

Election 2012

Candidate forum set for Tuesday

The Sherman County Republican Committee is planning a forum for Republican primary candidates at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the assembly room near the cafeteria at Northwest Kansas Technical College.

The forum will be for candidates in contested races. These include House candidates Ward Cassidy and Rick Billinger; Senate candidate Ralph Ostmeyer; District 2 county commissioner candidates Lowell Coon, Paul Flanders and Ken Klemm; and county sheriff candidates Kev in Butts and Burton Pianalto.

Other Republican candidates in attendance will be recognized, and people will have a chance to speak one-on-one with candidates after the forum.

weather report

84°

10:30 a.m.
Monday



Today

• Sunset, 8:13 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:33 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:12 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 73 degrees

• Humidity 35 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds south 12 mph

• Barometer 30.11 inches and rising

• Record High today 108° (1934)

• Record Low today 43° (1990)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 89°

Low Wednesday 62°

Precipitation none

This month 1.22

Year to date 6.63

Below normal 4.31 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near 96, winds out of the south at 5 to 10 mph and a low around 66. Saturday: Sunny and hot with a high near 98, winds out of the southeast at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 71.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny with a high near 96 and a low around 71. Monday: Sunny with a high near 96 and a low around 71. Tuesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 96 and a low around 70.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.



Bryant Nemechek with Nemechek Welding was responsible for cutting the welds that attach the painting to the easel. Strong welds slowed the process, but Nemechek eventually uncoupled the painting. Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Van Gogh taken down on Wednesday for repair

By Tom Betz

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Cameron Cross, the Canadian artist responsible for Goodland's famous Van Gogh painting, is in town to repair and revitalize his giant painting.

Cross and city officials weren't sure how to do the long-planned maintenance, but settled on removing the painting from the Big Easel and laying it on the ground. Taking down the Van Gogh sunflower painting was a matter of attaching it to a crane and then cutting the more than 30 feet of welds holding it in place for the last 11 years to bring it down to allow Cross to repair and repaint the artwork.

The strong welds slowed the cutting process as it was hard to get them to break loose, and it took several trips up and down the easel to get them free.

Those watching from the ground could tell when one of the welds broke loose with a popping sound. In one case a weld at the top made a big popping sound and a steel wedge fell to the ground.

That was not the last weld holding the painting, and Bryant Nemechek of Nemechek Welding had to get to one more about half way down before the whole painting popped free with a shudder shaking the easel and put the 22,000 pound load fully on the crane rented from Woofter Construction.

When the painting came loose city employees helped guide the painting to a place on the ground to the east of the easel where Cross will work on cleaning, repairing and repainting the Van Gogh sunflower painting.

Plans had been made on Tuesday with attachment of two brackets to attach to crane straps and a couple of braces under the painting to insure it was put back in



Artist Cameron Cross surveyed the painting once it had been lowered to the ground.

the same place. The crane had been pre-positioned to be sure everything was in place.

Early Wednesday morning the crews arrived and began the process about 6 a.m., and the last weld popped loose about noon. Once it was loose it did not take many minutes to swing it to the east and bring it down to the ground.

Helping Bryant were his father, Greg, and John Buckner.

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Once the welds were cut and the painting was detached, a crane was used to lower it to the ground.

County looks closer at IGA building

By Kevin Bottrell

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After an hour-long examination on Tuesday, architect Dan Hall of Manhattan said the old IGA building will work well as a city-county fire station, however he will be unable to give the Sherman County Commissioners an cost estimate for several weeks.

Hall, along with the commis-

sioners, Fire Chief Brian James, City Manager Doug Gerber and representatives from Emergency Medical Services, toured the building during the regular commission meeting Tuesday. The commissioners have been looking at the building as a possible location to house the ambulance service as well as the city and rural fire departments.

Hall was the engineer the county

brought in to design a new building, an option which is still on the table. The IGA building would be about 50 percent larger than the building Hall has been designing, which would be built on ground at K-27 and 8th Street. That new building is still an option, if the county commission decides it is too costly to renovate the IGA building.

Hall said one of his biggest con-

cerns when looking at existing buildings is the exterior. In this case, the exterior and roof look good.

"The building is adequate," Hall said. "As long as people realize that it'll never be new."

There are patches in the concrete, dings in the walls and numerous other small details, he said, but there

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Police seek info on damage, burglaries

The Goodland Police Department is investigating several burglaries and damage to a vehicle that occurred over the weekend.

The department issued a release Tuesday, saying that sometime Sunday night, several vehicles in the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church parking lot were burglarized. Among the items take were a stereo and a chainsaw.

Also on Sunday night, a vehicle parked near Broadway Avenue had several of its tires slashed.

Anyone with information about either of these crimes is encouraged to contact Crimestoppers. Crimestoppers is a hotline program that allows the caller to remain anonymous. The program also offers monetary rewards if the information provided leads to an arrest. Anonymous reports to Crimestoppers can be made at 899-5665.

Information about the above mentioned crimes may also be passed on to the Goodland Police Department at 890-4570.

Brick work complete



The first phase of the Main Avenue brick project has been completed, and the block between 11th and 12th Streets was opened to traffic Wednesday afternoon. Work crews have been excavating

the second phase of the project between 12th and 13th Streets, taking out old pipes and laying new ones.

Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

local markets

10:30 a.m.

Wheat — \$7.71 bushel

Posted county price — \$7.52

Corn — \$6.89 bushel

Posted county price — \$7.07

Milo — \$6.91 bushel

Soybeans — \$13.92 bushel

Posted county price — \$14.84

Millet — \$11 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$24.20 cwt.

Confection — no bid

Pinto beans — \$28

(Markets by Scouler Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

