

**weather report**

**76°**  
at noon



**Today**

• Sunset, 7:21 p.m.

**Tomorrow**

• Sunrise, 7:19 a.m.  
• Sunset, 6:16 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil Temperature 78 degrees
- Humidity 53 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds north 14 mph
- Barometer 30.02 inches and steady
- Record High 102° (1985)
- Record Low 39° (1944)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High 95°  
Low 65°  
Precipitation none

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 60-65, winds southeast 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Sunny, high 90-95, low 60s, winds north 5-15 mph.

**Extended Forecast**

Saturday through Monday: dry, high 90s, low 60s.

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

**local markets**

**Noon**

- Wheat — \$2.62 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$2.33
  - Loan deficiency payment — 12¢
  - Corn — \$1.63 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$1.47
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 52¢
  - Milo — \$2.54 hundredweight
  - Soybeans — \$4.15 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$4.19
  - Loan deficiency payment — 71¢
  - Millet — \$7.00 hundredweight
  - Sunflowers
  - Oil current crop — \$5.40 cwt.
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.30
  - Confection current — \$15/\$6cwt.
  - Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)
- (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

**afternoon wire**

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

**'God' signs up for dispute**

TOPEKA — Shawnee County Treasurer Rita Cline and the American Civil Liberties Union are going to court over signs in Cline's office that proclaim "In God We Trust."

The ACLU is asking a federal court to force Cline to take down the signs.

Cline has responded by hiring a "religious liberties law firm" from Orlando, Fla. to help her fight the action.

In a petition filed Wednesday morning in U.S. District Court in Topeka, the ACLU accuses Cline of inappropriately using her office to push her religion on numerous occasions.

"In her mind it is not 'In God we trust,' but 'In MY God we trust,'" said Dick Kurtenbach, executive director of the ACLU of Kansas and Western Missouri.



Cameron Cross, a Canadian artist who is to do a Van Gogh sunflower painting in Goodland, talked with fifth and sixth grade students at North Elementary on Wednesday morning.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

## Sunflower artist talks with students

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Canadian artist Cameron Cross told the kids at North Elementary that he was a little surprised when he found out they were doing a video documentary about his giant sunflower painting project.

Cross, in Goodland this week to check progress on the project, met with the "multiage" class of teachers Jona Neufeld and Norma Staker in their classroom Wednesday. The two-year class mixes around 45 students

from the fifth and sixth grades with the two teachers.

Cross, 36, has been commissioned to paint a copy of a Vincent Van Gogh sunflower painting in Goodland as part of a world-wide project he envisions. He talked to the class about his sunflower paintings and answered questions.

He said he got the idea for the project, duplicating Van Gogh's sunflower paintings on a giant scale, while teaching in Altona, Manitoba, on the Canadian plains.

"This is probably the best idea I ever had," he told the students. "The more you do, the more you think of ideas."

When he arrived at the school, the teachers showed Cross photos and information the students had collected on his project. Neufeld explained the information and pictures on the television screen while Staker operated a computer.

Neufeld showed the locations that had been chosen for the project around the world, what their connection was, and how far it was from Goodland to

the various places.

In May 1999, Staker and Neufeld's students researched the places where Cross has already completed two paintings and the other possible sites, which included Goodland; Klerksdorp, South Africa; Yokohama, Japan; Amsterdam, Netherlands; and Santa Rosa, Argentina. All have connections either to sunflowers or Van Gogh, a French painter known for his work and for slicing off one of his ears.

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## Commissioner to be sworn in Sept. 12

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

Kevin Rasure will be sworn in as a county commissioner on Tuesday, Sept. 12, after Gov. Bill Graves makes the official appointment.

Rasure was nominated by the Sherman County Republican Party Committee on Tuesday night.

He will replace Gary Townsend, who died last month after a bone marrow transplant, and will be on the General Election ballot in November.



Kevin Rasure

After Rasure was selected by the committee, William Gattshall, county chairman, had 24 hours to send a letter to Gov. Graves requesting that Rasure be appointed, said County Clerk Janet Rumpel.

The governor has seven days to fill the vacancy by appointing Rasure, said Rumpel.

If he doesn't sign the form within seven days, the candidate is automatically appointed.

The committee has to submit a writ-

ten statement to Rumpel in order to get the candidate's name on the ballot for the November election.

Since there is no Democratic candidate, Rasure will be running in the 3rd District unopposed.

Rasure won a coin toss after several tie votes in the party committee against opponent Barb Eisenbart.

The 45-year-old was born in Sherman County, went to Kansas State University to get a business degree, and then came back to take over the family lumber yard.

