

weather
report

98°

at noon



Today

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

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 68 degrees
- Humidity 15 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds northwest 10 mph
- Barometer 29.87 inches and falling
- Record High 109° (1936)
- Record Low 42° (1945)

Last 24 Hours*

High	98°
Low	60°
Precipitation	none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, low 50-55, northeast wind 15-25 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, 20 percent chance of showers, high 70, low 50, northeast wind 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: chance of thunderstorms, high 70s. Thursday: dry, high 80s, low 50s. Friday: dry, high 80s, low 50s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.72 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.57
Corn — \$1.78 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.64
Loan deficiency payment — 35¢
Milo — \$2.86 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.15 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.98
Loan deficiency payment — 94¢
Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$7.35 cwt.
Oil new crop — \$6.15 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.22
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.

Court won't
delay death

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court refused to delay the execution of Juan Raul Garza, who is scheduled to die in a federal prison Tuesday after being found guilty of murder while running a drug ring.

The court, also without comment, declined today to hear Garza's appeal that his jury should have been told that the alternative to a death sentence was life in prison without the possibility of release.

The court has not yet ruled on a separate appeal Garza filed last week that asked for a delay based on his claim that his death sentence violates international human rights treaties.

Garza was convicted of ordering or carrying out three murders connected with his Brownsville, Texas, marijuana smuggling ring in the 1990s.

Sunflowers to rise on Tuesday

Giant painting
to be mounted

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Daily News

If Mother Nature cooperates, giant sunflowers will rise above Goodland early Tuesday

morning, as cranes lift a monstrous replica of a Van Gogh sunflower painting and an 80-foot easel into place.

Painting on a 24- by 32-foot canvas made of wood and fiberglass, Canadian artist Cameron Cross spent three months creating the huge attraction last year, storing it behind Farris Manufacturing on Business U.S. 24, which built the frame and easel, during the cold winter months.

Volunteers working to build the sculpture in Goodland — one of seven that will be erected

around the world — thought it would be decorating the horizon by the end of last year, but cold weather and other delays made that impossible.

Progress was halted until last month, when workers installed the painting's concrete and steel base and Farris started assembling the giant steel easel. Now a long, bulky leg is sticking up behind Farris's shop, waiting to go to its home on Tuesday.

Darin Neufeld, the project's engineer and member of a group raising money for the sculpture, said

two cranes are parked at the site north of the Business U.S. 24 junction with Cherry Street. The cranes, one of which is 140-feet tall, will be used to mount the sculpture.

Neufeld, with Evans, Bierly and Hutchinson and Associates, said Farris, whose shop is less than a mile east of the site, plans to pull the painting to the base either today or early tomorrow. He said if the weather is calm, which means no wind

See PAINTING, Page 4

Phone
plan will
raise rates

Deal would cut cost
of long-distance calls

TOPEKA (AP) — Major telephone companies and the Kansas Corporation Commission staff have agreed on a plan which would increase the cost of local phone service while cutting long-distance rates.

The commission will consider the plan this month. Eva Powers, assistant general counsel for the regulatory agency, described it as "a fair deal," but consumer advocates disagree, questioning why local rates need to go up at all and saying savings from reduced long-distance rates are speculative.

"We don't think this is in the public's best interest," said David Springle, chief economist for the Citizens Utility Ratepayer Board. "There may be other things the commission may want to consider."

Last year, the commission opened an investigation into "intrastate access charges" that local telephone companies charge long-distance companies for in-state long-distance calls on their lines.

The commission was seeking to determine whether the access charges were higher than the actual cost.

After the commission opened its investigation, Southwestern Bell Telephone Co., AT&T Communications of the Southwest and Sprint/United and Sprint LP reached an agreement that the companies said would reduce intrastate access charges and long-distance rates.

The companies said they decided to

See TELEPHONE, Page 4

Electricity,
lightning
start fires

Volunteer firemen were busy Sunday afternoon and evening putting out an electrical fire and one caused by lightning in rural Sherman County. The first fire was north of Goodland and the second was one south of town.

The rural fire department received the first call around 3 p.m. and headed north to the Rudy Zimbelman farm, 2170 Road 78, about 13 miles north of Goodland and one and a half miles east.

