

weather
report

48°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 4:27 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:41 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:26 p.m.

Middy Conditions

• Soil Temperature 34 degrees

• Humidity 37 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds calm

• Barometer 30.06 inches
and falling

• Record High 74° (1923)

• Record Low 1° (1950)

Last 24 Hours*

High 42°

Low 27°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 20-25,
northwest winds 5-15 mph. Tomorrow:
Partly cloudy, high 40, low 20-25,
northwest winds 15-25 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: dry, high 50, low 20-25.
Monday: dry, high 50s, low 20s.
Tuesday: chance of rain or snow,
high 50, 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 — \$2.88 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.66

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$1.92 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.81

Loan deficiency prmt. — 18¢

Milo — \$3.13 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$4.14 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.18

Loan deficiency payment — 72¢

Millet — no posted price; ask.

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.70 cwt.

Loan deficiency prmt. — \$4.11

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.

Court weighs
vote objections

WASHINGTON — George Bush's lawyers told the U.S. Supreme Court on Friday that Vice President Al Gore's objections to it intervening in the Florida recount do not overcome the "powerful justification for review by this court."

The papers were filed with the court as the hand recounts resumed in Broward County, and Palm Beach County officials held another hearing on which ballots there to include in the recount.

If the results from the two counties show Bush still holding a lead by a Sunday deadline, Gore has said he will contest them because officials in Miami-Dade County decided Wednesday to halt their recount. The final Florida vote total would give either Bush or Gore the Electoral College votes necessary to become the next president.

Canadian artist to color city's sky

Painter's giant
creation close
to finished

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

While most of Goodland sat down to Thanksgiving dinner Thursday, Cameron Cross was crouched in a muddy lot with a paint brush and a giant painting for company.

Thousands of miles from home, the Canadian artist said he'd be too busy crawling around the monstrous masterpiece that will soon color Goodland's skyline to break for dinner.

"Maybe I'll get a turkey sandwich," joked Cross, a former high school art teacher who quit to travel the world painting giant sunflowers, "or a package of turkey from Wal-Mart."

Being Canadian, Cross said, the U.S. holiday that celebrates the Pilgrims' harvest isn't a big deal to him. Canada's Thanksgiving Day falls in the third week of October. He wasn't home then either.

Where was he?

"Here," Cross said. "Painting."

The agriculture building at the Sherman County Fairgrounds became the painter's workshop in late September. There he spent two months transforming four fiberglass-covered wood panels into one giant replica of the first in Vincent van Gogh's sunflower series.

Boosters and state officials hope the 24-by-32 foot painting, to be displayed on an 80-foot pedestal, will draw 89,000 tourists a year to this Sunflower Capitol on the High Plains.

Two other paintings in the world-famous Dutch artist's series of seven now tower above small towns in Canada and Australia. The tourist attractions, Cross said, serve to recognize the huge impact the sunflower industry has on the rural town's economies.

He's looking to complete the series in bigger cities in Japan, South Africa, the Netherlands and Argentina that have ties to Van Gogh or the sunflower industry.

While many people are enjoying a four-day weekend, the 37-year-old artist will be making the long trip back to Winnipeg, Manitoba, today, his third giant replica complete.

Cross said he'll return to watch the huge sunflowers rise above Goodland on an 80-foot steel easel, but for now he's just glad to have the project close to done.

"I guess Thanksgiving just isn't in the cards this year," he said. His deck is still plenty full, though.

With a little maneuvering, elbow grease and 500 bolts, the painting is now in one piece, framed in steel and lying on its back behind Farris Manufacturing on Business U.S. 24. Owner



Cameron Cross, a Canadian artist, and Ron Harding, Chamber of Commerce executive director, (below) worked on Sunday to cover bolts and seams in the painter's giant replica of Van Gogh's sunflower painting with

fiberglass. The artist hoped to fly home today, but will return in the next few months when the painting is erected on an 80-foot-easel.

Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Gary Farris welded and painted the giant gray frame and will build the enormous, three-legged easel.

Cross said in the next few months, Farris will assemble the attraction and it will be rolled on wheels about a quarter of a mile to the site near the Cherry Street/Business U.S. 24 junction, where a 100-foot crane will lift it into place. The legs, which will have 35 feet between them, will be bolted into cement-filled holes in the ground.

