

**weather report**

**35°**  
noon Thurs.



**Today**

• Sunset, 5:02 p.m.  
**Friday**  
• Sunrise, 6:56 a.m.  
• Sunset, 5:04 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

• Soil temperature 30 degrees  
• Humidity 00 percent  
• Sky clear  
• Winds northeast 15 mph  
• Barometer 30.02 inches and rising  
• Record High today 69° (1976)  
• Record Low today -13° (1951)

**Last 24 Hours\***

High Wednesday 26°  
Low Wednesday 6°  
Precipitation trace

**The Topside Forecast**

Today: partly cloudy, high around 38, low around 19, winds north northwest 8-14 mph. Friday: partly cloudy, high near 46, low near 22, winds west 5-10 mph.

**Extended Forecast**

Saturday: mostly cloudy with 30 percent chance of snow after 5 p.m., high near 37, low around 13. Sunday: mostly cloudy with scattered flurries before 5 p.m., high near 27, low around 9. Monday: partly cloudy, high near 32, low near 11.

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

## Watch group starting

Neighborhood Watch plans to have a booth at the annual Goodland Activities Center Health Fair on Saturday, Feb. 7, trying to get the program going and help homeowners increase security.

The group will have information on criminal activity and on how to keep property safe. There will be a sign-up list there for people interested in joining.

Judy McKee, an organizer of the campaign to reinstate Neighborhood Watch in Goodland, will be one of the people manning the booth next Saturday. Cris Lovington of the Regional Prevention Center of Northwest Kansas will also be on hand.

McKee said statistics show that a home is burglarized in this country every 10 seconds, but people tend to ignore statistics until they become one.

"Unfortunately, I can testify to that because it happened to my family," she said, noting that her daughters' car had been broken into. "With the recent increase in burglaries, it was obvious the only way to strike back is to personally commit to safeguarding our neighborhoods. I have been researching the Neighborhood Watch program and am committed to reinstating this program back into our city and county."

Rasure Lumber Do-It Center, 605 Caldwell Ave., donated a \$25 gift certificate for a home security lock for a drawing. People must register at the booth but need not be present to win.

"It is impossible for our law enforcement to cover every neighborhood 24 hours a day," McKee said. "However, it can be done if our citizens take an active role in being extended eyes and ears for our police officers and report any suspicious activity or persons in your neighborhood."

## County researches trash baler

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

All three Sherman County commissioners and Curt Way, the county's public works manager, asked the county's solid waste committee last Wednesday to back a plan to get a baler for the county landfill.

Mitch Tiede, chairman of the commission since Jan. 13, said a baler system would cut down on the space needed to dispose of each load of trash, extending the life of the landfill by several years.

The baler would require a building, either a new building or one of the buildings at the present transfer site. The estimated cost of the total project is over \$500,000, Way said, adding that he felt the new system would neither increase nor decrease the county's manpower requirements, although some training would be required.

The baler could bundle recyclable cardboard, another key point in the proposal. As much as half of all solid waste collected in Goodland is recyclable cardboard, Way said, mostly from commercial sources. Bundling the cardboard for recycle rather than putting it in the landfill would further cut down on the space needed per load and extend the landfill's life even more.

The bulk cardboard can be sold, and the money would help pay for the baler system. Commissioner Kevin Rasure said the baler is a long term project, but could save the county a lot of money over the years. He asked the committee to help re-

See TRASH, Page 9

## Junior high girl hit, injured by pickup



Emergency medical technicians and volunteers carefully lift Tehnee Ridder, 13, on a backboard Thursday morning on 12th across from Grant Junior High. Tehnee, the daughter of Roger and Cynthia Ridder, was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center with leg injuries. About 10 a.m., she was flown to Children's

Hospital in Denver. Police said the girl was struck about 7:40 a.m. by a pickup driven by Robert Beckner. With the help of state troopers and sheriff's deputies, they were investigating the circumstances of the accident.

Photo by Greg Stover / The Goodland Star-News

## Mother questions use of search dogs

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

A mother questioned the effectiveness and fairness of dog searches at the high school during the public forum at a Goodland School Board meeting Monday night.

Tammy Cloyd said the searches were a waste of the district's money and that she didn't think the dogs were accurate enough to be effective.

Cloyd said she thought the school should be locked down for the searches to prevent, for example, a student moving contraband from one location to another and perhaps involving an innocent student.

Principal Harvey Swager said that dogs have been used six times in the past 12 months and always in a random search, involving different parts of the campus. He said the contractor that provides the dogs, Interquest Detection Canine, advises not

to lock down the students so the search will not interrupt the flow of the school day.

Swager said a federal grant pays the majority of the cost for the searches. He said he was pleased with the results of the last search, at mid-month, which turned up only a few banned items — some shotgun shells, firecrackers and some knives in fishing tackle. None of these items caused any concern.

The use of dogs to search for drugs and weapons started last January. The first search uncovered two guns, a knife, some shotgun shells and marijuana, resulting in the arrest of three students.

