

**weather
report**

74°



noon Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 7:44 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 5:41 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:45 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 53 degrees
- Humidity 39 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds southeast 10 mph.
- Barometer 30.05 inches and falling

• Record High today 95° (1934)

• Record Low today 30° (1978)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	69°
Low Wednesday	36°
Precipitation	1.11
This month	1.11
Year to date	3.82
Normal	3.93

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon, high around 82, low near 48, winds south southwest 13-30 mph. Saturday: Partly cloudy and breezy, high near 76, low around 42, winds west southwest 16-39 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers, high around 67, low around 41. Monday: Partly cloudy, high near 70, low near 43.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
*Readings compiled at midnight.

Hail blankets city with white stuff



Thousands of hail stones covered Armory Rd. in front of the National Weather Service office in Goodland after a severe storm moved through town Wednesday. Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Hail, up to six inches of it, flattened wheat, put drivers in the ditch and forced highway officials to send a snowplow out to clear K-27 north of town Tuesday evening.

A sheriff's deputy trying to get to a wreck wound up stuck alongside the highway, but no one was hurt by the sudden, unexpected storm.

Buckets of hail up to quarter size fell in a band a mile to a mile and a half wide.

Mick McGuire, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office here, said the hail came from an isolated thunderstorm that intensified right over town.

He said the office had reports of hail from dime to quarter size.

The first report of quarter, or one-inch hail, he said, came in at 6:55 p.m. The office put out a severe thunderstorm warning for Sherman County after that. They did a warning for Wallace County a few minutes later.

McGuire said within 10 minutes, the ground was covered with hail, with the heaviest concentration across the northeast corner of Goodland by the weather office.

"It was a pretty narrow area," he added.

The Kansas Department of Transportation, he said, reported 6 inches of hail north of town on K-27. They called out a snow plow to clear the highway.

Alex West with Alex's Radiator

said he was called to an accident about three miles north of town. He said the five to six inches of hail on the road caused a car to slide into the ditch.

West said when Sherman County Undersheriff Roger Studer showed up to help, his vehicle slid off the road, too.

"He pulled over to the side because a bunch of trucks were coming," he said, adding the soft shoulder on K-27 just pulled the patrol car into the ditch. "He was trying to get over as far as he could."

Studer had his vehicle out by the time West arrived, West said, but the road was still covered in hail.

"It was still on the highway pretty heavy," he said.

West was called to a few accidents on I-70 after the storm. He said a couple of people needed help out of the ditch on the westbound side of the Interstate near mile marker 20, just east of town. No one was hurt in any of the accidents.

He said a stretch of hail a mile to a mile and a half was visible in the fields along I-70.

"It was bad," he said. "You could see the whole path. The wheat was lying down, too."

McGuire said the weather office hasn't received any reports of damage except for the accidents and a few tree branches. He said they didn't get any reports of hail outside Sherman County, although the warning continued for Wallace County.

Funeral on hold for fallen Goodland soldier

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Funeral arrangements are on hold for a Goodland National Guardsman killed Sunday in Iraq, but mourners should fill Max Jones Fieldhouse one day next week.

Specialist Derrick Joseph Lutters, 24, died when a car bomb was set off near Baghdad. He was the third Kansas Guardsman killed in the war.

The family said funeral details will be set once the Army is ready to release the body after flying it home from Iraq. They were planning a service Tuesday at the fieldhouse, but must wait for the Army.

Calls and letters have been pouring in at the homes of Lutters' father, Chuck Lutters, Goodland city public works manager, and his mother, Marion Lutters, a second-grade teacher in Burlington.



Lutters

he told her he was sorry he would miss Mother's Day on Sunday. His father said he

could sense that his son was nervous about the dangerous work he was doing, but said he was upbeat about serving his country.

The Kansas adjutant general's office reported Tuesday that Lutters, who lived in Burlington, was killed south of Baghdad, when a suicide bomber attacked the vehicle he was in. Lutters was a gunner in one of three vehicles on a bridge and road reconnaissance mission.

"The death of any soldier is a sad loss, but especially when he is one of your own," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting. "The thoughts and prayers of the entire Kansas National Guard family go out to his family."

Thursday morning Gen. Bunting flew to Goodland to meet with the Lutters family and convey his feelings personally about the loss of their son.

