

**weather report**

**34°**

noon Monday



**Today**

• Sunset, 4:42 p.m.

**Wednesday**

• Sunrise, 7:06 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:43 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil temperature 32 degrees
- Humidity 64 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds northwest at 14 mph
- Barometer 30.19 inches and rising

• Record High today 65° (1908)

• Record Low today -9° (1973)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High Sunday	27°
Low Monday	18°
Precipitation	—
This month	.03
Year to date	.03
Below normal	.04 of an inch

**The Topside Forecast**

Today: Mostly sunny, high near 37, low near 17.

**Extended Forecast**

Wednesday: Sunny, high near 39, low around 17. Thursday: Chance of snow, freezing rain, sleet 30 percent. High near 35, low around 5. Friday: Chance of snow, freezing rain, sleet 30 percent. High near 10, low around -2. Saturday: High near 8, low near -2. Chance of snow 30 percent. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \*Readings taken at 7 a.m.

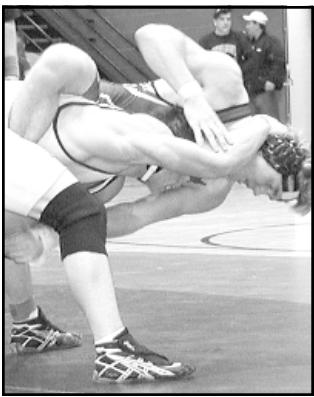
**local markets**

**Noon**

- Wheat — \$4.09 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$4.35
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
  - Corn — \$3.50 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$3.32
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
  - Milo — \$3.15 bushel
  - Soybeans — \$5.83 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$5.88
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
  - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
  - Sunflowers
  - NuSun crop — \$14.25
  - Pinto beans — \$19 (new crop)
- (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 finish third**

Senior Brett Schields found himself in the air against an opponent at the Southwest Invitational Wrestling Tournament in Liberal on Friday and Saturday. The Cowboys finished third. See photo, story on Page 10.

## Guardsmen help feed area cattle

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

As the sun was coming up Saturday, the air a chilly 10 degrees, the crews of two National Guard Blackhawk helicopter at Goodland's Renner Field were getting ice off rotors so they could go feed cattle in Cheyenne County.

The two 'copters would carry big round bales weighing at least 1,000 pounds each from the field where they'd been cut to where animals stranded by last month's blizzard.

The 'copters could only carry one bale at a time. Crews pounded a metal pole with a sharp point through the bale, then hooked it through a sling attached to the bottom of the helicopter.

Each aircraft had a crew of four, the pilot and co-pilot in front, with one person by a side window and one in the back. Sgt. Steve Moore from Topeka was at the side window of one. He had the coldest job. When the helicopter landed, he looked out the open door and gave the pilot a measure of how far he was from from hazards and the ground.

Sgt. Moore got out when the first bale reached its destination and remained on the ground as six more were delivered. He said he got home this fall from a tour in Iraq. People have stopped him and given him hugs when he is in uniform, he said, thanking him for his service.

The other cold job was getting the pole into the bale at the field so it could be moved.

The bales are in the field where they were cut and the farmers could not get into the fields to move the feed. They moved seven bales closer to the cattle in 2 1/2 hours, with one guardsman and the farmer in the



field getting the bales ready.

Sgt. Moore said he was really glad to be helping people at home.

"Everyone had been very friendly," he said.

Customers from the Butterfly Cafe thanked the crew when they went by.

Moore said the 'copters have heaters behind the pilots because they are medivacs units; otherwise they would not.

Just one ranch family needed help in Cheyenne County.

"Dan and Chris Leibbrandt had requested the help," said regional Emergency Manager Gary Rogers. "I had a couple of requests from Rawlins County but the farmers were finally able to get feed in."

The Leibbrandts had 250 head that were needing to be feed, he added.

Reporters were allowed to ride along, but had to sign a release. Another reporter who was supposed to go, from *The Kansas City Star*, did not show.

