

weather report

62°
at noon



Today
• Sunset, 7:50 p.m.
Tomorrow
• Sunrise, 5:35 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:51 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil Temperature 51 degrees
• Humidity 25 percent
• Sky Mostly sunny
• Winds light and variable
• Barometer 30.04 inches and steady
• Record High 99° (1962)
• Record Low 27° (1953)

Last 24 Hours*
High 59°
Low 39°
Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast
Tonight: Mostly clear South winds 5 to 15 mph low near 40 Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy mid 70's south winds 10 to 20 mph

Extended Forecast
Thursday through Sunday, chance of thunderstorms, highs 75 to 80 lows in the 40's

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon
Wheat — \$2.28 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.19
Loan deficiency payment — 26¢
Corn — \$1.77 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.87
Loan deficiency prnt. — 12¢
Milo — \$2.70 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.14 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.01
Loan deficiency payment — 88¢
Millet — \$4 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$8.20 cwt.
Loan deficiency prnt. — \$1.26
Oil new crop — \$8.45 cwt.
Confection current — \$17/11 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Bombing now in 50th day

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — Allied warplanes pounded Yugoslav bridges and airfields in what NATO described today as its busiest bombing day of the seven-week-old air campaign. Serb media reported dozens of the attacks were on mainly civilian targets. Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, in a message congratulating the armed forces, acknowledged for the first time in the 50-day campaign that Serb military have been killed. He gave no figures. “During this struggle, many members of police and security forces died courageously,” Milosevic said in a message carried by the state Tanjug news agency on the eve of Security Day, which honors the army. “Their sacrifice is a shining example of bravery and devotion to one’s people and fatherland.

City, county still debating road repairs

By Tom Betz
Goodland Daily News

The repair and chip sealing of old U.S. 24 across the county is set to begin this summer, and the Sherman County commissioners were questioned again Tuesday morning about the sections which belong to the City of Goodland. City Manager Ron Pickman wrote the commissioners, asking if the county was going to repair and chip seal those parts of the highway, especially the sec-

tion on the east which connects Business U.S. 24 with the older road. “The city had forgone their portion of the special sales tax thinking the county would agree to repair these sections,” Pickman wrote. Commissioners responded that they had already committed all the tax money for this year, but said they might do the sealing if the city would pay to get the rough, pitted old pavement ready. Work on sealing about 15 miles starting at the east county line is sched-

uled for August, with some of the rougher sections to be recycled in place. “We are locked in on the funding for what we planned for this year,” Commissioner Gary Townsend said. “I thought we talked to the city about preparing the base and that we would then (the county) chip seal it,” Commissioner Kenny Davis said. “I didn’t think that would even be part of this year’s project.” “We have explained why we won’t chip seal this,” Commissioner Chuck

Frankenfeld said, “until the base is improved. It would not be worth the effort.” “We’ll put it on the agenda for (May) 18th,” Townsend said, “for a final decision.” Before the citizens voted on the special sales tax in August 1998, the city maintains, the county agreed to include the city portions in the project. There are no minutes or records to indicate that there was such an agreement. At a meeting about the special tax question

held in February 1998, the city mentioned the two sections, but there was no agreement from the county at that time to include these sections. Estimates are that it would cost around \$50,000 to repair on the base the eastern portion and make it ready for chip sealing. The city’s western section, from K-27 to the west city limits, is in much better condition and the commissioners believe they could include chip sealing this when the project gets to that area in the third year.



Van Gogh recreator selling his ideas to Rotary

Cameron Cross (above) attempted to convince the Goodland Rotary Club meeting of the benefits of sponsoring his project. Cross proposed to erect the giant painting project in northwest Goodland, saying it would be a big tourist attraction. Several possible sites were discussed. The painting would be composed of 24 sheets of plywood. At right, a woman walks across a similar painting in Canada to illustrate just how large it is.

Photo above by Nell Frohlich/Goodland Daily News



Artist offers to create big sunflower for Goodland

By Nell Frohlich
Goodland Daily News

Because of Goodland’s love affair with the sunflower, Cameron Cross wants to build a sculpture here based on a Vincent Van Gogh painting which he says could become a major tourist attraction. The catch, of course, is the cost, estimated at well over \$50,000. Cross told the Goodland Rotary Club on Friday that he wants to involve the city in an international art project consisting of seven large sculptures based on Van Gogh’s paintings. The French artist painted a series of seven sunflowers in the 1800s which feature his unique “post-impressionist” style — plenty of light, pure colors and thick, short brush strokes.

