

weather report

82°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:54 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:32 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:54 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 73 degrees
- Humidity 37 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds northeast 20-23 mph
- Barometer 29.83 inches and falling
- Record High 94° (1996)
- Record Low 27° (1945)

Last 24 Hours*

High 90°
Low 53°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 40 percent chance of thunderstorms, low 50, southwest wind 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, 40 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 75, low mid 40s, north wind 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday: dry, high 70s. Saturday: chance of thunderstorms, high 70s, low 45-55.

(National Weather Service)

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

local markets

Noon

- Current wheat — \$2.90 bushel
 - New wheat — \$2.92 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.94
 - Corn — \$1.80 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.71
 - Loan deficiency payment — 28¢
 - Milo — \$2.85 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$3.93 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.93
 - Loan deficiency payment — 97¢
 - Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$6.65 cwt.
 - Oil new crop — \$5.90 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency prnt. — \$2.94
 - Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$14 (new crop)
- (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, 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.

Boy convicted in shooting

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — A jury convicted a 14-year-old boy of second-degree murder today for shooting his English teacher, rejecting a more serious charge that could have put him in prison for life.

Nathaniel Brazill, who insisted he accidentally shot the popular 35-year-old teacher on the last day of school a year ago, also was convicted of aggravated assault for pointing the silver .25-caliber semiautomatic pistol at a math teacher as he fled.

The teen, an honor roll student without a previous criminal record, faces 25 years to life in prison for the shooting death of Barry Grunow.

The jury began deliberations Monday and spent 14 hours before returning the verdicts. Sentencing was set for June 29.

Base set for VanGogh painting

Easel construction begins; erection expected in June

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Volunteers helped fill three 30-foot deep holes with concrete Tuesday morning, finally setting the base for a giant replica of a Van Gogh sunflower painting near the Cherry Street-Business U.S. 24 junction.

They're just concrete-filled holes in the ground now, but Darin Neufeld, an engineer working with other volunteers to erect the 80-foot sculpture, said in a month they will serve as a base for the 24- by 32-foot painting.

The attraction — the brainchild of Canadian artist Cameron Cross — will face I-70 and community leaders hope it will draw at nearly 90,000 visitors to the High Plains Sunflower Capitol each year.

Neufeld, with Evans, Bierly, Hutchinson and Associates, said the cement must harden for 28 days before it will be strong enough to support the painting, which will be welded to the easel before a crane lifts it into place.

The engineer said if everything goes as planned, the gigantic replica will be placed during the week of June 11. He said Gary Farris, owner of Farris Manufacturing, will start welding the three-legged easel together this month.

Volunteers have spent the past year jumping hurdles, but the finish line is in sight. As Neufeld walked away from the site, where he and four helpers spent more than three hours Tuesday, he smiled and said "Thank God."

Sunflowers U.S.A., the non-profit group organizing and gathering money for the project, has run into one delay after another — the most recent being the death of the 69-year-old contractor who agreed to drill the holes. The group originally thought the sculpture would be up before the end of 2000.

The death of Bob Bartell, the Winona contractor who planned to drill the holes, set the project back another two weeks, but Neufeld said the con-



Rick Murray, with Schlosser Concrete, poured readymix into a 30-foot-deep hole near the Cherry Street-Business U.S. 24 junction on Tuesday, creating a base for a giant painting that will be erected this summer.

tractor's son agreed to step in. Kyle Bartell and one of his father's former employees from Burlington drilled the holes Saturday.

Ric Schlosser, who does custom concrete, volunteered to help with the ce-

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Ric Schlosser aligned eight of the 3-foot long bolts that will keep a giant replica of a Van Gogh sunflower painting in place, before they were sunk into a hole filled with concrete and attached to a steel base. Schlosser

volunteered Tuesday to help build the base for the giant sculpture, which is scheduled to be erected next month.

Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Antique Warehouse plans Saturday opening

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

After nine months of remodeling, the Antique Warehouse at 17th and Main should be open Saturday.

Owners Kim Acuff and Shane Ritter bought the historic B.E. Bridges building in August and have spent thousands

of hours restoring the building, which was built in 1922.