City officials say a new entryway to Goodland will be built near the painting, including a pond, a new road and walking trails. Members of a group that worked to bring Cross here say an exhibition hall and gift shop will come next.

Kneeling on the colorful canvas, the painter said he wants the reproduction to be perfect before he catches a plane home today. Cross planned to make the trip two weeks ago, but cold weather and snow caused problems.

To finish, he said, he had to cover the bolts and seams with a fiberglass resin and then pick up a paint brush again. Cross said the resin wouldn't dry cor-

See PAINTING, Page 3



City adopts guide to policies, decisions

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

Citizens of Goodland told city officials how they wanted to see the town grow, the information was taken down and filed and now rests in Goodland's comprehensive plan.

The city commission adopted the plan, put together by Bucher, Willis and Ratliffe, at its last meeting. City Manager Ron Pickman said was the first time the city has had a comprehensive plan.

The plan will be used as a guide when setting policies and making decisions about the development of the community, he said, but none of it sets official zoning or housing regulations. It should reflect how the citizens want the city to develop in the near future and for the next 20 to 30 years.

"The plan should be used as guidance toward a desired end, not a blue print of future development," said the opening statement of the plan.

The last time the city looked at a comprehensive plan was at a commission meeting in 1989, where the matter was tabled and never brought up again. Pickman said he wasn't sure why it hadn't gone further.

He said that there were several ad-

Planners gather goals for city

From the sessions with the community, consultants from Bucher, Willis and Ratliffe came up with these goals in the city's comprehensive plan:

For land use, the city goal is to ensure the orderly development of Goodland so that it meets the needs of its residents, to enhance the appearance to the city and to provide quality, diverse products.

In order to do this, the city needs to adopt regulations, and enforce them, to eliminate blight, provide orderly development and establish a compatible land use pattern, said the comprehensive plan written by the company.

The city also will come up with an updating process to keep regulations current. It will enact programs to increase housing and repair current housing. City officials will enhance

the new gateway to the city being built on Cheery Street and they will allocate future land uses taking into consideration the availability of streets and utilities, existing land use patterns and expansion.

Finally, people wanted the city to conduct a study to determine whether or not a more direct route to downtown Goodland could be found.

For the quality of life category, community members wanted the city to foster a quality which allows everyone the opportunity to live, work, learn and recreate, said the comprehensive plan. One way in which the community wanted to see the city do this is by supporting and helping to maintain the medical and retirement

See GOALS, Page 7

Pickman. "They don't like to give out money unless there is something there to show that city officials know where the city is going."

Another advantage is with the plan in place the city has the authority to

extend its regulations three miles outside of the city limits, said Pickman. State law only allows a city to do this if it has a plan.

The process of creating the comprehensive plan started a year ago, he said, with a strategic planning session in October 1999.

After the session, Bucher, Willis and Ratliffe, a Kansas-City based consulting firm, started on a long interviewing process to find out what the people of Goodland really wanted, he said.

The first step in interviewing was to talk with six people picked at random who were then interviewed on regulation issues, challenges and attributes. The interviews were followed by focus group sessions in December 1999, Pickman said. In the groups, made up of people picked at random from the community, the company discussed four topics which would develop into the base of the plan.

The consultants talked with them about land use, economic development, quality of life and public facilities. This was followed by a public meeting open to everyone, he said, but only 19 people showed up. Once again,

See PLAN, Page 7

Numbers
are printed
for contest

The Christmas on Us contest sponsored by Goodland merchants is underway, with ads running and tickets being given out by participating businesses.

The contest which began Nov. 15 will give away \$2,500 in scrip money in mid-December to be used by winners at sponsoring businesses.

There will be 10 instant winners who will receive \$50 gift certificates during the weeks before the grand prize drawing.

Random tickets are drawn each week. Winning numbers can be found in ads which will run each week in the Christmas on Us section of *The Goodland Daily News*.

At participating businesses, customers will receive a ticket for each \$10 of service or merchandise purchased, with a limit of 250 tickets per transaction at any spon-

See CONTEST, Page 8