7-10 p.m., Martini's Steak and Chop House, 117 N. Santa Fe.

◆ **Salina singles dance.** 8-11:30 p.m., American Legion, 142 S. Seventh. Music by Prairie Rhythm. 827-5678.

◆ **CONCORDIA: Regional music festival.** 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Cook Theatre, Cloud County Community College.

◆ **CONCORDIA: Branson on the Road.** 7 p.m., Brown Grand Theatre, 310 W. Sixth. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. (785) 243-2553.

◆ **HAYS: Edible Book Festival.** 1-5 p.m., Hays Public Library, 1205 Main. (785) 625-9014.

◆ **LOGAN: Schaffner Oil Painting Workshop.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Dane G. Hansen Museum, 110 W. Main. (785) 689-4846.

◆ **MANHATTAN: Dickinson County Garden Guild.** 10 a.m., Kaw Valley Greenhouses, 360 Zeandale Road, Manhattan. Program: "Annuals, Perennials, Tropicals, Shrubs and Trees: Why Can't We All Get Along," by Dan Parcel.

◆ **MENTOR: Mentor United Methodist Church breakfast and bake sale.** 7:30-11 a.m.

## 6 Sunday

◆ **Salina Symphony Youth Symphony Extravaganza,** featuring more than 120 young symphony

## ◆ Arts calendar / Page D2

musicians from the Salina area. 4 p.m., Stiefel Theatre for the Performing Arts, 151 S. Santa Fe. 827-1998, 1-800-585-3737 or online at [www.stiefeltheatre.org](http://www.stiefeltheatre.org).

◆ **COLBY: Colby Tumbleweed Barbershop Chorus.** 3 p.m. Central time, The Gateway.

◆ **CONCORDIA: Branson on the Road.** 3 p.m., Brown Grand Theatre, 310 W. Sixth. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. (785) 243-2553.

◆ **LURAY: Jubilant Bridge in concert.** 3 p.m., The Stone Church, 201 Fairview. (785) 698-2223.

## Listing events

Items from the Calendar of Events should be sent to: **Calendar of Events, Salina Journal, P.O. Box 740, Salina 67402,** or e-mailed to [calendar@salina.com](mailto:calendar@salina.com). Be sure to include name, address and telephone number.

## Historian to speak on global warming

A leading historian of the American West will talk about the possible effects of global warming on the Great Plains in Salina on May 6.

Don Worster, professor of American History at the University of Kansas, will speak at the Salina Art Center at 7 p.m., as a guest of the North Central Chapter of the KU Alumni Association.

Worster is the Hall Distinguished Professor of American History at KU, and the author of several books, including "Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s."

The event will start with complementary wine, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar at 6:15 p.m.

Reservations should be made by May 1; for more information, or to make reservations, call the alumni association at 1-800-584-2957 or at [www.kualumni.com](http://www.kualumni.com).

## Earth Balloon coming to Abilene

ABILENE — The Earth Balloon, a 20-foot diameter model of the Earth, is coming to the Abilene Community Center Monday.

The Earth Balloon features high resolution satellite images with true-to-life color, creating a portrayal of the Earth similar to the view from outer space. The huge balloon consists of 24 panels to represent each hour of the day.

Fifteen groups of elementary students in second through fifth grades are to participate. The balloon will be available for the public to tour free of charge from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m..

The event is in conjunction with the Lower Smoky Hill WRAPS (Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies) "Wrap-up" event, along with booths, giveaways and drawings from the Dickinson County Health Department and Dickinson County Emergency Management to promote National Public Health Week.

For more information, call Tracie Schardein, Dickinson County Water Education Coordinator, at (785) 263-4780.

From Staff Reports

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## Tips / Go to center of a building

FROM PAGE A1

One was the knee-high debris he encountered in the hallway of the town's grade school. He showed a picture of it during his presentation.

"Where do we send the kids for tornado drills at school?" Freeman said. "We send these kids into this hallway, and we tell them they're going to be safe. Friends, during that tornado, all of this debris — which is shards of aluminum primarily from the roof — would've made this hallway a blender, and that's where we would've put our kids."

It would be a similar situation should a business be struck by a tornado, he said.

"What are we standing in? A commercial building built on a slab," Freeman said. "Even if the walls stay, if this happens, this is just going to be a blender. Use blankets, mattresses, sleeping bags, anything that would help protect you from debris."