"Basically we have tried to restore it like it was," Acuff said.

An article in the Oct. 19, 1922, issue of the *Western Kansas News*, said "a description of the building can hardly do it justice. One must visit the place to

realize its true worth and immensity."

Acuff said she thinks the quote fits the place.

She said that from 1922 to 1952, the 36,000-square-foot brick building housed the biggest wholesale grocery business between Kansas City and Denver, serving a five state area. Items

were brought in by train and unloaded on the back dock.

The building still retains some of the 16-by-30-foot coolers, a scale and a six-ton ice machine.

"We want to keep the history of the building alive," Acuff said.

She said they wanted to take the in-

side back to the original bricks, which had many layers of paint on them, on all three floors. They sandblasted the bricks, which Acuff said took them two months. It took them three months to clean up 30,000 pounds of sand.

"That was our major project," she said.

In the cleanup process, they shoveled the sand into wheelbarrows and hauled it out of the building. Then they hosed the walls and ceilings down and swept and vacuumed before sealing the bricks.

The building's entry will display pictures and memorabilia showing how it looked when it was a grocery warehouse.

Acuff said if anybody has anything from the original warehouse that they want to sell or loan for display, they should contact her or Ritter.

There will also be pictures of the remodeling process and a scrapbook for people to write down any memories they might have about the building.

New awnings on the north side of the building were designed by Acuff and Ritter, and built by Dennis Bentzinger's welding class and a couple of carpentry students from the Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland.

The business will house over 30 local and out-of-town dealers selling antiques, collectibles and gifts. A few of the antiques for sale include furniture, glassware, primitives, quilts, tools and jewelry. Space is rented out by the foot, Acuff said. Vendors set up their items for display and will restock their space, while Acuff will handle all sales. She said dealer space is available and she also takes consignment items.

Gift items include handmade quilts, stained glass, gift baskets, floral arrangements, candles, jewelry, rusted lawn ornaments, collectible dolls and Ty Beanie Babies and stuffed animals.

"The dealers bring in new things on a daily basis," she said, "so, there will

GOP wants to move on Bush energy plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Awaiting an energy blueprint from the White House, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott promised to move quickly, hoping Congress can complete action before the end of summer.

But Lott said Wednesday that some of President Bush's expected recommendations, such as expanded drilling on federal land and taking private land for power lines, "will be hotly debated" on Capitol Hill.

Democrats launched a pre-emptive strike Wednesday, saying the Bush energy package will do little to address soaring gasoline prices, the West Coast power crisis and the need to get Americans to use less energy.

"The president seems almost totally indifferent" to soaring electricity problems and blackouts in the West, said House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo.

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer insisted that the president's energy task force, while focusing on long-term energy problems, also will have measures that "will help in the short term."

The "comprehensive approach" to be outlined by the president's energy proposals "will help consumers" this summer, said Fleischer, who didn't provide details.

task force recommendations will direct Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman to look into ways to give refiners more leeway in blending gasoline to spur supply and ease distribution.

The task force will ask the agency to try to get states to abandon requirements for "boutique" gasoline blends as part of their air pollution control strategies.

The industry has blamed the requirement for many different blends for some of the refinery and distribution problems, a claim disputed by environmentalists.

The task force also will call for increased funding of the federal programs to help low-income families pay for cooling and heating costs, said the sources.

Both Republicans and Democrats in Congress agree those funds should be beefed up.

Lott, R-Miss., speaking to reporters, said he hoped to bring an energy bill to the Senate floor next month and have it to the president by July 4 "or certainly this summer."

As for Democratic criticism that the GOP approach tilts too heavily toward production, Lott said, "I don't believe we can conserve ourselves into (meeting) the energy needs we'll have in the future."

Ten, nine, eight, seven ...



Fifth grade students at North Elementary, with the help of teachers, shot off rockets this morning which they had made in class. Fifth grade teacher Myron Tedford helped Jessica Hatfield connect the battery clamp to a rocket launcher before she shot off her model.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News