

weather  
report

75°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:11 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.  
• Sunset, 8:12 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 67 degrees  
• Humidity 61 percent  
• Sky clear  
• Winds east 7 mph  
• Barometer 30.18 inches  
and falling  
• Record High 102° (1985)  
• Record Low 39° (1996)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 76°  
Low 63°  
Precipitation 0.04 inch

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of rain, low 65, southeast wind 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, high 90-95, low 60-65, south 15-25.

Extended Forecast

Sunday and Monday: dry, high 90s, low 55-65. Tuesday: chance of thunderstorms, high 75-85, low 50s.

(National Weather Service)

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

local  
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.78 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.65  
Corn — \$1.84 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.72  
Loan deficiency payment — 27¢  
Milo — \$2.96 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.16 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.03  
Loan deficiency payment — 89¢  
Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$7.35 cwt.  
Oil new crop — \$6.25 cwt.  
Loan deficiency prmt. — \$2.84  
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.

Lt. governor  
near decision

TOPEKA — Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer is close to making an announcement about whether he'll run for governor next year.

Sherrer, a Republican, said Thursday that he hopes to make his decision and disclose it publicly by the end of this month. He said he'll wait until the first week of July at the latest.

Sherrer, 60, has served as lieutenant governor since May 1996, and his tenure is the longest ever. He has served as secretary of commerce and housing since Gov. Bill Graves took office in 1995.

Graves is serving his second four-year term, and the Kansas Constitution prevents him from running for re-election next year.

Sherrer said he's not leaning toward or against running. He acknowledged the recent death of his 73-year-old brother, Charles, will influence his decision.

# Flower progress

By Rachel Miscall

*The Goodland Daily News*

A giant sunflower painting was to be standing on its three long legs at the south edge of Goodland within the next few days, but the huge replica of a Van Gogh painting won't go up for at least a week.

The monstrous work of art — painted by Canadian artist Cameron Cross last year — is now on its face behind Farris Manufacturing on Business U.S. 24, with workers crawling all over its back.

Welders working for owner Gary Farris have framed the 24-by-32-foot fiberglass "canvas" in steel and are busy assembling the 80-foot easel, also steel.

But Farris said they'll probably need more time to paint the sculpture's legs dark gray.

The weather must be perfect for that, he said, adding that he doesn't see the tourist attraction coming together by the June 12 deadline. When it does, though, the painting will be erected just north of the Cherry Street-Business U.S. 24 junction.

Darin Neufeld, an engineer with Evans, Bierly and Hutchinson and Associates and a leader of the volunteer group which has financed the big painting, said the new date is Tuesday, June 19, but windy weather could push that back.

He said a little rain won't hurt, but wind over 15 mph would make it impossible to erect the 35,000-pound replica.

Once it's up, the engineer said, the sculpture should stand strong against high wind, rain and snow, since it was built to meet sign and building codes.

About a month ago, Neufeld — along with volunteers and members of Sunflowers U.S.A., a group formed to bring the painting here — set 24 three-foot bolts and three steel plates into three 28-foot concrete-filled holes at the site.

It took 28 days for the concrete to cure, and Farris has used that time to start assembling the easel.

Farris said the sculpture, which will face I-70, will be rolled on two wheels to the site, a 100-foot crane will lift it onto the base and welders will attach the three legs to the steel plates.

A 40- to 50-foot crane from Sunflower Electric will be used to help set the painting, Neufeld said, adding that the process should take three to four hours.

That won't be the end of the project, though.

Marcia Golden, vice president of Sunflowers U.S.A., said the group is still raising money to pay for the effort, which will cost about \$150,000, including landscaping, a viewing area and a parking lot near the site.

She said members plan to seek donations to pay for an exhibition hall and gift shop south of the painting and east of the new location for Cherry



Alex Hernandez (above), a welder for Farris Manufacturing in Goodland, helped attach a giant replica of a Van Gogh sunflower painting to a huge steel easel behind the firm's shop on Business U.S. 24 Thursday. Jessy Juarez (below), another welder, made sure the easel's legs were level. The sculpture will be erected later this month.

Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Street.

There will be on-going expenses, she said, such as liability insurance.