An Associated Press/CNN web site reported Wednesday that Lutters was killed when a car bomb detonated near his vehicle as his unit was inspecting a bridge for enemy tampering along a supply route in Iraq.

Lutters was a member of Detachment 1, 170th Maintenance Company, of Goodland, and was assigned to the Kansas Guard 891st Engineer Battalion as a crane operator.

See FUNERAL, Page 7a

**local
markets**

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.83 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.94
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Corn — \$1.70 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.79
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 16¢
 - Milo — \$1.42 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$5.49 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$5.73
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Millet — \$5 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$9.50 cwt.
 - NuSun — \$10.50 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Confection — Ask
 - Pinto beans — \$25
- (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



By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Giving no clue who members have in mind, the Goodland City Commission voted Monday to have the city manager ask a possible candidate to be his replacement to make a proposal.

City Manager Ron Pickman is about three weeks from retirement, and the commission plans to hire an interim executive to handle the job until a new manager is hired.

No details about the candidate were discussed. At a special meeting last Wednesday, the commission spent an hour in closed session discussing the candidate.

The commission will hold a spe-

cial meeting at 8 a.m. on Wednesday to meet with representatives from the Kansas League of Municipalities to review how the search for a new city manager will be conducted. After the closed session last Wednesday, Mayor Rick Billinger returned a form to the League of Municipalities asking the organization to help in the search.

Billinger said the commission hopes to be able to appoint an interim manager before Pickman leaves.

"We hope to give the new person some time to work with Ron before his last day," Billinger said. "We are planning a retirement reception for May 26."

In other business, the commission:

- Reviewed plans and read a proclamation for the annual Arbor Day ceremony to be held at 1:30 p.m. Friday at Steever Park. Pickman said the time was changed to allow the state forester to attend, and said they had decided to dedicate the tree in Derrick Lutters' memory. Lutters, a National Guard member from Goodland, and son of the city public works director, was killed Sunday in Iraq. Dale Hayden is to be honored at the ceremony for his 12 years of service to the Shade Tree Board.
- Approved appointment of Gary Coon and reappointment of Christie

Rasure to the Shade Tree Board for three-year terms. Member Dale Hayden had submitted a letter saying he did not want to be reappointed.

• Appointed Bonnie Selby, county attorney, to fill the unexpired term of Jerry Fairbanks on the Library Board. In a letter to the board, Fairbanks said he was resigning because his wife had been elected to the City Commission, creating a potential conflict of interest.

• Declined a request from Associated Pools to help pay \$4,500 to install a valve pit at Steever Water Park.

"It makes a lot of sense," Pickman said. "I'm not sure why it was not

designed that way in the first place."

Darin Neufeld of Evans, Bierly, Hutchisons and Associates, the inspecting engineer on the mediation repairs, said the valve pit would make it easier to drain and winterize the youth pool, but that it was not required. Commissioner Dave Daniels asked if the city employees had any problems the way it was originally done. Neufeld said the crew have always been able to drain it.

The commissioners asked Neufeld to try to work with Associated on a "common-sense" approach, but would not approve the \$4,500 for the valve pit.

See CITY, Page 7a

Park work to begin in next 14 days

City commissioners heard Monday that contracts for Pioneer Park have been signed, and the work could begin as soon as May 16, when a pre-construction meeting is scheduled.

Darin Neufeld of Bierly, Evans, Hutchison and Associates, project engineer for the city, said all the contracts have been signed and contractor Mike Miller will be getting his project bonds to do the work.

"He can begin as soon as the pre-construction meeting is over," Neufeld said. "I know the dirt work guy is ready to go."

City Manager Ron Pickman said Miller is asking permission to use a

See PARK, Page 7a

Making room for new company



Members of a crew moving Aircraft Seal and Gasket equipment out of the Wolak Building help push a forklift out of a hole after it became stuck while loading a flatbed trailer. The crew, with help

from Goodland's public works department, was clearing the building Wednesday so it can be occupied by Adronics/Elrob Manufacturing Corp. Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

**Cowboys
finish third**

Senior Drew Wilkens (right) finished third in the 100-meter high hurdles at the Oberlin Invitational on Tuesday. The Cowboys finished third in the meet, and travel to Colby today for a meet beginning at 2 p.m. Story, photos on Page 10a.

