

weather report

72°

at noon



Today

•Sunset, 7:47 p.m.

Tomorrow

•Sunrise, 5:38 a.m.

•Sunset, 7:48 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil Temperature 56 degrees
- Humidity 25 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds southwest 20 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.49 inches and falling

•Record High 92° (1928)

•Record Low 27° (2002)

Last 24 Hours*

High 68°

Low 46°

Precipitation .06

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: mostly sunny with 30 percent chance of rain, high mid 70s, low upper 40s, winds north 10-15 m.p.h. Saturday: cooler and breezy with 70 percent chance of thunderstorms likely, high mid 50s, low upper 30s.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: mostly cloudy, high mid 60s. Monday: mostly cloudy, high lower 70s, low near 40. Tuesday: mostly cloudy, high lower 70s, low mid 40s. Wednesday: cloudy, high lower 70s, low mid 40s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Celebrating Cinco de Mayo ...



Students learn cultural traditions

Claudia Lopez (above left), a sophomore at Goodland High School, gave dancing lessons to North Elementary sixth graders Savannah Schlink and Kathy Wood at the Cinco de Mayo celebration Monday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The Mexican holiday, Fifth of May in English, marks a victory over the French. Zach Lunay and Nelson Bergemann (above right), sixth graders, tried out the tiara, gloves and bouquet for the quinceanera ceremony. Quinceanera is passage-into-womanhood ceremony for 15-year-old girls in Mexico. Cris Lovington, director of the Regional Prevention Center, talked to students about Mexican culture at the celebration.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.11 bushel

New Crop — \$2.84 bushel

Corn — \$2.46 bushel

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$2.21 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.74 bushel

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$6 hundredweight

New crop — \$5

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$9.20 cwt.

New crop — \$9.80 cwt.

NuSun — \$9.55 cwt.

New crop — \$10.15 cwt.

Confection — \$17/\$7 cwt.

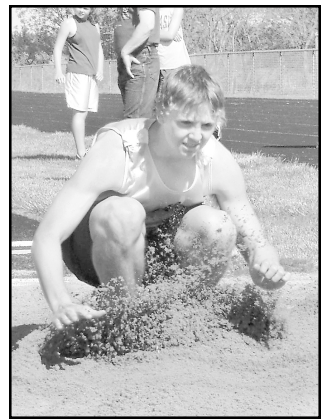
New crop — \$17/\$10 cwt.

Pinto beans — Withdrawn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



Cowboys win at Oberlin

The Goodland High boys won the Oberlin Invitational track meet on Tuesday and the girls came in second, edged out by the home team.

Goodland's Lance Tedford (above) finished first in the long jump with 19-11. See Photos and story on Page 9.

Capt. Griego now stationed in Baghdad

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Dr. Natalie Griego, who is on active duty in Iraq with the Colorado National Guard, sent a message to her husband, Jeff Krall, Saturday saying her unit has been moved again, and that they have not had any mail for three weeks.

"Hi, there, it is me back on line for a while," Griego said in an e-mail. "We are actually in Baghdad. Wild, huh? We have had little contact and have had NO mail for over three weeks. It is really driving morale down! People are starting to go a little crazy. The bad thing is that our mail will be changing again, as our mission has changed once more."

"So.... we have no idea when our mail will catch up with us. We are now changing battalions again. We are now part of the 61st Med Brigade and the V (fifth) Corp. So we are still camping in the dirt, but at least we have a nice building in which to perform sick call."

"I hope to be able to get over to this MWR tent (where the Internet is) and pop off an e-mail or so while we are here. One minute, we are staying and one minute we are going home. No matter what, I hope to be home by the end of July. It is so hard to tell. It is nothing but non and mis communication."

"Time is limited to 20 minutes, so I better go."



Capt. Natalie Griego in Baghdad.

"Any word on what is going on with Goodland, work etc. Write me a note."

"Love ya, give my love to Reece. I have been missing him like absolute craziness."

"Bye for now, Natalie."

Krall said this is the first message he has received in two weeks, and he does not know when he will get another.

