

weather
report

66°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:16 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:16 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 73 degrees
• Humidity 46 percent
• Sky partly cloudy
• Winds east 15-19 mph
• Barometer 30.27 inches
and steady
• Record High 104° (1936)
• Record Low 44° (1985)

Last 24 Hours*

High 102°
Low 60°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 40 percent chance of thunderstorms, low 50-55, east wind 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Cloudy, 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 70-75, low 50-55, east wind 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday and Friday: high 80s, low 50s. Saturday: chance of thunderstorms, high 90s, low 55-65.

(National Weather Service)

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

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.73 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.64
Corn — \$1.80 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.64
Loan deficiency payment — 35¢
Milo — \$2.89 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.18 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.05
Loan deficiency payment — 87¢
Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$7.40 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.64
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.

Injection kills
drug dealer

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. — With an apology for “the pain and grief that I have caused,” drug kingpin Juan Raul Garza was executed for murder today, eight days after Timothy McVeigh became the first federal inmate put to death since 1963.

Garza died at 7:09 a.m. by chemical injection, strapped to the same gurney where McVeigh was put to death last week.

He went to his death calmly, but unlike McVeigh, with remorse.

“I just want to say that I’m sorry, and I apologize for all the pain and grief that I have caused,” he said.

As Garza was being executed, about 50 anti-death penalty activists sang “We Shall Overcome” and other protest songs. However, the scene at the prison was in stark contrast to the buzz of media activity that met McVeigh’s final days.

Sunflower rising



Agiant replica of a Van Gogh sunflower painting was lifted onto a trailer this morning and hauled to a site north of the Business U.S. 24/Cherry Street junction, where organizers hope to erect it today. Windy weather

delayed the placing of the sculpture, however. Backers hope the tourist attraction will bring thousands of drivers off I-70 each year, boosting Goodland's economy. Photos by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

Giant painting going up in Goodland

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

At 5:45 a.m. this morning, Barbara Aten arrived at the spot where a giant replica of a Van Gogh sunflower painting mounted on an 80-foot steel easel was supposed to be placed today.

Aten, secretary of Sunflowers U.S.A., the group that’s been working for nearly two years to put the tourist attraction in Goodland, said she couldn’t wait to see the monstrous sunflowers decorate a vacant, overgrown area that residents have complained about for 60 years.

“I didn’t want to miss any of it,” she said, preparing to snap another picture with a camera strapped around her neck. “I just think it’s exciting.”

She had to wait a couple of hours before anything picture-worthy happened, though. By noon, the painting was hooked up and ready to go, but workers were waiting for the wind to die down. They still hoped to get it up sometime today.

Around 7:30 a.m., workers used forklifts to set the 24-by-32-foot painting, already attached to the three-legged easel, onto a trailer behind Farris Manufacturing on Business U.S. 24. Owner Gary Farris and welders he employs built the attraction’s frame and easel, painting both a dark gray.

Canadian artist Cameron Cross spent three months last year creating the reproduction of one in a series of seven sunflower paintings Vincent van Gogh finished while he was living in Arles, France, in 1888-1889. Farris has had the replica laying behind his shop since November.

After a short trip down Cherry Street, the sculpture was at its new home north of the Business U.S. 24/Cherry Street junction by 9 a.m., and by 9:30 a.m. organizers and crane operators were preparing to lift the paint-



Darin Neufeld (above), the engineer working to erect the giant Van Gogh painting in Goodland, used a clear material to cover spots where screws holding the painting together were showing. Lacy Stephens, (right) a sophomore, and her brother, A.J. Stephens, a sixth grader, braved the cool morning air to watch the painting be moved to its site.

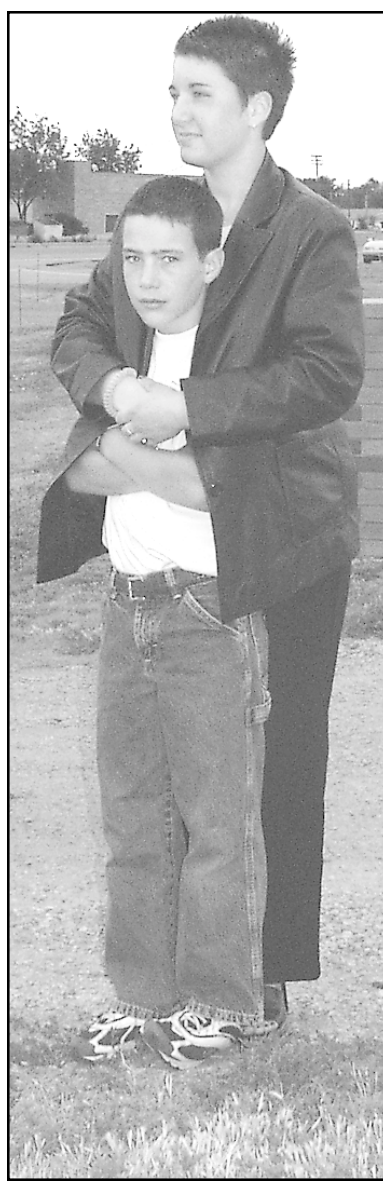
ing into place.