School Superintendent Marvin Selby opened his report by asking board members to help with the award ceremony held during half-time of Tuesday's boys basketball game. At the ceremony, 94 certificates of achievement from the Kansas Department of Education were

presented to 72 students for their scores last year on the state assessment tests.

Selby described the governor's plan to increase spending for education and what it means for Goodland. He said the plan, if approved, could bring an extra \$243,000 to the district next year, which includes \$57,000 for at-risk students and \$34,000 for capital outlays. Selby said because of the plan, there is a good chance Goodland will have a full-time kindergarten program within the next two years.

He said the plan requires raising taxes but stressed that the governor wanted to make that "as painless as possible" by lessening the burden for those least able to pay it.

The superintendent told the board all inspections and work for the roof on the high school gym were complete and the paperwork for the 20-year warranty should be on file within a few weeks.

Selby gave the board members an artist's sketch of one of the proposed designs for a concession stand at Cowboy Stadium. The stand would include new restrooms that would include baby-changing stations.

Swager asked the board to accept his recommendation that the high school retain its current modified block class system. He said he considered ideas from several schools about changing the schedule to align it to new standards that will take effect with the freshman class in 2006.

Swager said he asked teachers to vote for one of three schedules being looked at. He said they voted overwhelmingly for the current schedule over the others.

Swager said one of the changes he wanted to work out was a system that would allow the band to meet daily. He said that student interest and enrollment in music are up and

See SCHOOL, Page 3

**local markets**

**Noon**  
Wheat — \$3.58 bushel  
New Crop — \$3.47 bushel  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Corn — \$2.58 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.47  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Milo — \$2.44 bushel  
Soybeans — \$7.49 bushel  
Posted county price — \$7.51  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢  
Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$11.20 cwt.  
NuSun — \$11.45 cwt.  
Confection — \$16/\$9 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



## Blue Jays tip Cowboys

A loose ball caught the attention of senior Jared Duke (center) and two Blue Jay players late in the game Tuesday. Norton held off a Cowboy comeback to win 56-52. See story and photos on Page 12.

## Doctor went to war; native returns to open practice

The past year saw changes in Goodland's medical staff, with one doctor off to war for much of the year, a native son returning as a physician and a nurse practitioner fired from the Rural Health Ventures clinic.

Dr. Natalie Griego was called to active duty with the Colorado National Guard in January and served in Iraq from mid-February through July. While there, she treated soldiers and Iraqis, and got to meet the future governor of California.

Later in the year, Dr. Travis Daise and his wife Melanie Chaffin, both Goodland High School graduates, returned to their hometown.

And Tom Hellerud's firing at the clinic caused a stir in January, with many of his patients speaking out in support of the nurse practitioner.

Hellerud said he was told by clinic officials he was refusing to do obstetric care and that the economy was tight.

"I was never asked to do obstetric care," he said. "I did not refuse. I was not even required to do it."

Hellerud continued to work at Goodland Regional Medical Center and joined Dr. Kenneth D. Austin at the Medical Arts Clinic.

Dr. Daise, a family medicine physician, began working at the hospital and Rural Health Ventures in August.

Dr. Griego left last Jan. 22 to join Company C of the 109th Medical Battalion unit in Montrose, Colo., and flew with the unit to Fort McCoy, Wis., where she served until being shipped to Iraq in February.

Over 200 people gathered in the hospital lobby Jan. 22 for her send-off, and 70 people gathered at the Elks Lodge Saturday, July 26, to welcome her home.

During the six months Griego was in Iraq, she endured 110-degree heat, makeshift living conditions, being away from her husband Jeff Krall and son Reece, 2, and the dangers of war.

Griego received a little perk when she met actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, now California's governor, when he pumped up American soldiers celebrating Independence Day in Iraq.

Major Griego has been in the Colorado National Guard for 10 years, assigned to the Headquarters unit of the State Area Command at Buckley Air Base in Denver.

When she returned to Goodland, Griego did not go back to work at the hospital or Rural Health Ventures. While she was in Iraq, her husband, who had headed the hospital ambulance service, was terminated in May. The hospital would not comment on the reason.

Dr. Griego was scheduled to return to Iraq in June, but will not be going because she is expecting her second son in May. She said during a phone interview Tuesday that most of her national guard unit from Colorado is in Iraq, but the doctors have been rotated.



Dr. Daise



Dr. Travis Daise (above) returned to Goodland last summer to open his practice in his hometown. Major Natalie Griego (right) visited with Arnold Schwarzenegger, now Governor of California, during his visit to Iraq on Independence Day.

Dr. Griego, who is living in Lawrence, is working in the emergency room in Topeka. Her husband is a supervisor for the American Medical Response ambulance service in Kansas City. Dr. Griego said she has seen a couple of people from Goodland in the emergency room.

She said the main reason she left Goodland was because Jeff did not have a job, nor was there likely to be one in his field.

"I know I would not have had a problem restarting my practice," she said. "I had wonderful patients and it would have been good to stay."

She continues to drill monthly with the Guard unit in Denver.

"I miss the babies," she said. "I enjoyed delivering the babies and helping the families in Goodland."