

weather report

45°

noon

Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 7:21 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:12 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:22 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 43 degrees
- Humidity 51 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds southeast at 14 mph
- Barometer 29.98 inches and fall

• Record High today 90° (2006)

• Record Low today 12° (1997)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 53°

Low Thursday 28°

Precipitation —

This month .18

Year to date 3.39

Above normal .88 of an inch

The Topside Forecast

Today: Winter storm warning. Periods of snow with blowing snow. High near 32, low around 26. New snow accumulation of 7 to 11 inches.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Partly cloudy, high near 43, low around 30. Sunday: Mostly sunny, high near 62, low around 36. Monday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, high near 60, low around 39. Tuesday: A slight chance of rain or snow. Mostly cloudy, high near 56, low around 33.

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

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$4.39 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.44
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Corn — \$3.43 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.27
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Milo — \$7 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$6.51 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.59
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - NuSun crop — \$16.30 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$25 (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



Mason signs with Hornets

Senior Kerek Mason signed a letter of intent Wednesday morning to attend Emporia State University and run on the Hornet cross country and track teams. See story, photo on Page 12.

Storm may change clean-up plan

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland's fourth annual city-wide cleanup Saturday morning could run afoul of Mother Nature if a spring snow storm arrives Friday as predicted, but sponsors have a backup date of Saturday, April 21.

Ken Clouse, co-chair of the Chamber of Commerce beautification committee, said Wednesday plans for the cleanup included a backup date one week later, but a decision to change the date would not be made until closer to Saturday morning.

"As a committee we felt it was best to wait

until closer to the collection day to make a decision," Clouse said. "The storm could miss us, but if it doesn't, we already have the backup date set.

"People should listen to KLOE to hear if there has been a change. If there is four inches of snow on the ground or if it is raining, the cleanup will be delayed."

Clouse said everything is in place for the cleanup, but he has not heard from a lot of volunteers.

"I have not had calls from a lot of volunteers this year," he said. "We need enough volunteers to make this work."

If the weather is OK, he said, all volunteers will gather at the Northwest Kansas Technical College Student Union at 8:30 a.m. to set up teams and split up the town.

"Calls are already coming in (from people who need help with trash)," said Christie Rasure, committee co-chair and unofficial "Queen of Trash." "I think we have had about 50 already. People appreciate what we are doing."

Rasure said the cleanup will run from 9 a.m. to noon. The teams will bring collected items to the lots west of Rasure Lumber to be separated and hauled to the county transfer station.

She said people who have things to be picked up should have the junk on the curb that morning by 9 a.m. If they are unable to move the junk to the curb, they can call the Chamber at 899-7130, Schyler Goodwin at 821-4653 or Clouse at 890-3641 to get on the list for help.

People who want to volunteer for the cleanup can call the same phone numbers so the planners have an idea of how many will be available to help.

A Sherman County Household Hazardous

See CLEANUP, Page 9

People, hospital impress visiting team

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Four officials from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs toured Goodland Regional Medical Center Monday afternoon, saying they were impressed with the staff and the people they met.

The regional office is trying to decide on location of a community outreach clinic, with offers from Goodland and Burlington or Yuma, Colo. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson announced in Washington in December that the three were a "short list" for a veterans' clinic.

Veterans here have pushed for a clinic, where doctors would come see them, since they now have to drive to Hays or Denver for care. Rep. Jerry Moran and Kansas' senators have pushed the effort as well.

"We were pleased with the visit," said Brenda McCants, director of marketing, development and volunteer services at the hospital. "We were able to answer all their questions and believe we have the facility to handle their requests."

"We think the community support was obvious from the people who were there."

The inspection team came from the Denver Regional office and Pueblo clinic. Robin Moritz, team leader from Pueblo, said Goodland was the first of the three site visits they would make this week. She said the team would be gathering information on all three, hoping to have it wrapped up by next Friday.

Moritz said her group would not make a decision, just provide information on each site to the leadership team, which would make the final decision.

She said she has worked for the Veterans Affairs for a few days short



Eloy Salazar (left), communications technician on a visiting Veterans Affairs team, talked to Rep. Jim Morrison of Colby about the communications needs for a possible clinic in Goodland. Sen.

Ralph Ostmeyer (second from right) and Mayor Rick Billinger (right) listened to the technical discussion.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

of 30 years, and was involved in opening the first outreach clinics in the Fort Lyon area of southeast Colorado, at La Junta, Lamar and Trinidad.

"We are glad to be here to look this area over," she said. "There is not a lot of information we can give you. We are here to look at the spaces being offered and the possibilities for a clinic based on our experiences

with other clinics."

Other members of the team included Georgiana Inskeep, Mike Pettinelli and Eloy Salazar.

Pettinelli said he was interested in the workability of the space being offered, and how it would connect to the existing hospital services.

Inskeep said she was looking at the condition of the facility for cleanliness, health control, access

and safety. She said she was impressed with the cleanliness of the hospital and clinic areas she toured.

