



Today Sunset, 4:56 p.m. Tomorrow • Sunrise, 7:01 a.m. Sunset, 4:57 p.m.

- **Midday Conditions** Soil Temperature 33 degrees
- Humidity 87 percent
- Sky cloudy with light snow, fog
- Winds northeast 15 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.42 inches and rising

• Record High 73° (1967) Record Low -10° (1966)

Last 24 Hours*	
High	26°
Low	21°
Precipitation	none

#### N.W. Kansas Forecast

Tonight: cloudy, low near 4 winds southeast 10 m.p.h. Thursday: cloudy, high 20-29, low near 17, winds south 15 m.p.h.

#### Extended Forecast

Friday: mostly sunny, high near 49, low near 16. Saturday: partly cloudy, high near 52. Sunday: partly cloudy, high near 52, low near 25. Monday: partly cloudy high near 56, low near 26. Tuesday: mostly cloudy, high near 51 low near 28.

(National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.



Wheat — \$3.37 bushel Posted county price — \$3.31 Loan deficiency pmt. - 0¢ Corn — \$2.41 bushel Posted county price — \$2.17 Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢ Milo — \$2.18 bushel Soybeans — \$5.17 bushel Posted county price — \$5.01Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢Millet — \$10.00 hundredweight Sunflowers Oil current crop — \$9.60 cwt. NuSun — \$10.85 cwt. Loan deficiency pmt. - 0¢ Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt. Pinto beans — \$15 (Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures. )

# **Doctor off to war**

#### By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News One of Goodland's doctors may be off to war.

Staff, patients and friends gathered in the hospital lobby this morning to say goodbye to Dr. Natalie Griego as she left for active duty with the Colorado National Guard.

There were over 200 people standing shoulder to shoulder when Griego and her husband, Jeff Krall, head of the hospital ambulance service, and son Reece, 2, came through the front door.

Dr. Griego said she received orders to report for active duty, and will be joining Company C of the 109th Medical Battalion unit in Montrose, Colo.

Capt. Griego will fly with the unit to Fort McCoy, Wis., and then expects to be deployed to the Middle East, but does not know where.

Dr. Griego was welcomed by Administrator Jay Jolly who said it was a sad day for people here, but that he knew what she was doing was important.

"We wish you well, and know you will take good care of our soldiers," Jolly said. "We hope it is a short time and will be happy to have you back." The usually talkative physician officers who do screenings and

was somewhat at a loss for words. "I wanted to be brave when I can talk. I thank you all for your support, and will let you know where I am as soon as I know.

"I like Twizzlers and Skittles," she said with a smile. "I am sad that bulance evacuation for front-line this is happening, but hope it is over troops. soon so I can get back.'

sang a couple of songs in her honor as the doctor moved through the tients, said Brenda McCants, the crowd hugging people and listening hospital's director of marketing and to words of support.

"Its a crazy thing," she said. Griego said she was surprised by the orders because she is being attached to a unit she does not know much about.

She said she has been in the National Guard for 10 years, and has choice to see Dr. Moe Shafei or Dr. unit of the State Area Command obstetric patients will be referred to ing me." based at Buckley Air Force Base in Dr. Younger. Denver. That is a medical unit of "I will miss all of my patients," be gone for a minimum of three "We'll have lots of fun while to the lodge.

By Michelle L. Hawkins

The Goodland Daily News

A standing-room-only crowd of

71 braved the snow and ice this

morning to attend a town-hall meet-

ing held by U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran.

Once chairs were filled, people lin-

ing the walls of the conference room

Moran, who represents 69 coun-

"My No. 1 priority is the same as

ties, has visited 30 so far this month

last year," said Moran. "Drought

assistance is at the top of the list

He said along with the agricul-

tural issues, he is concerned about

healthcare and its increasing costs.

much year to year," he said.

"The issues don't seem to change

Although much of the conversa-

tion centered around plans to help

of Western State Bank.

to talk with citizens.

again."



Doctor Natalie Griego, (above) a captain in the Colorado National Guard, was called to active duty today. More than 200 patients, friends and members of the Goodland medical staff gathered to say sad goodbyes and to wish the doctor well as she heads off to duty with a field medical unit. Captain Griego held her son, Reece, 2, (below) who will be staying in Goodland with his father Jeff Krall, head of the hospital ambulance service. Photos by Eric Yonkey / The Goodland Daily News

medical exams.

A check of the Colorado National came," she said, "but I am not sure I Guard web page showed the Montrose unit is part of a battalion headquartered in Iowa an area support medical unit. It provides emergency treatment, sick call and am-

Dr. Griego, has been a member of The Goodland High Expressos the Goodland medical staff since 1999, and will be missed by her papatient relations.

> "There will be a hole in our healthcare practice," she said, "but as usual the remaining medical staff will pull together to continue providing service."

> Medical patients will have the



been assigned to the Headquarters David Younger, and Dr. Griego's upon my return. Thanks for support- to a year. Krall said he will remain in Good-

Safari, **Elks** burgled \$800 taken; \$2,000 damage

Someone broke into the Safari Steakhouse and the Elks Lodge late Monday night or early Tuesday morning, taking \$800 cash and \$20 worth of postage stamps and damaging three doors and an antique cash register.

Tim Heier, owner and manager of the steak house, and Zona Price, secretary of the Elks Lodge, said the burglar was after money and didn't do much damage.

They basically took all the cash, Heier said, and didn't destroy anything except some locks.

There was one tray of money in the lodge, Price said, and the burglar took all but some loose change and the checks. They were after money, she said.

'We're just thankful they didn't do a lot of damage when they were in here," Price said. "A lot of people have lost a lot more than this. It's just aggravating."

