

**weather report**

**45°**  
at noon



**Today**

- Sunset, 4:45 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 6:17 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:44 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil Temperature 49 degrees
- Humidity 49 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds north 5 mph
- Barometer 30.13 inches and falling
- Record High 81° (1931)
- Record Low -4° (1951)

**Last 24 Hours\***

- High 54°
- Low 37°
- Precipitation trace

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 25-30, northeast winds 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, high 50-55, low 30, south 5-15 mph.

**Extended Forecast**

Saturday: dry, high 60, low 30. Sunday: chance of rain, high 55-60, low 30s. Monday: chance of rain or snow, high 30s, low 25-30.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**

**Noon**

- Wheat — \$2.76 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$2.54
  - Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
  - Corn — \$1.94 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$1.73
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 26¢
  - Milo — \$0.00 hundredweight
  - Soybeans — \$4.24 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$3.97
  - Loan deficiency payment — 93¢
  - Millet — no posted price; ask.
  - Sunflowers
  - Oil current crop — \$5.54 cwt.
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.50
  - Confection current — \$15/\$6 cwt.
  - Pinto beans — \$15
- (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, 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.

**Candidates trade charges**

SCRANTON, Pa. — Al Gore warned that rival George W. Bush offers the promise of “deficits and debt” as the two traded charges in the same Midwestern states which could hold the key to this year’s election.

“We have worked too hard on this economy to put it all at risk,” Gore said, opening his campaign day with a rally in Pennsylvania. “We’ve been down that road, and we’re here to serve notice: We’re not going back.”

Gore has launched a high-risk offensive questioning Bush’s capacity for the White House, and he returned to his core message that he should be credited for a sound economy.

“We have never had a chance this great to help every hard-working family open the door to their dreams,” Gore said.

## Census shows drop in population

By Dana Sulsberger

*The Goodland Daily News*

The latest figures from the U.S. Census Bureau reflect what businesses and schools across Sherman County already know: The population is declining.

Census results for 1999 show the population of Sherman County dropped 403 people in nine years, from 6,922 in April 1990 to 5,532 in July 1999.

The figures are from a census assessment last year — official state figures from Census 2000

won’t be available until April.

The results show that as the population drops — something most counties in Kansas are facing — the county’s population is aging and is more culturally diverse. There was an overall decline in Sherman County’s population, though the older population and the Hispanic population increased.

Officials say the Goodland City Commission has tried to deal with the fall in population by supporting the Chamber of Commerce’s Economic Development Committee.

“The city was trying to deal with retaining residents when the commissioners gave money to economic development,” said City Manager Ron Pickman, noting that the city set aside \$50,000 for the committee in the 2001 budget.

The biggest drop was in the 25- to 44-year-old age group. The census showed a decline of 284 people in that age group, from the 1,818 here in 1990.

“Keeping youth here is a problem,” said Pickman, “just like in any other small community, we don’t have a lot to offer them.”

The city is working with the Economic Development Committee, he said, to draw companies that will offer jobs appealing to the younger age group.

“We want to encourage youth not only to stay in our community but also to move here,” said Pickman.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said the Goodland School District is looking into more vocational and technical classes to help encourage

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## Flowers bloom in fall

### Van Gogh replica is taking shape

By Dana Sulsberger

*The Goodland Daily News*

Giant sunflowers have bloomed in the agriculture building at the Sherman County Fairgrounds.

He may not have much of a green thumb, but Canadian painter Cameron Cross has spent the past month creating his own sort of garden — brush stroke by delicate brush stroke.

Cross, who traveled from his home in Altona, Canada to Goodland in late September, said he is almost done with an 80-foot high replica of a Van Gogh painting in the tortured French artist’s sunflower series. When it’s finished the painting will be placed on a huge steel easel at the junction of Cherry Street and Business-U.S. 24.

Four wooden panels covered in fiber glass, which will serve as one giant canvas when put together, are now covered with yellow, brown, green and red paint. On Friday, Cross said, the panels will be placed together on the floor and the painting will take shape.

He said he’ll go up in a bucket truck to view the painting from above.

“You can’t really see all the mistakes you are making on something this big,” he said, “until you get in the air.”

Originally the panels were going to be moved out to the site where the painting will be erected, he said, but



Cameron Cross filled in the details on one of the large sunflowers in his replica of a Van Gogh painting Wednesday. The bumps on the canvas

are fiberglass molds used to add texture to the painting.

Photo By Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

the weather has been too cold.

Cross said Ron Harding, director of the Chamber of Commerce, suggested the painting be finished inside the agriculture building to escape the cold — which causes paint to dry slower.

