

weather report

77°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 8:18 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:23 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:17 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil Temperature 86 degrees
- Humidity 61 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds north 11 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.22 inches and rising

• Record High 107° (1963)

• Record Low 48° (1924)

Last 24 Hours*

High 87°

Low 67°

Precipitation none

N.W. Kansas Forecast

Today: mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms late, high mid 80s, low near 60. Wednesday: mostly sunny, high upper 80s, low lower 60s.

Extended Forecast

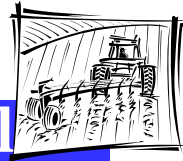
Thursday: mostly clear, high near 90. Friday: mostly clear, high lower 90s, low mid 60s. Saturday: mostly clear, high mid 90s, low mid 60s. Sunday: mostly clear, high mid 90s, low upper 60s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.95 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.80

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$2.15 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.94

New crop — \$1.97 bushel

Loan deficiency pmt. — 2¢

Milo — \$1.79 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.10 bushel

Millet — \$4.50 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$8.65 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 92¢

NuSun — \$8.90 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Pinto beans — withdrawn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



Camps open for boys, girls

Junior high football camp got started Monday as high school players helped out coach Tony Diehl by showing the kids examples of what to do. Volleyball camp began on Monday also. See photos on Page 8.

Welcome home, Doc

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

“Glad you’re home,” was the most frequent comment, followed by a hug, as 70 people gathered at the Elks Lodge on Saturday to greet Maj. Natalie Griego, a Goodland doctor who has been serving in Iraq for the past three months.

There were welcome home signs and a toast with Griego’s favorite austi spumonti sparkling wine, furnished by her husband Jeff Krall. He said he had been saving the bottle since his wife left.

Doctors, hospital employees, nurses, patients and friends took turns welcoming Griego home.

“I am glad to be home,” she said. “I learned a lot, and this is an experience I will always remember.”

Griego was assigned to Company C of the 109th Medical Battalion, a Colorado National Guard unit based in Montrose, Colo. The company is part of an area support medical battalion, which provides emergency treatment, sick call and ambulance evacuation for front-line troops.

“I think a lot of people thought I was going to be working in a hospital,” she said, “but our unit is a front-line company which treats and transports wounded soldiers from the front lines.

“When the 101st Airborne went on a mission, it was our group that provided medical support. On one such mission, a vehicle in front of ours was hit by a hand grenade or rocket.

“We treated both American wounded and Iraqi civilians.”

Griego, with the help of a computer from the Northwest Kansas Technical College, displayed photos she took, and taken of her, during the six months she was gone.

The photos showed the training she underwent at Fort McCoy, Wis., before being flown to Kuwait and then convoying to Baghdad.

She said the medical unit expects to be in Iraq until December, but the doctors are rotated after six months. She is on a 90-day leave, but does not expect to be sent back to Iraq unless there is an urgent need.

The war was basically over by the time Griego arrived. The unit she had been assigned to had planned to enter the country through Turkey, but when Turkey refused to allow troops access, the units had to be flow into Kuwait.

During the convoy to Baghdad, Griego said, she took photos of Iraqi tanks and cannons which had been destroyed by allied bombing and rocket attacks.

“It was normal to see a tank or cannon sitting in some trees next to a house or building,” she said. “The tank or gun would be damaged, but the house was not destroyed by the attack.”

She said when a dust storm blew up the convoy came to a halt until it was clear again, and that there were no tents because of the fierce winds so they slept on the ground.

Once in the Baghdad area, she said, the unit set up clinics to handle sick call, and accompanied the troops when they went into parts of the city to try to help the citizens get their electricity and water on and

clean up war damage.

“We talked to a lot of Iraqi people, especially the children,” she said. “That stopped after they started using the women and children to throw hand grenades and rockets at our troops.

“They used one pregnant woman as a suicide bomber. We had several troops injured during some of the missions.”

After moving around from one camp to another, she said, the unit was stationed at one of the presidential palaces, and that is when they were attached to the 101st Airborne.

“My team of medics and ambulance drivers were great,” she said. “Most of them do not do this type of medical work in their normal lives, but they learned how to load ambulances and treat wounds in the months before we went to Iraq.

“When we left Wisconsin, it was 20 degrees below zero, and when we landed in Kuwait, it was about 110.

“When I got back to Wisconsin last week, it was about 70 degrees and I froze. People here are saying how hot it is, but even at 104, it is cooler than Iraq.”

The living conditions were not the greatest, she said, as the palace had been ransacked before they arrived, and none of the electricity, water or toilets was working.

“We had to make our own, and that included our own makeshift showers,” she said. “There were 14 women out of the 66 people in the unit, and eight of the women shared one room about 12 x 15 in size.”