Ken Griffith, rural fire chief, said the fire started when high winds came through the area and knocked down a tree limb.

The limb fell on electrical power lines and broke off an electrical pole. A hot wire then started the fire.

Griffith said the fire burned about seven or eight acres of Zimbelman's wheat and a small shed before it was put out.

The second fire was on some Conservation Reserve Program ground owned by Larry Morgan of Goodland about nine miles south of town and two and a half miles east, at 2150 Road 55.

The call came in about 6 p.m. Sunday and the chief said the fire was caused by a lightning strike.

Griffith said the blaze burned about 60 acres of Morgan's grass.

No one was injured in either fire, Griffith said.



Groups join hands
to clean messy site

Marty Dinkel (above) used a chain saw to trim overgrown bushes Saturday morning at the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter building site on east Business U.S. 24, while Marleyana, his 5-year-old daughter, threw branches and other debris into a wheelbarrow. Dinkel, a Cub Scout den leader, and Goodland Cubs and leaders, helped tidy up the former rest stop, where the animal shelter board plans to build a shelter, as part of national "Join Hands Day." Volunteers from the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 220 W. 13th, and the animal shelter board also helped.

Photos by Rachel Miscal
The Goodland Daily News



Taxpayers may be seeing bigger education bill

By John Milburn

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Get out the checkbook. The price of educating the state's 450,000 public school children is likely to increase.

Despite legislators' best efforts to avoid a tax increase to enhance spending on elementary and secondary education, taxes are indeed likely to go up.

As suggested by Wichita's school board, many local officials are probably going to ask their residents to pick up a bigger tab for providing an adequate education.

The state's largest school district, with 45,500 students, is preparing to raise its local property taxes to cover mandatory increases in wages, benefits and operational costs to avoid cuts that

its officials believe would lessen the quality of education.

It is a scenario that should be repeated in July and August as school districts prepare their budgets for the 2001-02 school year. Absent an increase in local taxes, 131 of the 304 school districts will have less money to spend this year than last.

Before they adjourned, legislators

approved a \$2.3 billion school finance package, which added \$67 million to public education. However, many acknowledged that the \$50 increase — to \$3,870 per pupil — in the base state aid to schools did not go far enough to address rising costs of natural gas, textbooks and salaries to retain and recruit

See SCHOOL, Page 4

Petition asks county officials to close road near airport

Sherman County commissioners will discuss a petition for vacating a county road east of the Goodland airport when they meet Tuesday morning. The petition has been signed by about a dozen people who want the mile-long road closed.

The commissioners will also talk about an increase in the mileage rate for county employees when they use their own vehicle to go on county business trips. The rate change will take effect July 1.

They will also decide whether to allow the use of the 4-H Building at the Sherman County fairgrounds for dances to raise money for Project

Graduation, a parent-organized event put on each spring for graduating Goodland High School seniors.

The commissioners also plan to:

- Approve a resolution for the General Accepted Accounting Procedures waiver for this year. This waiver is needed for the county to continue with its present accounting procedures.

- Review and decide whether to approve a new Employee Assistance Program policy which was submitted by the Mental Health Consortium in Topeka. The consortium does random drug and alcohol testing of county employees who have commercial driver's licenses or who are appointed.

- Discuss next year's solid waste fees for the county landfill.

Scheduled people and items on the agenda include:

- Eric Yonkey and Judy Harper of The Goodland Daily News who will talk to the commission about sponsoring an ad in the paper which will map out the way for people who live north, northwest and northeast of Goodland to come to town on county roads.

- Max Saint, a Goodland Boy Scout, will talk to the commissioners about a proposed Boy Scout project at Smoky Gardens, the county park and lake south of Goodland.

- The board of the Goodland Re-

gional Medical Center will present the findings of last year's hospital audit.

- Terry Ballard, Sherman County appraiser, is to talk to the commissioners about his job, as his term will expire July 1. The commissioners will need to appoint him or someone else to the position for a four-year term.

- Curt Way, county road and bridge supervisor, and Richard Bates, a salesman with Martin Tractor Co. in Colby, will meet with the commission to discuss purchase of a motor grader.

The commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. Tuesday in the commissioners' room on the first floor of the Sherman County Courthouse.