



Today Sunset, 7:08 p.m. Tomorrow • Sunrise, 6:22 a.m.

**68**°

at noon

• Sunset, 7:07 p.m.

## **Midday Conditions**

 Soil Temperature 73 degrees • Humidity 29 percent · Sky partly sunny Winds northwest at 9 mph

Barometer 30.24 inches

and falling

• Record High 100° (1931) • Record Low 38° (1962)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 85° 54° Low Precipitation none

**Northwest Kansas Forecast** Tonight: partly cloudy, low near 45, light winds. Tomorrow: mostly sunny, high near 80, south winds 10 to 20 mph.

### **Extended Forecast**

Friday through Sunday: dry, lows near 50, highs near 85. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \* Readings taken at 7 a.m



Noon Wheat — \$2.26 bushel Posted county price — \$2.32 Loan deficiency payment — .13¢ Corn — \$1.76 bushel Posted county price — \$1.73 Loan deficiency pmt. — .26¢ Milo — \$2.46 hundredweight Soybeans — \$4.38 bushel Posted county price — \$4.42 Loan deficiency payment — .47¢ Millet — \$4 hundredweight Sunflowers Oil current crop — \$6.95 cwt. Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.71 Oil new crop — \$6.85 cwt. Confection current - \$17/10 cwt. Pinto beans — \$15 (new crop) (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures. )



Dr. Natalie Griego cut through the cast on Rhonda Beckner's leg on Tuesday at the Medical Office Building in Goodland. Dr. Griego does family practice and obstetrics with Rural Health Ventures.

# Saving ballpark is part of water park project

#### **By Janet Craft**

The Goodland Daily News for a career yet. Natalie Griego gets excited talking about the dinosaur figurines in her office.

"I love dinosaurs," she said, adding that she has liked dinosaurs since she was little and that love has never gone away.

Griego, 34, is the newest doctor in family practice and obstetrics for Rural Health Ventures in Goodland. She finished her residency in Pueblo, Colo., on June 30, then she moved to Goodland on Aug. 1 and began her practice on Aug. 9.

"What isn't there not to like," she said about being a doctor. "I feel like I can make a difference, not just medically, but socially, being in family practice." She enjoys the obstetrics part of her

practice.

"The whole process of bringing a new life into the world, it's the most amazing thing," she said. "It will never cease to amaze me."

Griego came to Goodland to meet Jim Chaddic, administrator of the Goodland Regional Medical Center. in January 1996. She also met all the members of the hospital board at the time. She said they all thought it was a good match.

In that same year, she met Dr. Brian Younger from Burlington, Colo., and talked to him about small-town practice.

"I have friends in Sharon Springs, so that was a plus to come here," she said.

Griego, was born in Alamosa, in Colorado's San Luis Valley, and said she had moved all around the state because of her father's railroad job. Eventually, the family ended up in Northglenn, a Denver suburb, where her parents still live. She has an older brother and a younger sister.

Bethany College in Lindsborg, in cen- American in the 100 meter and 400 Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News tral Kansas, for two years, but she said, meter hurdles in track while there.

she didn't know what she wanted to do

She decided to go on to Adams State College in Alamosa, where she eventually received a Bachelor of Science degree in biology education.

While attending Adams State, she worked in a lab during the summer. She said she loved biology and biochemistry, but being in a lab was not for her she wanted to be around people.

During this time, she talked with some medical students and they invited her to go on hospital rounds. After that experience, she said, "I knew that's what I wanted to do.'

Griego began medical school in 1992 at the University of Colorado in Denver and graduated in May 1996. Then she started her residency in Pueblo. Going into family practice, she had to do three years.

She said she loves practicing in Goodland.

"Everyone has been wonderful, she said. "I'm keeping pretty busy, but can always be busier. I have a wonderful nurse.'

When she's not working, Griego loves to paint. She said she's enjoyed it since high school.

"I'm not good at it, but I enjoy it," she said. "It's very relaxing."

She gives her paintings away as gifts. Right now, she's working on a southwestern scene on a big canvas.