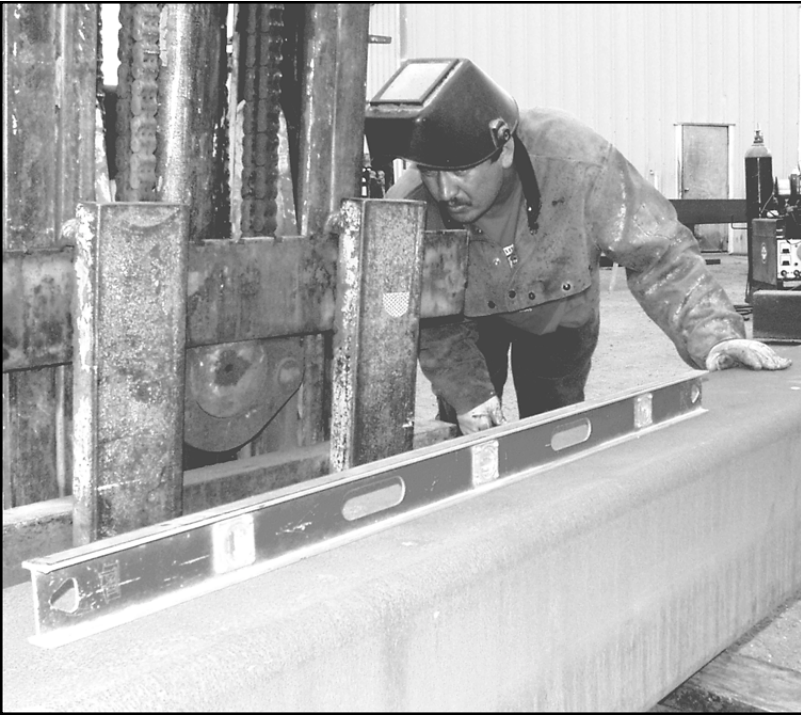
Both say they think the sculpture will pay off.

Golden said the state Department of Commerce estimated the attraction will bring 89,000 drivers off I-70 each year.

She said a dedication ceremony is being planned for Aug. 17 or 18, during Goodland's annual Sunflower Festival. The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce is inviting state officials.

Cross has also been invited, but may be too busy to attend.

The former high school art teacher has erected two other paintings in Van Gogh's sunflower series — which totals seven — in Canada and Australia and is busy working to put copies of the rest in Amsterdam, Japan, South Africa and Argentina.



## 65-year-old woman makes third bike trip

By Janet Craft

*The Goodland Daily News*

At 65, Hazel Estes is far from retired and she doesn't sit still for long.

For the third year in a row, the Kanorado mayor will ride her bicycle across the state in the 520-mile Biking Across Kansas event next week.

Estes, a Farm Bureau insurance agent, said the trip will start Saturday at the Colorado line and end Saturday, June 16, at the Missouri line.

She will catch a ride down to Syracuse today and out to the state line Saturday morning, where she will take off on her bike around 8 a.m. Central Time.

The ride has three routes, northern, middle and southern, with entrants riding an average of 66 miles a day. Over 1,000 riders are expected for all or part of the week-long event.

Estes will be taking the middle route, with overnight stops in Garden City, Meade, Coldwater, Anthony, Arkansas City, Sedan and Oswego. The other legs

start west of Tribune and Elkhart.

Estes said the bikers will stay in high school gyms where they stop to spend the night and she'll sleep on a bedroll.

Some of the towns provide meals for the riders, but sometimes they have to find their own. There are rest stops with fruit, cold water or snacks

about every 10 or 15 miles along the route. She said bikers are encouraged to stop and she does. Sometimes, kids will have lemonade stands set up along the way, she said.

To prepare for the trip, Estes said, she swam up to about three quarters of a mile a couple of times a week at the Best Western Buffalo Inn when it was still too cool to ride a bike.

"It was good conditioning," she said. She said around the first of April, she began riding long distances to condition her body for the trip and has ridden about 650 miles since then.

She did most of her bike riding between Kanorado and Burlington. On



Hazel Estes

See BIKING, Page 4

## Bomber prepares for death

### McVeigh decides to halt all appeals

DENVER (AP) — Ending three weeks of legal turmoil, Timothy McVeigh has halted all further appeals and says he is prepared to die by lethal injection Monday morning for the Oklahoma City bombing.

McVeigh's decision, which clears the way for his execution, came Thursday minutes after a three-judge panel of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected his request for an execution delay.

He could have petitioned for the full appeals court to consider his request, taken the case to the U.S. Supreme Court or asked President Bush for clemency. Instead, McVeigh was prepared to die, said attorney Rob Nigh.

