

weather
report

66°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 7:02 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:26 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:00 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 70 degrees
- Humidity 38 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds northwest 15-25 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.13 inches and rising
- Record High 100° (1931)
- Record Low 36° (1974)

Last 24 Hours*

High 86°
Low 47°
Precipitation none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high upper 70s, low mid 50s, winds light and variable. Saturday: partly sunny with a 20 percent of showers, low upper 60s, low lower 40s.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy, high upper 60s. Monday: mostly clear, high upper 70s, low upper 40s. Tuesday: mostly clear, high near 80, low lower 50s. Wednesday: partly cloudy, high near 80, low upper 50s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.01 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.13
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.30 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.15
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2 bushel
Soybeans — \$5.97 bushel
Posted county price — \$5.61
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$9.40 cwt.
NuSun — \$9.70 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.04
Confection — \$17/\$10 cwt.
Pinto beans — Withdrawn
(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside
today

More local
news and
views from
your
Goodland
Star-News



Golfers host
Invitational

Cowgirl Jessica Osborn, senior, took her tee shot on the fifth hole at Sugar Hills Golf Club Tuesday. See story on Page 11.

Activity Center has new director

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

A new "interim" director took the helm at the Goodland Activities Center Aug. 1, but no one seems to remember she's not the permanent director.

Sandy Trachsel said she had served on the center board about two years, and when Donna Terry resigned as director to go to work at the prison in Burlington, the board asked her to be fill in until they were ready to interview again.

Trachsel said she could be interim director indefinitely, and though she has given the board permission to seek other applicants and conduct interviews, they haven't done anything.

In fact, they don't seem to be in any hurry to get rid of Trachsel. Everybody keeps forgetting the "interim" part, she said.

Trachsel isn't making any plans to leave, and said she would be interested in taking the job permanently. Right now, she said, her plans are to build on Terry's improvements at the activities center.

"Donna was instrumental in getting the facility in great shape," Trachsel said, "and getting the programs started."

The programs run as slick as can be, she said, and the place is in good condition because of Donna's work. And she just wants to build on that work.



Sandy Trachsel

Trachsel said she wants to work on new programs, especially programs that will bring in more money. The center is a nonprofit organization, she said, and in today's hard economy, nothing can be taken for granted.

Things are going well now, she said, but that doesn't mean it's time to sit back. To keep this level of fa-



Keaton Sloan, Kayler Reitchcheck and Dane Frazier (left to right) had a pool free for all at the Goodland Activities Center after school Wednesday.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

cility, Trachsel said, she needs to keep working on it.

The saunas, whirlpool tubs and racquetball courts are rarely used, the director said, and that is one thing she wants to change. A dreaming committee comes up with ideas too, she said, among them a better gym and a lap pool. Those are long-term goals, she said.

Trachsel said she is planning a Christmas dinner and dance and may plan other dances in the future, and is considering new program possibilities.

Mornings are quiet, she said, and it would be nice to have a program for senior citizens then. The program would get them out, she said, show them what a good facility the

center is and keep them active.

Shuffleboard is one program Trachsel is considering for seniors, but she said she needs to find out whether the floor is level enough for the game without expensive improvements.

And Trachsel said she needs to

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Van Gogh painting putting Goodland on maps

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Mention the "big painting" to people in Goodland and you are almost guaranteed to get an answer.

About half will be positive and half negative about the replica of a Vincent Van Gogh sunflower painting that has been on an 80-foot easel for over two years near the intersection of Cherry Ave. and Business U.S. 24.

Around the country, though, the 24-by-32-foot painting by Canadian artist Cameron Cross has been getting noticed. People pull off the Interstate to look at the giant easel and to take photos.

Bowman's Heating next door reports they have quite a number of people stop in to ask about the painting. Cindy Bowman hands out a Goodland guide from two years ago that had the whole story and answers questions as well as she can.

This year, the Van Gogh painting was in two guide books, has been featured in the July/August edition of *Midwest Life*, and received a large write-up in *The Kansas City Star*. The painting was featured in a story in the *Sacramento Bee* in California and was part of a special show on Home and Garden TV over the Memorial Day weekend.

Driving Across Kansas, a guide to I-70, has two listings for Goodland. The book is written as if the person is driving from Kansas City west to



Van Gogh sunflower painting as it was erected in April 2001.

Colorado, and the second half is in reverse with Goodland being one of the first places listed. Items of interest include the giant painting.

The guide book, *Kansas Curiosities*, has the Van Gogh painting on the front cover, and has a story inside about how to find the easel in Goodland.