During the tour, Inskeep asked Jay Jolly, hospital administrator, about the hospital's effort to be accredited by the Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditation.

Jolly said the hospital was working through the process, but didn't know exactly when it might get the

accreditation.

"It is a complicated process," he said, "but we keep working through the steps and making sure we are meeting the requirements."

Salazar, the communications technician on the team, said he was interested in the options available for handling the electronic needs of

See TEAM, Page 9

Veterans ask questions about proposed clinic

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Area veterans had questions for a four-member Department of Veterans Affairs team inspecting the Goodland Regional Medical Center Monday afternoon.

Members Robin Moritz, Mike Pettinelli, Georgiana Inskeep and Eloy Salazar were in Goodland on the first of three site visits to help decide the location of a community based outreach clinic.

Goodland is in competition with Burlington and Yuma, Colo., to open a clinic later this year.

The team toured the area being offered by the hospital and then met with community supporters and area veterans.

"I thought it went well," said Jay Jolly, hospital administrator. "We did not know everything they would

want to look at, but were able to provide everything they ask for.

"They were good at giving us an idea of what they are looking for and what the needs are for a clinic."

Jolly said it was good to have community experts available, especially representatives from S&T Communications.

"We did know some of the things they were looking for," Jolly said, "and it worked out well. The support of the community has been great and we wanted to have the expertise on hand to answer question. This way we did not have to get answers back to them, and makes us look stronger in the application process."

Jolly said the team spent about three hours at the hospital, and felt they covered everything pretty well.

Jolly said the team members and hospital staff spent about an hour in

the boardroom after the session with the community and veterans.

He said they went over more details in the second session, had more of a "what if?" session, tossing out ideas.

Jolly said he thinks the decision on a site may come earlier than expected.

"They seem to be pushing it," Jolly said about the decision process. "The site survey was pushed up two weeks earlier than the timetable we understood. They could have a decision made by May and be open by June."

"A lot of that will be determined by the proposal chosen and what needs to be changed. We think we could move pretty quickly based on the questions asked yesterday."

"I think it was good to be first in this case."

Larry Rowilson, 9th District commander for the Kansas Veterans of Foreign Wars out of Oakley, asked if the number of veterans in the area was part of the consideration about where the clinic would be located.

Moritz said veteran density numbers had been gathered earlier.

Rowilson asked if the department was looking for a place in an existing facility to open the clinic or a place to build a clinic. Pettinelli said the department prefers to find a facility that is established "where we can get in and get started."

Navy Veteran Ken Baum, former Goodland American Legion post commander, asked whether a veterans clinic could use the hospital lab so the veterans don't have to drive to Denver for simple blood work. Moritz said that was one of the questions the team was looking at.

Veteran Dwight Perrey said he was glad the agency was looking at putting a clinic in Goodland, and wondered if that would cut down the number of trips he has to make to Denver.

"I know if I have to be seen by a doctor once a year to be maintained in the system," Perry said. "They have me going twice a year. Will this cut down on these trips?"

"That is what we are talking about with this visit," Moritz replied.

A veteran's wife asked if prescription drugs are available through Veterans Affairs. Moritz said most are.

Salazar said he is both an employee and a veteran who is getting prescriptions.

"I haven't found any prescriptions the system doesn't have," he said.

Group wants a statewide plan for tourism money

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

The tourism industry hopes to develop a plan to promote and build tourism in Kansas and present it to the state Legislature and governor, members of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau heard Tuesday.

There is an advantage to presenting one large plan for tourism, said Director Donna Price, rather than everyone going after their own piece of the pie.

She said the Kansas Tourism Initiative, started by Sen. Nick Jordan, is modeled after the state bioscience initiative.

She said Kansas is one of the few states that

does not pay for tourism promotion directly from tax money.

The state Department of Commerce gets money for statewide tourism efforts from the lottery.

This year, the initiative group is doing surveys to give the industry a baseline from which to measure itself. Next year, Price said, the plan is to go to the Legislature.

All of the taxes which affect the industry, the guest tax, hospitality tax and drink taxes, for example, will be on the table.

Until recently, the Legislature voted every year on whether to have the lottery, she said. No one knew if there would be money from

one year to the next.

The initiative hopes to find out what resources are available, open communication for all segments of the tourism industry and educate Kansas residents and business people on the impact of tourism on the state.

Price told her board Tuesday afternoon that she would be leaving Wednesday for a media reception in Denver.

About 175 journalists from publications such as *The Denver Post*, *The Washington Post*, *National Geographic Traveler* and *Conde Nast* are expected.

Price said they were invited by the Kansas Travel and Tourism office. Each invited com-

munity was to give a short presentation and provide a press kit.

Linda Holton, director of the High Plains Museum, said people she sees comment about the junk cars by Exit 19 but also talk about how nice the town and museum are.

Price expressed her "utter frustration" with a 6-year-old computer and its problems with e-mail.

The board agreed to have her and member Bill Stoick check into a replacement and report to the executive committee.

The next meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 8, at the bureau's office, 925 Main Avenue.