"He has family and friends that he must say his goodbyes to, the kind of introspection and psychological preparation he has to go through only he can know and other people in his position can know," Nigh said outside the appeals court.

At the federal prison in Terre Haute, Ind., McVeigh could be moved as early as today from his cell to the execution building, a windowless, two-story brick structure surrounded by a fence topped with barbed wire. He would be the first federal prisoner executed since 1963.

In Oklahoma City, reaction was mixed among bombing victims' relatives and survivors.

"It's kind of like a burden lifted off my shoulders," said Paul Howell, whose daughter was killed in the bombing and who plans to witness the execution at the prison in Terre Haute. "I'm going to start preparing myself mentally for it now."

Jannie Coverdale, whose two grandsons were killed, wants McVeigh to remain alive because she does not believe the full truth has been told about the bombing. She plans to begin writing letters next week to Attorney General John Ashcroft, congressmen and McVeigh's attorneys to try to get copies of court documents.

But first she will go to her grandsons' graves.

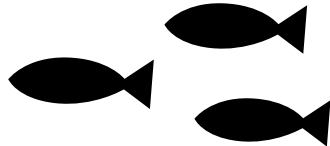
"I have to tell the boys the bad man is dead and he can't hurt anyone anymore," she said.

McVeigh was convicted of murder, conspiracy and mass weapons charges in the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The blast killed 168 people and injured hundreds more.

He had stopped his appeals this year and was preparing for his May 16 ex-

See McVEIGH, Page 4

## Gone Fishin'



By Lester Bolen

*The Goodland Daily News*

In the sport of fishing, patience can be a virtue. A fisherman may have to wait for hours at a time for a bite.

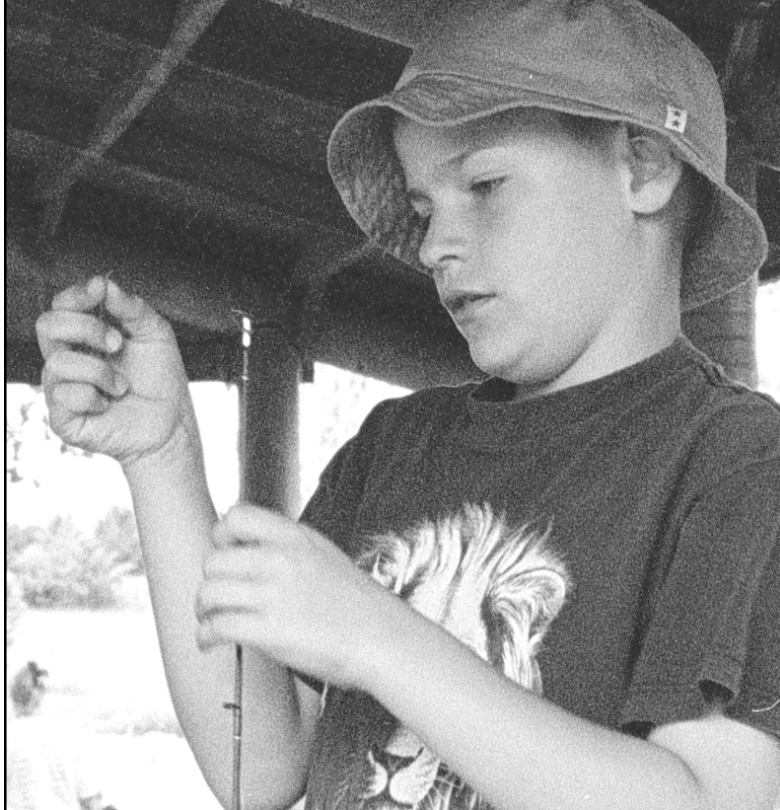
But if a fisherperson needs to learn patience, Kaylee Kendall of Goodland got off on the wrong foot Thursday.

On the first two casts of her fishing career, Kendall caught two small blue gill at Smoky Gardens. From then on, anything less than the "big one" was going to be a disappointment.

"My favorite part about fishing is catching fish," Kendall said, "but I don't like touching the worms. Bleek."

Every cast after the first two was quick, and the worm didn't stay put for long. Kendall just couldn't wait to catch another fish.

She was part of the 16th annual fishing clinic offered to kids in second through fourth grades by the Sherman County Extension office. With two half-day sessions, it is designed to teach the younger generation about



A boy readied his pole at the annual fishing clinic Thursday at Smoky Gardens.

Photo by Lester Bolen/The Goodland Daily News

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