She said when they arrived in Kuwait and were waiting for the equipment arrive by ship, the line at the mess tent was so long they sometimes decided to eat the Meals Ready to Eat the army furnished in the field. Griego said the chow was not very good, but that shortly before she left Iraq, a new group had taken over the cooking duties and the meals improved.

One of the highlights of her tour was the visit on July 4 by actor Arnold Schwarzenegger. She showed a great photo of her hugging him.

“He squeezed back when I hugged him,” she said, smiling.

Krall and the couple’s son, Reece, 2, seemed pretty happy to have her home. Griego said her son knew her when she arrived, despite the long absence.

“Jeff did a great job with him,” she said.

Dr. Griego did not reveal her future plans, but said that would be discussed in the next week or so.

Before she got called to active duty in January, there was talk that she would be moving. She has been a member of the Goodland Regional Medical Center staff since 1999.

Griego has been a member of the Colorado National Guard for 10 years, but was attached to a medical unit in Denver until January.

“Those people are great, and they will be lifetime friends,” she said of the group she served with. “You really get to know a lot about people when you live with them for six months. Sometimes more than you wanted to know.

“The team I had was wonderful to work with, and we did have some fun.”



“Welcome home,” was the message as Maj. Natalie Griego (top) got a hug from Keith Headrick, a patient from Goodland. He was one of the many well wishers Saturday night at the Elks Lodge. Jeff Krall, Dr. Griego’s husband (above left), had a special bottle of sparkling wine that he opened and the whole room shared in a toast to her return from Iraq. Their son Reece, 2 (above right), pointed to his mommy during the reception.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

County has outline of prairie dog plan

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

After a special meeting Thursday, Sherman County commissioners put together a committee of landowners to plan a joint attack on prairie dog colonies around the county.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said landowners representing different sections of the county met following the public discussion, and agreed on the outline of a plan for a joint effort by the county and the landowners to get a handle on the prairie dogs.

“We had a short meeting and came up with a game plan,” Rasure said. “We have an outline which we will discuss at our meeting on Thursday. We will be working with the landowners cooperatively.”

At the public meeting on Thursday, it was suggested that a commit-

tee meet with the commissioners to draft a plan. Those who volunteered were Harlan Dale House, Ron Schilling, Ken Klemm, Brent Flanders, Keith Coon, Lester Cress and George Cramer.

At their regular meeting last Tuesday, the commissioners approved an agreement with the Cheyenne Pipeline group to allow several county roads to be cut when the pipeline from Wyoming to Greensburg is laid through southern Sherman County in about a year.

Public Works Manager Curt Way said he was satisfied with the pipeline company plans, and that it should not damage the county roads.

The commissioners approved spending \$24,500 to repair the roof of the road and bridge shop. The bid is from Eagle Roofing and Dennis Malsom is the local contact.

Commissioners unanimously agreed to raise mileage reimbursement to 36 cents per mile, which is the new rate being paid by the state. The rate had been 33 cents.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede discussed the usage policy for the new van the commissioners had purchased from Finley Motors for \$10,000 to replace the old county car. The car is a Chevrolet Venture.

Tiede said it might be good to review the county vehicle use policy. He thought the van should be reserved for long trips rather than short trips around town. There was no agreement from the other two commissioners.

Rasure said he had been told the sheriff’s copier has been having problems, and that Topside Office had been there several times, but that it was not working properly.

Tiede made a motion to cancel the maintenance contract with Topside, and to contact Derrick Leiker at High Plains Office Supply to see if he can get the copier repaired.

Tiede’s motion said if Leiker is able to fix the copier, the commissioners will review the two other maintenance contracts with Topside in 30 days, and consider switching to High Plains for maintenance. Commissioner Chuck Thomas seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with Rasure voting in favor.

Rasure reported Danny Whalen of Dairy Queen has asked to resign from the Convention and Visitors Board because he has been elected to the school board, and that Sherry Clements, manager of Howard Johnson Hotel, has not been an active member. On a motion by Rasure, Don Newell of S&T Tele-

phone, and Brenda McCants of Goodland Medical Center and chairman of the state Film Commission, were appointed to fill the vacancies.

Before adjourning the meeting, the commissioners called Crystal Linsner into the meeting and accepted her written resignation as the head of the county household hazardous waste program. As part of the action, the commissioners rescinded a 40-cents-per-hour raise Linsner received last year to set the program up. Linsner had asked for an additional raise to handle the program, but resigned those duties when the commissioners declined to give her another raise.

No replacement has been named. Linsner will continue as the county payroll clerk and computer system manager in the clerk’s office.