

## weather report

**68°**

at noon



### Today

• Sunset, 6:07 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:00 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:05 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 55 degrees
- Humidity 23 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds northwest 11 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.05 inches and steady

• Record High 96° (1926)

• Record Low 18° (1948)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 73°

Low 26°

Precipitation none

### N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: mostly sunny, high around 80, low mid 40s, winds southwest 5-15 changing to west 10 m.p.h. Saturday: mostly sunny, high lower 80s, low around 40, winds 5-10 m.p.h.

### Extended Forecast

Sunday: mostly clear, high lower 80s, low lower 40s. Monday and Tuesday: partly cloudy, high mid 60s to lower 70s, low mid 30s to lower 40s, breezy. Wednesday: partly cloudy, high upper 60s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## Painting dispute is settled

### *Sunflower group to pay for big easel*

By Greg Stover

*The Goodland Star-News*

Rumors around town about the status of the bill for the Van Gogh easel can be put to rest, and the project can now move forward with one less cloud hovering over it.

Gary Farris of Farris Manufacturing, 908 E. Hwy 24, and Sunflower USA Association came to a settlement agreement Thursday over the bill's unpaid balance.

Farris Manufacturing produced the 80-foot easel on which the oversized Van Gogh reproduction rests. The total bill of materials and labor for the easel was \$32,984, of which \$19,984 went unpaid for over a year.

B.E. "Pete" Whalen, a Goodland lawyer who is president of Sunflower USA, said that when the bill came in it was more than the non-profit group had. The bill also exceeded the \$27,000 budgeted for steel by the association in its application for a state "attraction" grant.

Sunflower USA is a volunteer group and its only income comes from contributions and grants. The group says it's goal is to promote Goodland as "The Sunflower Capital of the Sunflower State." Farris, in papers filed with his suit, agree with that, but claimed the money was still owed to him.

The painting, a 24-by-32 foot reproduction of one of Vincent van Gogh's Sunflower series, and easel were erected in April 2001. They are part of Canadian artist Cameron Cross Big Easel Project, which involves setting up seven such structures in cities around the world.

The painting has attracted tourists to Goodland and helps illustrate the importance the sunflower has here.

Farris said that he received two part payments totaling \$13,000. He said he had offered Sunflower USA a \$5,000 discount if the bill was paid within 30 days. A lawsuit was filed by Goodland attorney Michael Foust on behalf of Farris on Dec. 19 in the Sherman County District Court to collect the balance.

Whalen said the association wants to continue in a positive direction and see the project completed. In addition to the painting, the group is planning to eventually open a museum that will educate the public on the history of sunflower agriculture in northwestern Kansas.

City Commissioner John Garcia reported last Monday that Paxton Building Service had volunteered to help remove trees and landscape city land around the painting.

## Bridge set for removal

The bridge on County Road 23 between Roads 65 and 67 will be demolished Monday and the road will be closed for about a week to 10 days, Public Works Manager Curt Way told Sherman County commissioners on Wednesday.

At a special meeting Wednesday, he told commissioners that a temporary low-water crossing would be put in to accommodate traffic. The bridge will be replaced by two large culverts, but because the ground is so dry, crews can't do the dirt work now. Once it rains, he said, construction will begin, and the road will be closed again.

The special meeting was called so the commission could approve and pay the county's bills for the first half of October totaling \$67,213. The commission voted unanimously to terminate a farm lease with Stan Purvis for about 109 acres near the new landfill. The land is being turned over to the Conservation Reserve Program.

The commission decided to get bids for asbestos removal for the Telephone Building downtown.

## On the Inside



### *Take a walk on the inside*

Students at West Elementary learned what goes on inside us at the "Body Walk" this month. Gabby Rangel, Berkley White, Zach Miller and Jordan Knitig (above) learned about muscles. Miranda Hernandez and Holton Wittman (below) walked through the "intestines." Allison Rice, Kyler Amthor and Matt Murray (right) sat on teeth while the students were in the mouth. Kids went in through the mouth as "food" and wound up as proteins going out to he muscles. The "Body Walk" is done by the state Department of Education and volunteers, many of them Colby Community College nursing students.

Photos by Kara Smith/West Elementary School



## Program would help parents

By Greg Stover

*The Goodland Star-News*

The Goodland School Board got a quick course in the Parents as Teachers Program, designed to help families give kids a head start on school, at its meeting Monday.

Khrista Claassen, a parent educator with the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center in Oakley, talked about the program and its benefits at the board's regular meeting.

She said the program is based on the idea that parents are the first and most important teachers in a child's life. It is designed to help parents make the most of the early learning years by helping development of language, intellectual, social, emotional and motor skills.

Any parent with a child 3 or younger or parent-to-be can join the program, which features an hour-long home visit by an educator at least once a month. Services include development checks, group activities, a resource library where books and toys may be checked out and an annual health check.

The program, free to parents, lasts about a year, she said. She said it is paid for by the school district and by state grants, but didn't say how much it would cost. The program is

### *Fans: bring your tickets*

Ushers will be checking tickets for reserved seats at Cowboy Stadium for the football game Friday, Steve Raymer, Goodland High School assistant principal and athletic director, told the school board Monday.

Raymer said that Linda Quint and Yvonne Koehler have been hired to control access to the reserved seating area. Wearing yellow "event staff" vests, they will check tickets, so people will have to remember to bring them.

Raymer said he's had complaints from tickets holders who have shown up for games only to find their seats taken. People said they've had difficulty getting the

limited to 25 parents at a time.

Another part of the program is geared toward parents with children between 3 and 5 who do not have access to early childhood services such as preschool or Head Start. This part of the program is funded through Northwest Kansas Smart Start.

Superintendent Marvin Selby

squatters to move and sometimes when they do, they just slide over.

When the Cowboys were not doing as well as they are now, Raymer said, attendance was low, and this was not a problem. He said some fans noticed good seats going empty and got used to sitting in them.

Raymer said that other controls are being considered, including marking the reserved seats with the name of the season ticket holder. He said he wants to see how well the ticket-checking works Friday.

If they want to sit in their seats, Raymer said, ticket holders had best bring them to the game.

Elementary, reported that 242 students went through the Body Walk exhibit, where nursing students from Colby Community College explained the functions of the body at the various stations representing internal organs. He said 212 people took part in the grandparents' breakfast sponsored by Wal-Mart, after which the grandparents toured the school.

Sharon Gregory, principal of Central Elementary, reminded the board about Central's book fair Oct. 24-31, and its Halloween party and parade Oct. 30. She also reported on her students' reading.

Gregory said that last year's second grade class, which was 36.4 percent at or above their grade in reading, was now at 65.4 percent at or above the norm. She said the fourth grade was 75 percent at or above their reading level.

Jim Mull, principal at North Elementary and Grant Junior High, said that discipline problems at the junior high were down from last year and that the Mustangs' fall sports season was almost over.

High school Principal Harvey Swager said that discipline at the high school has improved. He cred-

See SCHOOL, Page 3

## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$2.97 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.03

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.09 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.96

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$1.83 bushel

Soybeans — \$6.75 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.67

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$10.20 cwt.

NuSun — \$10.75 cwt.

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



## Saddle up, move out

George Phillips of Goodland was ready for the Cheyenne County Trail Ride to start Sunday along the Republican River north of St. Francis. Phillips attends the ride, with draws people from all over the region, each year.