The police report says \$90 damage was done to three doors, and \$2,000 damage was done to an antique cash register.

Price said the doors damaged were on the inside of the building. Someone could have left a door ajar, she said, or could have been in the building when Heier locked up at 10:30 Monday night.

"It's so dark in here," she said, "it would be hard to see them."

The cash register was on display in the club room at the lodge, Price said, and is worth about \$2,000. The wood was splintered when the burglar tried to open it.

"I don't know why they'd think there was money in it," she said. The stolen stamps also belonged "I buy stamps by the roll," Price said, "and there was about half a roll left.' She said she didn't realize the stamps were missing until she needed to mail something. Price said she discovered the breakin when she arrived just before 8 a.m. Tuesday. Everything was locked like it should be in the front, she said. Her office was locked too, but when she went inside, a steel storage cabinet was open and membership cards were out. "I wondered who was in here," she said. "I had left at 8 o'clock the night before." The police drive by at least once every night, Price said, but there are no windows that provide a good view inside, and sound isn't easy to hear outside. It's hard to say when the burglary happened, she said, or how long the burglar was in the building. The thief must have gone out through the banquet room in the back of the steak house, she said, since the door there was ajar.

### afternoon wire Late news from the Associated Press 1 p.m. Strong quake hits Mexico

GUADALAJARA, Mexico A powerful earthquake ripped through western and central Mexico, killing at least 24 people and injuring at least 175, as dozens of houses and buildings collapsed and church bells fell from their steeples.

The death toll continued to rise today as yellow-suited emergency crews were shown on television digging through wrecked buildings in the capital of Colima state, using a pneumatic drill to break through concrete slabs and pulling out victims on stretchers.

In Mexico's second largest city, Guadalajara, 100 miles to the north, dozens of homes partially collapsed, and at least 20 people were injured by falling bricks and beams. Bells at one of colonial city's ancient churches fell from the bell tower.

which half of the 75 members are Griego said, "but hope to see them months, but said it could be for up mommy is gone," he said.

Dr. Griego said she is expected to land to take care of Reece.

Snow doesn't dampen Moran's crowd

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran talked with people at town-hall meeting here this morning. The crowd was standing room only at the meeting room of Western State Bank.

Photo by Michelle L. Hawkins/The Goodland Daily News

## **Replacing city sewer plant could cost up to \$4 million**

#### **By Sharon Corcoran**

The Goodland Daily News Goodland needs to spend about \$4 million to replace it's sewage treatment plant, an engineer told the city commission Monday, but it doesn't need to find a new location and should be able to get a cheap loan and low bids from contractors.

John Roth of Evans-Bierly-Hutchinson & Associates recommended borrowing from the state to pay for the new plant and raising the close to the airport. sewer rates to pay it back. He said contractors are hungry in today's economy and the city should get attractive bids on the job.

At the commission's Dec. 16 meeting, Roth said the plant has no said, which could really cause a measuring capability, barely enough capacity for current needs,

close to the airport and needs a backup power source.

The city is not bringing in as much money as it costs to run the existing system, he said, let alone pay for upgrades, and the plant is just plain old and outdated.

Roth told the commissioners Monday the plant's location isn't a problem for now. It's the open water in the lagoon and wetlands that attract birds and shouldn't be so

Moving the plant itself would require pumping raw sewage two miles away, he said. The sewage would be in the pipe long enough, without oxygen, to go septic, Roth stink at the new site.

The new treatment facility can be not enough sludge storage, is too built next to the old one, he said, and

to a lagoon two miles away if necessary.

But, Roth said, this is not required now

'My recommendation is that this should be your ace in the hole," he said.

The new plant would cost about \$4 million, he said. It would cost another \$600,000 for equipment to pump the treated sewage, he said, and that is money the city doesn't need to spend right now. It's not a serious enough issue right now to spend the money, Roth said.

Commissioner Curtis Hurd wanted to know if anyone had checked with the Federal Aviation Administration to see if the wetlands needed to be moved.

with the wetlands and lagoon so far.

rather than in nursing home facili-

ties; and privacy issues with hospi-

tals, such as releasing lists of admis-

sions and dismissals.

"Right now," he said, "it's not their focus."

Moving wildlife attractants may become a priority in the future, Neufeld said, but there would probably be federal money to help move them then.

Roth recommended getting a loan from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to pay for the new plant. The department gave a loan to Moscow at 2.91 percent interest, he said, and that would save the city a lot of money over 20 years compared to commercial rates and even municipal bonds.

If the economy doesn't get much better, Roth said, contractors are Darin Neufeld, another engineer for hungry, meaning the city would be

2005.

Roth said he had drafted an ordinance to change sewage fees to a usage-based charge and made a comparison of what the rates would need to be without the improvements to pay for the current system and what the rates would need to be changed to in order to pay for the new plant.

The average for cities around the state, Roth said, is \$13 a month per household. To pay for the new plant, a small residence will need to pay \$8 a month the average household about \$16 a month. Today the minimum flat rate is \$7.40 per month.

The proposed rates are not bad, he said.

the treated sewage could be pumped the firm, said he had checked and that able to get low bids. If the commisthe agency does not have a problem sion approves the project soon, he said, it could be done by March

Medicare.

farmer through the drought, many people wanted to discuss health care.

Issues which ranged from the cost of prescription drugs and why federal law prohibits them from being reimported from Canada and Mexico to reimbursements for

Other topics included water rights for farmers and how to preserve them when zero water usage is reported for three years; federal laws on weapons on school grounds and how they affect kids in rural areas; Moran's support of Mi Casa, a program to assist seniors, handicapped and low income individuals on Medicaid stay in their own homes