

weather report

76°



noon Monday

Today

• Sunset, 8:16 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 5:20 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:16 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 76 degrees

• Humidity 51 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds north at 12 mph

• Barometer 29.92 inches

and rising

• Record High today 104° (1936)

• Record Low today 42° (1912)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 86°

Low Monday 59°

Precipitation —

This month .98

Year to date 7.44

Below normal 1.47 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: A 20 percent chance of

showers before noon. Partly

cloudy, high near 83, low around

60.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Mostly sunny,

high near 90, low around 62.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, high near

88, low around 61. Friday: Partly

cloudy, high near 88, low around

61. Saturday: Mostly sunny, high

near 88, low around 59. Sunday:

Mostly sunny, high near 88.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$5.48 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.42

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c

Corn — \$4.23 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.03

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c

Milo — \$3.93 bushel

Soybeans — \$7.50 bushel

Posted county price — \$7.46

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c

Millet — \$7 hundredweight

Sunflowers

NuSun crop — \$17.25

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

Dog complaints increase in city

By Tom Betz

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Summer weather means more people are outside, and the city is getting an increase in the number of dog complaints.

“With the summer weather, it is a good time to remind people how the city ordinances deal with dogs at large,” Police Chief Ray Smee said Friday.

Smee said the city animal control ordinance requires all dogs to be confined to the owner’s property, and if off the property, they must be on a leash or in a cage or a car.

He said on the owner’s property, the dog must be inside the home or outside, on a chain or inside a fence.

“If the owner and the dog are in the yard,” Smee said, “that is OK as long as the dog is under the owner’s control. If the dog takes off and leaves the property or doesn’t listen to the owner, that is where the animal control ordinance comes into effect.”

Tonya Magaña, city animal control and code enforcement officer, said she has been catching at least one dog a day over the past two months, and that does not include the calls being taken by city policemen, since she only works during the week days.

Magaña said most calls are about

dogs at large. If she can’t find the owner, she said, she tries to catch the dog and take it to the pound. If the dog has a tag, she tries to find the owner to get the dog back to them.

“It is not my responsibility to notify people when we pick up a dog,” she said, “but we keep a dog for about four days before the dog is turned over to the animal shelter. If someone has a dog missing, they can call the police at 890-4570 to see if the dog is in the pound.”

Smee said that is the normal procedure if a dog is picked up. If there are current tags, the owner is contacted, but if there are no tags or Magaña can’t find the owner, it goes to the pound.

Smee said if the owner calls the police and says the dog is missing, officers check the pound to see if the dog is there. He said if the dog is in the pound, the owner has to pay a pickup fee of \$10 and an impound fee of \$10 a day at the city office.

“If the owner shows up, and the dog doesn’t have current tags, they will have to get the shots and get a dog license,” Smee said. “Dr. Gary Smith can do the shots and then give the owner a certificate that is brought to the city office to show proof.”

“In all cases, the dog’s owner is responsible to take care of the dog and be in control,” Magaña said. “I



Magaña

Owners can face fines

By Tom Betz

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Dog owners can face stiff fines in the municipal court if the city’s animal control officer or the police pick up their pet repeatedly.

Municipal Judge LeAnn Taylor said there are different levels of fines, depending on the number of times an owner has been ticketed.

She said the normal fine on a first offense is \$20, and that does not include the city \$10 pickup fee or the \$10 a day charge if the dog is in the pound for a few days.

The second time an owner comes to court, Taylor said, she usually doubles the fine to \$40, and she doubles again for the third offense to \$80 and up to \$160 on the fourth trip to court.

She said the ordinance says a fifth ticket would cost a dog owner a minimum of \$200, but she has never had one get this far. She said she has had one owner in court on a fourth offense.

She said the charge of allowing a dog to run at large is a misdemeanor, and could include a jail term of up to 30 days, but she has never sent anyone to jail.

“Dog-at-large cases seem to pick up in the spring

when people and animals are outside more,” she said, adding that the process is different when someone is bitten or officers charge an owner with harboring a vicious dog.

She said it is up to her as the judge to determine if the evidence shows the dog is vicious and then to determine what happens to the animal.

The options under the city ordinance are to order the dog muzzled, destroyed or released back to the owner.

“The things I have to consider are the seriousness of the attack or bite and any history of such action,” Taylor said, “plus the potential for other attacks in the future, and the conditions under which the animal is being kept.”

She said some owners have a misunderstanding of how the city ordinance defines a dog at large.

“Even though the dog may be in the front yard,” she said, “if it is not under your direct control, it can be considered a dog at large. There must be someone around to act as the control for the dog.”

Taylor said she had talked to Police Chief Ray

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try not to be too hard on people.

Dogs get out, and I know that.

“With a dog at large, and if it is their first offense, we do try to give them a break. It depends on the situation. Some dog owners don’t seem

to care, and we get calls on those

sometimes twice a week.

She said she hears a lot about “that is not my dog” from people. She said they will tell her the dog belongs to a son or daughter or a neighbor

She said the ordinance says if a dog is “living” at the house for

longer than seven days it is the responsibility of the property owner.

“When they say, ‘It is not my dog, it is my daughter’s,’ I tell them they are responsible for taking care of the

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Sheriff’s office adds Tasers

By Pat Schiefen

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Sherman County sheriff’s deputies have added a weapon to their arsenal, Taser electronic weapons that can drop a fleeing suspect or be used in a close-in struggle without harming them.