The two Blackhawks with red crosses were at the Goodland airport



A helicopter (above left) carried a big round bale of hay on a sling underneath. Sgt. Steve Moore (above) unhooked the sling so the 'copter could lift off and pull free. Crew members (below) worked to deice the blades so the bird could take off in the morning.

Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News



from Wednesday to Saturday to feed animals in Wallace and Cheyenne counties.

The 'copters are assigned to the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation, in Salina and Topeka.

Chief Warrant Officer Jim Rostine from Salina, our pilot, said the helicopters and crews were what was left of their units in Kansas. The rest are in Iraq.

The guardsmen who were left in Kansas were the old guys and the young ones back from Iraq, he said. Some of the 'copters saw service in Vietnam, he said, as well as the older guys.

## Health fair plans blood draws, hearing tests next week

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

The time is near to be poked and prodded, find out how your health is doing and to get some suggestions on improving it.

But that's not all there is to the Sherman County Health Fair — it will also include an exhibition by former Harlem Globetrotter "Gator" Rivers and door prizes every hour.

Booths will offer information on everything from diet and nutrition to drug prevention and mentors.

The fair will be from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at the Goodland Activities Center. Blood draws and hearing screenings will be from 7 to 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 15, through Friday, Jan. 19, in Goodland Regional Medical Center's main lobby.

Brenda McCants, patient relations director, said this year, the hospital is adding the audiology check at the same time as the blood draws.

Lisa Paxton, audiologist and speech therapist at the hospital, will do screenings for children and

adults. The blood profiles will include blood sugar, calcium, cholesterol, liver, gout and kidney function tests, electrolytes and a complete blood count (white and red cells and platelets) for \$30. Prostate and thyroid screenings are \$15 each, and just a white blood cell count is \$10.

If any values are out of range, McCants said, the person will be referred to their doctor to follow up. What is normal varies from one person to another, she said, but the screening will give them an idea

whether they should have a doctor do more tests.

"It's a great way to check up on your health status at very little cost," she said. "If something is detected, it's well worth it to come out."

In the past couple of years, she added, the screenings have saved at least three lives.

Several hospital departments will be represented at the fair, McCants said. Dr. Mark Wahlmeier will do glaucoma screenings, and the University of Kansas Medical Center outreach program will have a booth.

The Goodland hospital will provide carotid artery screenings. A radiologist will do the screenings, McCants said, and if there is any sign of narrowing or blockage, the specialist will recommend following up.

Body fat testing and other screenings will be available as well, she said.

"I think we have some great services available to the public," she said, "and they're all free except the

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## Man charged for shooting neighbors' dog

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

A man knocked at the door, but when Patricia Buster looked out, she saw a rifle in his hand. Then, the man turned and shot her daughter's dog.

The shot rang out about 1:15 p.m. on Thursday, and Buster, 517 E. 10th, called 911 to report that a man with a gun was at her front door and had just shot her dog.

State troopers, police and sheriff deputies converged on the area. Goodland High School, two blocks away, was notified to lock down the school in case the gunman headed that way.

Within a few minutes, Trooper Bryan Wilson arrested Brent Ratzlaff, 29, 1007 Cherry. Ratzlaff, a maintenance man for the Goodland Regional Medical Center, was in the Sherman County Bastille on Friday waiting for charges to be filed.

Buster said she heard a knock on her door and when she looked out, there was a man standing there with a gun.

"I was not about to open it," Buster said. "I was scared and took my daughter into the bedroom and called my husband and the police."

Buster said she heard a shot, and when she saw blood coming from her dog's jaw, she knew the black lab, Buddy, had been hit.

Sheriff Kevin Butts said by the time he and other officers arrived, Buster's husband, Joseph Buster, who works for Just Ponds and More, had come home. He said he was not sure that Buddy had been shot.