Another thing about Greensburg that disturbed Freeman was what he saw in the basements of homes that were struck.

"The basements there scared me, because almost every basement I saw was full of debris," he said. "You've got to get under something sturdy."

## The best place to be

Freeman explained that tornadoes normally move toward the north or northeast, meaning the south or southwest part of a structure would be



**Ken Stout, community education specialist for the North-central Kansas Red Cross, talks Thursday afternoon about being prepared and informed about severe weather.**

struck first. That prompted a question from Vicki Koepsel, director of planning for Saline County, who asked if it makes more sense to take shelter in a room on the north side of a home or building.

Freeman said people have been taught for years to go to the southwest corner of the building, but studies have shown that to be bad advice.

"It's the worst place to go," he said. "The best place is the center of the house, and get under something sturdy."

## Lightning? Run, run, run!

Freeman also showed a picture of a young woman in a thunderstorm with her hair standing on end, and the camera she allegedly took the photo with was found next to her body after she was killed by a lightning strike.

"If you find yourself in this situation, we used to tell people, 'Crouch down. Get yourself small,'" Freeman said. "I recently attended a workshop done by a lightning survivor, and this guy said, 'Look, you crouch down, it doesn't matter. Take those few seconds and run. It doesn't matter if you're crouching or not.'"

## Keep a disaster kit

The group also received a presentation from Ken Stout, a Red Cross preparedness instructor, who spoke on the importance of having a disaster kit containing items such as food, water, a flashlight, first-aid kit and a radio, and having plans for evacuation and communication with employees.

"Last year, places in Bennington and Minneapolis

were still open when the tornadoes hit, and their employees scattered and it took them quite a lot of time to find all their employees," Stout said. "Make a plan, and discuss it."

Bryan Armstrong, director of emergency management for Saline County, told the group to take the information they had learned and to put it into practice.

"I think everyone today gave you a lot of good information," Armstrong said. "If you take that back and use 20 percent of what you got today, that will make me happier and make my job a lot easier."

◆ **Reporter Darrin Stine-**man can be reached at 822-1416 or by e-mail at [dstineman@salina.com](mailto:dstineman@salina.com).

## Powell / Involved in symphony, chorale

FROM PAGE A1

People for Peace, The Land Institute, the Salina Food Co-op, Democratic Women and the League of Women Voters of Salina, of which she was the current president.

She also was a member of the Salina Symphony Board of Directors, Salina Chorale, the bell choir at First Presbyterian Church and was a volunteer reader for the Salina School System.

"She's been involved in community activities since we moved here in the mid-1950s," Bill Powell said.

## Leaves a huge hole

Her death leaves a huge hole in the community, said Marge Mintun, who first met Powell at a League of Women Voters meeting in 1983.

"She's one of those rare people who never quit, who are always involved, always interested and who always want to learn more," Mintun said. "She was always pursuing ideas and opportunities to help people."

Local Democratic leader

## Bill would give Board of Healing Arts more power

By The Associated Press

TOPEKA — Senators approved a bill Thursday aimed at giving greater enforcement powers to the Board of Healing Arts, a day after two of the agency's top officials resigned.

The measure would allow the board to take action quicker once questions are raised about a physician, making sanctions possible after a single complaint. The board has said state law requires it to document a pattern before sanctioning a doctor for substandard care.

The 40-0 vote sends the bill back to the House, which passed a different version earlier. House members could concur with Senate changes and send the measure to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, who has

said she would sign it. Many lawmakers believe the board is too slow in investigating allegations of misconduct against physicians.

For the present, Strand will be acting president of the organization, but she's not certain what will happen after Saturday's meeting.

"We'll have to see where we are and what we can do at this point," she said. "Mary Anne

was a very important part of the League, and this is a real loss. We're going to miss her."

## She was a role model

Powell has been a role model for Salina attorney Ann Zimmerman since Zimmerman was in high school.

"She had conviction that how you live your life makes a difference," said Zimmerman, who also is secretary of the League of Women Voters in Salina. "She worked to make the world like she wanted it,

how she thought it should be, a place that was fair to everyone.

"I can still see her riding her bike around town so she wouldn't use fossil fuels."

Ryan Mortuary, Salina, is handling the funeral arrangements. A memorial service will be announced by the family.

◆ **Reporter Gary Demuth** can be reached at 822-1405 or by e-mail at [gdemuth@salina.com](mailto:gdemuth@salina.com).

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