At the first of the month, said Sheriff Kevin Butts, every deputy was required to take eight hours of training before they could carry the weapons. The weapons are said to be safer than a gun, and more effective than a nightstick or chemical spray.

Sheriff Kevin Butts said that with 1,100 square miles for his officers to handle, he felt the Tasers would help protect citizens as well as the deputies. He said he has been looking into Tasers for about three months.

The seven Tasers, made by Taser International, cost around \$900 each, said Sheriff Butts, using money from the department’s drug seizure fund.

The weapon has a laser sight

Sheriff’s deputy Roger Studer held one of the new Tasers issued to the department.

Photo by Pat Schiefen
 The Goodland Star-News

which projects a red dot for aiming, he said. The cartridge has a memory chip which can be read by a computer and be used when making reports, he added. Each gun has a serial number and each cartridge has a serial number.

When the trigger is pulled, two probes are shot out by compressed nitrogen into the target. The probes are connected to the Taser by insulated wires.

A five-second charge of up to 50,000 volts flows from the probes into the target. The charge interferes with the signals sent by the body’s command and control system, the peripheral nervous system, incapacitating the person.

Unlike stun guns, Tasers do not stop people through pain, says the manufacturer. Besides, pain or injury often will not stop people who are under the influence of drugs or are pain insensitive.

Butts said when he took his training, he experienced being shot by a Taser, as did his officers. He said it will definitely stop someone.

“Chemical spray and batons will not stop some people, especially if they are on drugs,” said Sheriff Butts. “Tasers will stop them without hurting them.”

Golf tournament, auction starts Friday

By Sharon Corcoran

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The red carpet rolls out Saturday for “A Walk With the Stars,” the Hollywood theme for this year’s Slice of Life benefit auction.

The event will be the “Academy Awards” of rural health care, said Brenda McCants, director of marketing and volunteer services at Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Slice of Life has been known for bringing star athletes to town, and this year is no exception. About 20 former Denver Broncos, Kansas City Chiefs, Harlem Globetrotters, Olympic gold medalists and other stars have confirmed, she said.

McCants said the Hollywood theme was chosen in honor of Scott McPhail, a filmmaker and actor with DreamWorks and longtime Slice supporter, who is this year’s honorary chairman.

McPhail will be bringing Hollywood to Goodland, McCants said, including celebrity guests representing the film industry.

“We’ll have the red carpet and all. It will be Oscar night in Goodland, but for a good cause,” she said, adding that it’ll be a chance to dress up or dress Hollywood-style.

Former Broncos expected include Larry Brunson, Jack Gehrke, Charley Johnson, Fran Lynch, Ted McKnight, Leroy Mitchell, Dave Preston and Billy Thompson. Ex-Chiefs Dave Lindstrom, Larry Marshall, Tony Reed, Art Still and Walter White will walk the red carpet.

Also planning to attend, McCants said, are former Denver Nuggets player Walter Davis; former Dallas Cowboys player Wade Manning; Mel Pender, a former gold medalist in track; former Harlem Globetrotter Gator Rivers; Isaac “Bud”

Stallworth, a former University of Kansas Jayhawks and Utah Jazz basketball star; and Josh Vignery, an actor and son of Ron and Judi Vignery of Goodland.

Autograph and photo opportunities will be available all weekend, McCants said. The auction, sponsored by the Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation, will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall.

Admission is \$35 for those not participating in the golf tournament, she said. Some items will be sold in a live auction and others in a silent auction.

Items for sale at the auction include resort trips; a bronze sculpture of an aerobatic plane from Art Castings of Colorado; tickets to Busch and Nextell Cup races at the Kansas Speedway; NFL and NBA autographed memorabilia; a football autographed by former Broncos

quarterback John Elway; a University of Kansas basketball, autographed by the team; a Priest Holms helmet; a Michael Jordan White Sox jersey; a Chicago White Sox world series championship jersey, signed by the team; a Dwight Clark “The Catch” signed photograph on canvas; an autographed Annika Sorenstam cap; signed movie memorabilia, including items signed by Vince Vaughn, Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson; Desperate Housewives oven mitts signed by the cast; tickets to NBA and NFL games; movie items; and movie posters.

The bronze sculpture is in honor of Ken Stout, who always flew over the Slice of Life event in his Super Decathlon plane, McCants said, accenting his aerobatic show with smoke, music, precision, excitement and grace. He died in January, leaving his wife Sue and two daughters Suzanne and Rebecca. He was

a Goodland native but had lived in Woodbine, where he was the chief executive officer of the Citizens State Bank and Trust Co. and S & D Performance Management.

The golf tournament will begin at 8:30 a.m. Sunday at Sugar Hills Golf Club. Three-person teams will be sorted into flights after playing. Teams of men will be sorted into “Acute” and “Chronic,” based on score, with “Acute” being the top flight. There will be three winners in each. Mixed teams will be in “Malingering” with three winners, and women’s teams in “Malady,” or m’lady.

Teams bid at the auction on celebrity guests to join them for the tournament. There will be team and special prizes, door prizes and hole-in-one prizes, McCants said. For one designated hole, the prize will be \$10,000. \$5,000 to the golfer and \$5,000 to the foundation.



Pitching for 12-and-under

Brianna White pitched for the Goodland Slammers 12-and-under fast pitch traveling softball team against a Goodland Activities Center team, Taco John’s, on Monday, June 11. See photo on Page 10.