Darin Neufeld, an engineer with Evans, Bierly and Hutchinson and Associates and member of Sunflowers U.S.A., tightened bolts that will help keep the easel’s legs securely attached to the concrete foundation.

Crane operators tied a rope around the top of the easel, hooking it onto a

140-foot crane. They used a bucket truck to do the same at the base of the easel’s back leg, sticking over 35 feet in the air as the painting laid on its face.

Neufeld said a smaller crane would hold the sculpture steady while the larger crane lifts it into the air and sets it on the foundation. While the painting was still on its face at noon, the



engineer, who is working for free on the project, said once it’s in place, Farris’ employees will weld the easel legs to the steel plates, using sheets of steel.

Sunflower U.S.A. members kneeled under the painting to do a quick touch

See PAINTING, Page 7

Officials give for economy

Development group
receives \$50,000

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

About 15 Goodland business owners concerned about the loss of businesses here were at the Goodland city commission meeting Monday to hear the decision on a request for \$50,000 for economic development.

After hearing from several members of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce, the commission decided in a vote of 3 to 1 to give \$50,000 to the Chamber’s Economic Development Committee. Commissioner Chuck Lutters voted no because, he said, he felt the group needed to be more accountable than they had been in the past. Mayor Tom Rohr wasn’t at the meeting.

Several commissioners complained that the group has not given a good enough accounting of how they spent city money this year, and the panel promised to come back in the fall with a full report.

Commissioner Curtis Hurd said he felt the commission had led the development committee to believe they would give them the money with the stipulation that they give the commission quarterly reports. The money already had been budgeted for this year.

Commissioner Rick Billinger said if the commissioners are spending taxpayer’s money, there should be accountability.

“Don’t the taxpayers want us to promote Goodland?” asked Stephen West, president of Western State Bank, who is chairman of the committee and president of the Chamber.

Commissioner Dean Blume said he had done some research on the committee and found that they had kept a railroad which helped with agriculture and

See ECONOMY, Page 7

Price caps no longer in picture

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats said today they would no longer try to impose stringent price controls on Western electricity sales, opting to give federal regulators’ price-dampening plan time to work.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission plan, unveiled Monday and set to go into effect Wednesday, establishes price ceilings on wholesale electricity sales on spot markets in California and 10 other Western states over the next 15 months.

“Let’s watch and wait and see how this order works,” said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., whose bill for tougher cost-based price caps had been expected to be considered in the Senate within days.

Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., who was a co-sponsor of the legislation, agreed it should be taken off the table, although he said “it would have won large majorities in both the Senate and House” if additional steps were not taken to curtail electricity prices in the West.

Pilot guest on program

Goodland native Jeff Vignery, a Navy pilot who was held in China with 23 other crew members for 11 days after a collision with a Chinese plane, will be appearing live on the 700 Club television program Wednesday.

His mother, Judi Vignery of Goodland, said the show is scheduled on Channel 32 on Goodland cable at 8 a.m. Wednesday.

Three arrested after officers find drug lab in car

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

A hitchhiker from Pittsburg and two companions were arrested last week after the man allegedly molested a woman who stopped to pick him up and officers found what appeared to be a meth lab, gun and drugs in the trunk of their car.

Stephen Diehm, 50, was arrested by Trooper Rich Hageman of the Kansas

Highway Patrol last Sunday night after a Hays woman said he touched her leg, arm and breast without her permission.

When they checked out the car he had been in, which had broken down on I-70, officers found a meth lab, methamphetamine, marijuana, drug paraphernalia and a stolen gun.

Sheriff Doug Whitson, who helped in the search and arrest, said about 3

p.m. the trooper was called to check out a hitchhiker on I-70. He said around that same time Dawn Rose Webber, 21, formerly of Kanorado, called from Brewster to say that a hitchhiker had sexually abused her.

Webber, who was traveling east, reported that she had turned around to pick up Diehm, who was hitchhiking along the westbound lanes and wanted a ride to Goodland as the car he was

driving had broken down.

Webber picked up Diehm near milepost 31, driving him down the highway for a few miles before he got out of line and she dropped him off in Edson.

The sheriff said the 1996 Ford Taurus Diehm and two other men were driving in had broken down, and after investigating the woman’s charge, of-

See METH, Page 7