Van Gogh saw the sunflower as a symbol of life

and hope, Cross said. Cross said his goal is to establish his works in seven countries around the world. He has erected one in his hometown of Altona, Manitoba, Canada, where he teaches art. Construction is set to begin in June in Emerald, Australia, for a second sunflower painting. Goodland has a chance to be the location of his third work, the only one in the United States. David Branda, owner of the Sherman Theater, won the jackpot at the end of the meeting and enthusiastically donated his winnings to the project. Ron Harding, Chamber of Commerce executive director, asked for ideas from the public on a possible site. Harding said he and Cross have looked at many locations, including the old “Y” area, where

Caldwell veers into Business U.S. 24, and Rosewood Park in northwest Goodland. Harding suggests not to put the sculpture on I-70, so travelers can give it a wave and drive on by, but to put it somewhere in town to bring visitors to the shopping districts. Sculptures each would consist of a 24-foot-by-32-foot painting resting on an 80-foot easel. The canvass would be constructed of 24 sheets of plywood, laminated together, then coated with fiberglass and sealed with automotive primer. The easel superstructure would stand 76 1/2 feet high. About 27,000 pounds of steel would be required. Mr. Cross said that it would take him about a month to paint the sculpture, working 12 hours a day. Cross, who graduated from the University of

Manitoba in 1990 with a degree in fine arts and education, touched on the wide array of promotional material now being sold at the six-month-old site in Altona. These including T-shirts, mugs and posters. The city is now working on billboards to promote the painting and their city. Nationally, his painting has been used for a national real estate magazine and pamphlets have been requested to go on a touring show of Van Gogh paintings. Cost for the entire project would be well over \$50,000, with the easel estimated to cost \$35,000, and the board for the painting \$6,800. There is additional cost for the artist’s fee, which would have to be determined. Cross said he would donate four original drawings of the Goodland easel for auction, and he would assist the chamber in pursuing grants and corporate donations.

Parents need to teach children to avoid gangs, violence and drugs

By Janet Craft
Goodland Daily News

Kids join gangs because they are looking for the acceptance they aren’t getting at home, says a leading Kansas expert. Some teens become so unfeeling, he said, that it means nothing to them to kill, and adults need to be on the lookout for them. But first, said Jerry Wells, general counsel of the Koch Crime Institute, parents need to teach their kids from an early age that gangs and violence are bad. Wells was at Goodland High School on Monday night to present a program on gangs and violence, including a video called “When Colors Bleed,” and a question-and-answer period. The target audience is parents of kids who are at risk to join gangs or engage in violence. Wells said that the purpose of the film, which he helped produce, was to get parents to understand some things about gangs, to realize that gangs are a serious and dangerous existence, and to get parents interested in what gangs might exist in their community. Wells made a comparison between

kids in gangs and kids who commit school shootings. These are kids who are disaffected, isolated and disconnected, he said. They generally do not have a good value system at home, their family doesn’t care about them and they don’t fit in at school. They are kids, he said, with a lot of rage and anger inside them. Wells said that kids who do these kinds of things lay down clues and people have to take them seriously. Wells went on to say that there are many kids as young as second and third grades who exhibit warning signs. Adults need to find out what’s troubling them and listen to them, he said. They need to pay attention to these kids and make a concerted effort to do something with them. Wells talked about kids called “red-brainers,” a condition which shows up around the age of 12. The brains of kids with this condition are actually affected, because these kids are uncared for, and receive no love or attention. They get to the place where they lack compassion and are numb to most human emotions. Then these kids can kill people, Wells said, and it doesn’t bother

them one bit. Guns are a big part of the problem, he continued, and society needs to keep guns out of the hands of kids. “There are 60 million guns in this country and they are easily accessible,” Wells said. “Guns are a way to carry out this rage and violence that these kids are enmeshed in.” After the film, Wells answered questions. Many people expressed concern over gang and violence problems in Goodland. Some said there is a real problem in this area, but that a lot of people don’t want to believe that it exists. Some mentioned a stabbing which was supposed to have happened in a Goodland park last week. Wells suggested getting the media involved, getting business people involved and trying to motivate the community to become educated about gangs and violence. He said it would take two things to get the community involved — persistence and patience. Rhonda Williams, high school counselor and a director of the Community Prevention Board, urged people to, “Be proactive, not reactive,” to try to head off problems before they get too bad.

Yeltsin fires minister, faces impeachment

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin fired Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov today and replaced him with a longtime ally, plunging Russia into a major political crisis the day before parliament was to begin impeachment hearings against Yeltsin. Primakov’s dismissal dismayed Russia’s financial community. Trading was halted on the Moscow stock exchange after the index plunged 7.55 percent. Yeltsin’s move was a virtual declaration of war against his opponents in the Communist-dominated State Duma, the lower house of Parliament where Primakov has strong support. Although the Kremlin said Primakov was dismissed because of his failure to rescue Russia’s foundering economy, the real reason appeared linked to Thursday’s start of impeachment hearings. Parliamentary leaders said they would press ahead with the hearings, leaving Yeltsin to face a major fight for his own political survival. “Today I made a difficult deci-

sion,” Yeltsin said in a statement announcing the dismissal. Primakov had done a good job restoring stability, but had failed to turn around the economy, Yeltsin said. Russia must press ahead with free-market reforms, he added, hinting that Primakov had not really backed this strategy. “We have no right to put off making decisions that are necessary for the revival of the economy for another six months ... Delays and procrastination, I am sure, are the most serious blow today to stability in the economy and the social sphere,” Yeltsin’s statement said. Sergei Stepashin, the interior minister and a deputy prime minister, was nominated to replace Primakov and was named acting prime minister, the Kremlin said. Stepashin is a longtime Yeltsin loyalist who heads the country’s police forces. Yeltsin met with Primakov for about 20 minutes today at the