"When we looked at the dog," the



Joseph Buster tried to get his black lab, Buddy, into his pickup for a trip to the vet on Thursday. The dog, which had been shot in the jaw, was reluctant to get in the truck for what turned out to be his last ride.

sheriff said, "we could see the jaw had been hit. This was really too bad, because the dog appeared to be a big friendly dog who wanted to play."

Joseph Buster had some trouble getting Buddy into his pickup, but did finally get him into the truck and took him to Prairieland Animal Clinic.

Patricia Buster said Friday afternoon that Buddy had to be put to sleep because the bullet had shattered his jaw, and there was not much chance the dog would survive the surgery.

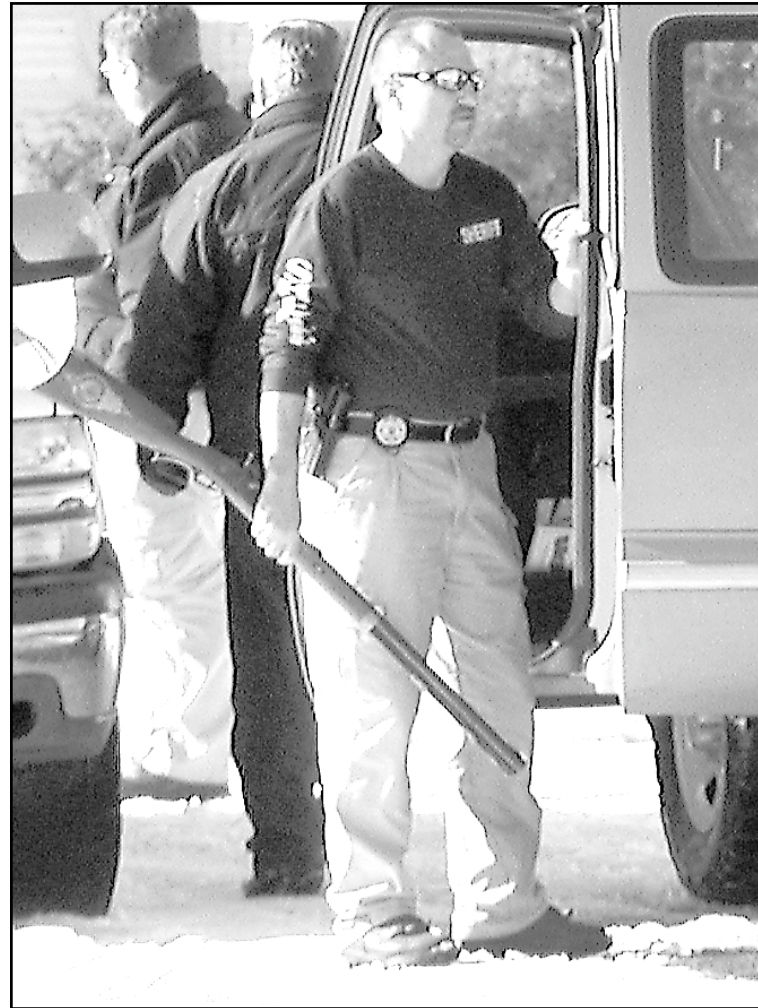
Butts said officers found a .54

caliber black power rifle in Ratzlaff's home after he was arrested.

Butts said Ratzlaff told officers he was mad because the dog had been barking and decided he had had enough.

Ratzlaff is being charged with cruelty to animals, discharge of a firearm in the city, aggravated assault, criminal intent and disorderly conduct. Butts said he expected the paperwork to be completed by Friday afternoon, and that Ratzlaff might be able to bond out.

"The hardest part was talking to



Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts held the black powder rifle allegedly used to shoot Patricia Buster's black lab, Buddy, on Thursday.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

the owner," Butts said, "and she said her 4-year-old daughter was asking where Buddy was."

"This was a hard call to go on. The dog owner was scared when she

looked out and saw the man with the gun and thought he might be there to shoot her."

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