He and his wife Christie live in Goodland and he is the owner and manager

of the Rasure Lumber Do-It Center.

"I want to make improvements where I can," said Rasure, "and I want to make the county government work more efficiently with better results."

Rasure said that he wants to be commissioner because he loves Sherman County.

"I want to be part of the process of making things better," he said, adding that he is looking forward to the challenges involved with what the county is trying to do.

"Government itself is challenging," he said. "I think there are lots of challenges involved with what the county is trying to do."

## East exit ramps open

### West exit ramps to close for 10 days

Ramps at the east Goodland exit from I-70 closed and reopened already this week, but contractors plan to close the west ramps at the west Goodland exit next week.

The westbound ramps at the east Goodland exit opened Wednesday after having been closed for three days for rebuilding.

The exit, which serves Business U.S. 24, was closed Monday, said Kristin Brands, spokesman for the Kansas Department of Transportation in Norton, for some basic repair work.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the contractor on the K-27 repaving project plans to close the westbound and eastbound off ramps of the west Goodland exit on Tuesday for repairs and

keep them closed for 10 days.

That means eastbound drivers will not be able to get off I-70 at Exit 17 and westbound drivers will not be able to get on the highway. The exit serves K-27 and the highway business area south of Wal-Mart.

The contractor, Smith Sand and Gravel from Garden City, is repairing the base of the ramps as part of the project to repave a section of K-27. New concrete is replacing the asphalt paving there.

Pickman, the contractors, representatives of the Department of Transportation and state inspectors met this week to discuss the K-27 project.

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## Firemen called to false alarm

The Goodland Fire Department responded to a report of smoke at the Warehouse Mall late this morning, but found a crew sandblasting the old building.

Around 11:30 a.m., central dispatch received a report that smoke was com-

ing out of an upstairs window of the building at 17th and Main.

However, when volunteer firemen arrived, they discovered that it was dust created by sandblasting. The owners are doing construction work on the building.

## Bugs in love...



Two insects met on a flower by the side of old U.S. 24 this week. They didn't seem to mind the heat as much as humans did.

Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

## Numbers dropping in district

### Enrollment falls as people move

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

Enrollment at Goodland schools is still on a quick trip downhill, with the count dropping 25 students from last fall.

"It's what we were afraid of I guess," said Superintendent Marvin Selby before presenting preliminary student numbers to school board members at a regular meeting Monday night.

With school starting Monday, administrators had initial enrollment by that afternoon. Since students can come and go during the first few weeks of class, the district considers enrollment numbers preliminary until the state's annual count on Sept. 20. Enrollment on that day usually determines how much money the district will get from the state the next year.

The numbers showed that while there were more students in some grade levels, overall about 25 fewer students enrolled in school this year than last year. Selby said there were about 1,196 students in the district on the first day of school last year, while there were about 1,171 this year.

It was no surprise for the superintendent, who had said Monday morning that he was expecting a decline of about 25 students but was keeping his fingers crossed.

Before the meeting, Selby said during the seven years he's worked for the district enrollment has gone down a little each year because families are moving away from rural towns — where farming is becoming harder to make a living at — to find jobs in the city. But this year, he said, principals had told him new students were enrolling — including a set of triplets at the high school — and some students who said they were going to leave had come back.

But apparently, the new students couldn't make up for the ones who have moved away with their parents or the smaller classes moving up.

There are four fewer students in the first and second grade this year, Selby said, but the loss was countered by four more students in the fifth and sixth grade. At the high school — grades nine through 12, he said, enrollment went up by 14, but at the junior high it went down by 14.

The biggest drop was in the third and fourth grades, Selby said, where 25 fewer students enrolled this year. Since drops in some grades were compensated by increases in others, the third and fourth grade declines accounted for the total enrollment decline this year.

"It would be easier if we lost all of the students in one grade," he said, "because then we could cut one teacher."

Because enrollment is going down in several grades, Selby added, they have to pick and choose where they cut back.

He said this year they have reduced the number of teacher aides, and chose not to hire new teachers to fill the positions of two elementary teachers who quit.

Kindergarten enrollment remained steady, the superintendent said, but when it is compared to upper-level grades, it shows future enrollment decline.

Selby said 80 kindergartners enrolled in school this year, 10 less than the district expected, while the average class size is 94. He said live-birth numbers in Sherman County, which the district gets from the county clerk's office each year, show that 90 kindergartners should have entered the district this year.

Smaller kindergarten classes coming in, Selby said, means that without new students moving into town, enrollment will continue to decline as the class moves up.

The preliminary enrollment numbers show that the fourth through the 12th grades have an average class size of 94 students this year, but kindergarten through third grade has an average size

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