She still collects dinosaurs and enjoys reading books about the big reptiles. She also enjoys doing ceramics. She makes dinosaurs, along with other things. She has her own kiln, and says she makes a lot of Christmas gifts.

Griego began running track when she was 10. She was in the Amateur Athletic Union as a sprinter/hurdler and traveled all over the United States. She had a scholarship at Adams State for Right after high school, she attended track and basketball and was All-

Out with the old



SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico -Puerto Ricans are hailing the imminent release of 12 nationalists imprisoned for weapons possession and sedition - but their freedom isn't expected to bolster the cause of Puerto Rican independence.

The nationalists, members of pro-independence guerrilla groups that carried out a wave of bombings in the United States in the 1970s and 1980s, on Tuesday accepted a clemency deal offered by President Clinton.

Part of the deal, however, requires the jailed Puerto Ricans to renounce violence and refrain from associating with convicted felons, a stipulation that would technically bar two prisoners from seeing each other.

Activists expressed indignation at the conditions and pledged to continue pursuing independence.

# By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News Questions were raised at last night's Goodland City Commission meeting about plans to move Steever Ballpark, and whether this might hurt the American Legion and Elks baseball programs.

City Manager Ron Pickman told the three commissioners who were present -Mayor Chuck Lutters and Commissioners Jim Mull and Tom Rohr—that the city had received three financing proposals for the water park and ball park project. He gave the commissioners copies of the proposals, but said he had some additional questions before proceeding further.

Pickman also said the state officials are still awaiting federal approval to allow the ballpark to be moved and replaced with the proposed water park. "We cannot really begin to move forward on this until the approval has been received," he said. "We believe there should not be a problem because we are continuing the use of the area for outdoor recreation, and will be relocating the ball park."

The relocation of the ballpark brought Natalie Austin to the microphone to ask if it was truly necessary and if there was a way to save some of the history that has been associated with the ballpark, going back to the days of the semi-pro teams.

"I am afraid we will be losing our history in moving the ballpark from Steever Park," Austin said. "I am thinking of the days when we had semi-pro teams and some of the major league ballplayers who have played on that field.

"Probably the most famous was Satchel Page, who played there in 1962.

Other major league ballplayers who were on teams in Goodland, she said, include Ernie Banks, Billy Martin, Carol Hardy, Zack Munro and Lennie Green.

She was also worried that if the ballpark is to be relocated that it would not be ready for use by May. She said not being able to play on the field could create further problems for the youth teams.

"It is not our intention to hurt the ball

teams," said Commissioner Mull. "I have been very pleased with the comments from people about the plans to relocate the ballpark and to build the water park.

"There is the possibility though that the new ballpark might not be ready for the opening of the season in May, and I have said we need to be sure the teams have a place to practice in case this happens. We don't want to get into this and not do a good job. We want to make it more, not less.'

As to the idea of expanding the ballpark where it is to meet the field size requirements, Pickman said there is not enough room to allow for the expansion, which would be at least 100 feet larger in each outfield. He said there are power poles and a lift station which would interfere with such a plan.

Austin asked about leaving the ballpark where it is and putting the water park to the west, where the tennis courts are.

Pickman said while there technically is sufficient area to put the water park where she suggested, the location of power lines and the power plant would make it very difficult.

"We believe the ballpark will be better served if we can relocate it to the Centennial Park area," Pickman said. "Also we feel the Steever Park area will be a very family friendly area when we have everything in place."

He said the plans include basketball courts where the current pool is and a walking and biking path along the west and north sides of the park.

Austin said she would talk to the Sherman County Historical Society about a way to save the ballpark history.

Commissioner Rohr asked if the pool committee had looked at ways to cut the cost of the water park. Pickman said they had taken another look and felt the only thing that could be done was to begin deciding what to cut out.

"The pool committee would like to add more, and feel they have done as much as they can," Pickman said.

In other business the commission: • Approved supplemental agreements with the Kansas Department of Transportation on the brick intersection

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Workers removed the sign from the former Jubilee store Tuesday. The store closed Saturday, leaving Goodland without a downtown grocery. Some people have indidicated interest in the building said Ron Harding executive director of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce.

Photo by Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News