He said he has been trying to get someone to pay attention to the mail problem. He says it is depressing, especially for those like Griego who are separated from their families.

Krall said he wrote to the *Today* show, hoping they would be interested in doing a tele-

vision story on how troops get mail. He suggested that the process be videotaped, and that the final piece would be him delivering the mail to his wife in person.

He has not received any response from the show's producers, and he was going to try contacting some other television stations like KUSA in Denver.

Sending mail to troops overseas is not just dropping it in the mail slot, Krall said.

"Since it is going to a foreign country, a Customs form is required with any package," he said. "These are available at the post office."

A newsletter from the Colorado medical unit Griego is serving with said there are restrictions for sending packages to Iraq, and it is taking three to four weeks for mail to be delivered to a unit.

"The most recent information is that the gulf region is receiving over 700,000 pounds of mail a week," the newsletter said.

The commander had some comments on the unit's recent activities and travels in the newsletter published on April 25.

"The first week of April the unit deployed to the Gulf region. After spending more than two months at Ft. McCoy, Wis., the soldiers were ready to go. It wasn't for the urgency to get to the Gulf region; it was to get out of the

cold Wisconsin winter weather."

Since the unit has arrived in Kuwait, he said, they have endured some of the most extreme temperatures known to mankind. After they had become acclimated to the cold of Wisconsin, they were not ready for the 116-degree desert heat the desert.

Lt. Col. Steven Wieneke, battalion commander, send an e-mail on April 24 saying that the unit had made it in good shape to their position southwest of Baghdad.

"All of us have seen much of the Iraqi countryside along our convoy route and have witnessed the repressed living conditions the Iraqi people have tolerated for so long and some of the Iraqi military equipment destroyed from battle."

"We have not heard any news since April 19, and we are eager to have any contact with what is going on in the war and at home."

"This is the first e-mail out to anyone from the 109th Medical Battalion since moving forward."

The most recent mailing address for Griego is: Capt. Natalie Griego, 62nd Med Bde, (30th Med Bde), C. Company, 109 ASMB, APO, AE 90302-1293.

Based on Griego's most recent e-mail, the unit line will change to 61st Med Bde V Corp., replacing the 62nd Med Bde (30th Med Bde).

Citizens protest hike in fuel adjustment charges

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

More than 35 citizens packed the city commission meeting room Monday to protest a jump in fuel adjustment charges that showed up on power bills received in the mail last Thursday.

Evelyn L. DeVoll, manager of the Buffalo Inn, acted as the spokesperson at the beginning. She said she was outraged at the huge increase, which more than doubled the motel's fuel adjustment for the month.

If the city knew the charges were going to be that much higher, she said, the city manager should have warned people.

DeVoll asked the commission to consider what this would do to those on fixed incomes, and businesses which are already suffering with the

City agrees to allow spread payments

In a work session following the regular meeting Monday, city commissioners worked out a plan to allow those who have large fuel adjustment charges to spread out the payment over three months.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. and the commissioners began talking about how to handle the fuel adjustment issue.

Commissioner Chuck Lutters

wondered how to set a minimum.

"I wonder how we decide at what level of increase to allow them to spread out the payment," he said.

He then asked City Clerk Mary Volk what happens with those who have trouble paying their utility bills on a monthly basis. She said that if they call into the office, the city will work give them a month to get it paid.

"We try to work with those who contact us," Volk said, "but we know that if they drag it out for more than a month they are getting in deeper."

The commissioners discussed allowing those who have high fuel adjustments to pay them over a three month period. This would be

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been very high until the last month. It allows the city to pass through the wholesale energy cost charged to the city by its main supplier, Sunflower Electric, Wolak said.

"The rate was much higher than anything we had seen," he said, "because the Sunflower power plant south of Holcomb went down for maintenance, and we had to accept the price of replacement power and generate our own."

He said the city had no choice but to pay the market rate for electricity in this case, but the outage this year was much longer than usual. The Sunflower plant does a maintenance shutdown nearly every year, which usually lasts for about five days. This year, when they tried to restart

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