The replica in Goodland is one of seven sunflower paintings in Van Gogh’s sunflower series. Cross plans

to erect the paintings at seven sites around the world. Goodland was picked as the U.S. spot because of the importance of the sunflower crop here.

The first painting — which happens to be the most famous of the series — is in Cross’s home town of Altona. He said he was researching the painting

in Altona when he discovered the other paintings in the series and devised the project.

Cross, a former high school art teacher, completed the second painting in Emerald, Australia and said he’ll probably travel to Argentina next. Holland and Japan are the final two locations. All sites are chosen for the im-

portance of sunflowers or Van Gogh in the community.

The painting Cross is completing here in Goodland is the first in Van Gogh’s series.

The painter will work on filling in the detail of the painting through the weekend, but it may be several months before the painting is erected.

## Commissioners choose low bidder to dig county landfill

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Daily News*

Sherman County commissioners decided Tuesday Grasser Construction of Stratton, Colo. will excavate the first cell of the new county landfill to be opened south of Goodland.

At the regular meeting, the commissioners decided that with help from the county’s engineering consultant,

Grasser would do a good job — besides being the cheapest option.

Grasser was the low bidder at \$147,936. The highest bid was \$250,306 from Meier Construction of Burlington and Sporer Land Development of Oakley bid \$175,666.

Mark McMullen with Terranext, the county’s consulting firm from Englewood, Colo., told the commissioners

at an earlier meeting that he did not find anything wrong with any of the three contractors or their bids.

“I believe the low bid is the best despite the fact that Sporer Land Development of Oakley has had some experience,” commissioner Kenny Davis said. “I think \$30,000 is a lot of money to pay for experience, and I think with the supervision of Mark McMullen we

can get a good job from Grasser.”

“We are paying Mark McMullen to use his professional help to oversee the project,” Commissioner Chuck Frankenfild said as he moved to accept the low bid. Commissioner Kevin Rasure seconded the motion, saying the oversight by Terranext should ensure the project meets specifications.

Davis said Terranext has submitted

an estimate of \$18,500 for supervision of the excavation and construction of the landfill.

Later, the commissioners presented a plaque honoring the service of Commissioner Gary Townsend who died this summer, to Sonya Vandiver and Pat Townsend. Chairman Davis presented

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Imelda Mottura elaborated on her experience in Goodland on Tuesday while her husband, Juan Carlos Mottura listened.

Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

## Argentina couple’s son inspires trip

By Dana Sulsberger

*The Goodland Daily News*

When an Argentina couple’s son returned home from a student-exchange experience in Goodland in 1994, he couldn’t stop talking about how beautiful Kansas was.

Juan Carlos Mottura and his wife Imelda said their son’s stories inspired them to make the long trip from San Guillermo, Argentina to Goodland. They arrived on Friday and left Wednesday, visiting the city office, schools and a Canadian painter constructing a giant replica of a Vincent Van Gogh painting during their stay.

The American Field Service group, which sponsors exchange students across the mid-west, brought Martin, the Mottura’s son, to Goodland six years ago as an exchange student.

While he was here he stayed with Mary and Cliff Porterfield, sponsors of the services’ chapter. Mary is a Spanish teacher who heads the chapter.

Martin told his parents how kind the

Porterfields had been.

“We came to see Goodland,” said Imelda, “and especially to visit the Porterfield family.”

When the couple left Argentina Thursday, a day late after their flight was delayed, it was raining. Juan joked that they had brought the rain with them since it rained all weekend while they were here.

“Whenever Goodland has a drought,” he said, “all you need to do is call us to visit.”

The Motturas had a full schedule while in Goodland. Imelda said she and her husband walked through the city, visited with City Manager Ron Pickman at the administration building and went to the schools to talk about their home in Argentina.

“I loved talking to the children,” said Imelda, who is an English teacher in San Guillermo.

Before Imelda taught English, she said she was a physical education teacher for 32 years. Imelda and Juan

also own a fast-food restaurant called Sunflower in their hometown.

The couple visited Cameron Cross, the artist painting 80-foot high replicas of the Van Gogh sunflower series at seven sites around the world, including Goodland.

Cross plans to paint one of the sunflower prints in Argentina, and Juan said he suggested he put the painting in San Guillermo.

Imelda said they went to the Max Jones Field House where they saw a picture of their son, who was a member of the cross-country team, on the wall.

“I was very proud,” Imelda said.

Imelda and Juan agreed Goodland is a lot like their small hometown, except that the houses in San Guillermo are closer to the street and don’t have a lawn out front.

Imelda said the houses are closer together because the farm land there is

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