In the *Midwest Living* edition, there is a color photo of the painting, and a short story under the headline "Van Gogh on the go."

"New Orleans may be the Big Easy, but Goodland has the Big Easel.

"It's the only U.S. location of the Big Easel Project, created by Canadian artist Cameron Cross. He is placing six different supersize Van Gogh sunflower reproductions on steel easels in Canada, Australia, France, Argentina, Japan and South Africa. He chose Goodland because of its reputation as the 'Sunflower Capital of the High Plains.'"

Rhonda Chriss Lokeman, writing her Sunday column for *The Kansas City Star* in August had quite a bit to say about the painting.

"There are some things one has come to associate with the Midwest, some of them based on fiction — some of them based on fact.

"How about Van Gogh, as in Vincent van Gogh, the brilliant and tormented late artist? Think about lovelorn Mr. One Ear and you think immediately of Goodland. Admit it. You do. You do if you've been to

Goodland lately. It can't be helped.

"Like or not, there's a giant-sized Van Gogh reproduction rising from the prairie. It's adjacent to a cornfield (of course) and a hop, skip and jump from several motor shops.

"Kansas may be flat as a pancake elsewhere, but not in Goodland.

"Just down old Highway 24, look up in the Goodland sky, and it rises right smack dab in the middle of an open field. Like those crop circles, you'd have to see this to believe it.

"Seeing is exactly what the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau hopes you'll do. County officials and merchants, even those with a harrumph stuck in their craw, would like to make a little money from this. While you're here for the 'Van Gogh,' they wouldn't mind if you also stopped by the airport restaurant for the 'pie lady's' famous rhubarb pies or strolled down Main for some antique shopping."

The story quotes Donna Price, director of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau about the other attractions in Goodland, mentions the sunflower production plants in the area, and the importance of the crop in the farm economy here.

There have been other mentions of the giant painting in area newspapers and magazines across the country since it was erected in April 2001, and each one is bringing more people to see the real thing.

Roof project more than halfway completed

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Superintendent Marvin Selby encouraged Goodland School Board members to attend the Governor's Education Policy Forum's northwest Kansas session, which was Thursday at the Buffalo Inn.

At the board's first meeting of the month on Monday, Selby updated the members on the roof and sidewalk projects currently at Goodland High School.

"The roof is about 60 percent completed," Selby said. "The threat of rain keeps the construction crew from tearing off more roof than they can work on in one day, which slows down the work's progress."

Selby said that the sidewalk, curb and gutter project in about half done after getting off to a slow start when the first 50 feet of the curb had to be torn up and replaced.

He gave each member a copy of a format for a proposed new superin-

tendent evaluation form and asked them to be ready to discuss it at the next meeting.

Steve Raymer, athletic director and assistant principal at Goodland High School, updated the board on the number of students participating on athletic teams this fall, 123 total.

He said a committee formed to consider how to operate sports camps and booster club activities within the guidelines of the Kansas High School Activities Association had held its first meeting. Raymer also talked about the exploration into expansion of the Northwest Kansas League and the potential benefits it would have for high school athletics.

Harvey Swager, the high school principal, said that the school was off to a great start.

He described the "School as a Community" project that was initiated this year to make every student feel that they belong which involves the staff as well as the student body.

He gave each board member a T-shirt that has a logo on its front, a yellow circle with "01" in it, to remind people to take a second and make a difference by taking the time to say something positive to a person they meet.

Next up was Jim Mull, principal of Grant Junior High and North Elementary, who also reported on the number of students participating in athletics this fall, 118, and about the special projects being initiated this school year. He invited board mem-

Hazardous waste drop-off Saturday

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

People who want to get rid of old half-filled paint cans, batteries, cleaning products or fuel cans sitting around the house or farm will have a chance to do it Saturday.

Sherman County citizens will be able to bring their household hazardous waste to the county facility at 1820 Cherry Ave., across from Pizza Hut, from 7 to

11 a.m.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede, Rural Fire Chief Kenny Griffith, who works for the county road and bridge department, and Daryl West, head of the Noxious Weed Department, will be on hand to handle the waste.

Tiede said Tuesday at the regular commission meeting that they will pick up the special trailer in Hays on Friday, and will be ready for the collection on Saturday.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure reported that Kevin Arnold is moving forward on opening a radiator repair shop in the back half of the building.

Rasure said a separate gas meter has been installed, and that Arnold said he would have the electricity put in his name. Rasure said he had Mary Ann Snethen look at the electrical

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