

## weather report

**62°**

noon  
Thursday

**Today**

•Sunset, 8:03 p.m.

**Saturday**

•Sunrise, 5:24 a.m.

•Sunset, 8:04 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 61 degrees
- Humidity 40 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds calm
- Barometer 30.26 inches and falling

•Record High today 90° (1974)

•Record Low today 29° (1950)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday 65°

Low Wednesday 46°

Precipitation —

This month 1.53

Year to date 4.24 (-2.08)

### The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, high lower 70s, winds north 5-10 mph. Tonight partly cloudy, low mid 40s, winds north 5-10 shifting to southeast after midnight. Saturday: Partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon, increasing to 30 percent Saturday night. High upper 70s, low lower 50s.

### Extended Forecast

Sunday: Partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. High upper 70s, low lower 50s. Monday: Partly cloudy, high lower 80s, low lower 50s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.



## local markets

### Noon

Wheat — \$3.05 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.03

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$1.96 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.92

Loan deficiency pmt. — 3¢

Milo — \$1.60 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.95 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.17

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$9.70 cwt.

Nusun — \$10.70

Confection — ask

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



## State track meet today

Sophomore Dani Bedore made the final flight in both the long and triple jumps but did not place at the regional track meet in Colby last Friday. Cowboy and Cowgirl track members are in Wichita today for the state track meet. Photos on page 10a.



Storm chasing crews load up into the tank-like tornado intercept vehicle (above) and head out on the road Tuesday looking for a severe storm. Mark Oerther (right), meteorology student at the University of Oklahoma, checked out the Doppler on Wheels truck before the group left for another storm chase Tuesday. He said the Doppler is constantly under fire from wind and hail.

Photos by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News



# Storm chasers, tornado filmmakers, blow into town

By Kathryn Burke

*The Goodland Star-News*

Film crews, scientists and eager onlookers crowded around the storm chase circus at the Goodland Super 8 Motel Tuesday morning.

The parking lot offered sights from large round Doppler radar, which looks like a thick satellite dish, to the steel plated tornado vehicle.

Monday night's storm blew in lightning, thunder, a group of scientists gathering storm data for research and the National Geographic film crew capturing everything.

The group, headed by Dr. Joshua Wurman, who runs the Center for Severe Weather Research, was chasing storms near Idalia and

Wray, Colo., Monday when they followed the storm into town.

Sheryl Millam, with the Super 8, said they rented 16 rooms to about 28 storm chasers.

"They were very disappointed they didn't have a tornado last night," Millam said Tuesday.

The chasers are on a quest for data. Wurman is in charge of two Doppler On Wheels, mobile radar trucks, a support vehicle that captures things like temperature and wind speed and a team of scientists and students.

The group includes a tornado intercept vehicle that is filming high-resolution video

for IMAX films. The tank-like truck is covered in 1/8 inch steel, 1/4 inch steel in sensitive parts and bulletproof glass on the windows.

Wurman's group steers the vehicle into the storm where they film the tornado. In turn, the scientists get to look at the video and use the data for research.

The vehicle is lined with tornado stamps, the 11 black stamps indicate tornadoes they have filmed and the two red ones are for tornadoes they have actually been in.

"We're the only ones in the world trying to do this," said Marcus Gutierrez, filmmaker with the crew.

The original vehicle is a Ford 450, and

with the steel plating it weighs 7 tons, he said.

National Geographic funds the two-month project. Lawrence Cumbo, senior producer for the film crew, said they are filming some new science in the field. Now they have footage of the Monday night storm from the Super 8 balcony.

Cumbo said he can't elaborate on the exact nature of the film, but he is traveling with the group, catching everything for the project.

The group's mission is to intercept as many storms as they can. Wurman said they

**See CHASERS, Page 5a**

# Road repair projects may cost \$10 million

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

The estimated cost of repairing the major roads in Sherman County and streets in Goodland totals close to \$10 million, and at a joint city/county commissioner meeting Monday the conclusion was it would take a one percent sales tax to pay for the projects.

A special public meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, at the high school auditorium to hear from city and county citizens about the project and the

sales tax options to pay for it.

The two commissions felt it would be good to hold the public meeting and present details of the specific streets and roads to be repaired and the level of a sales tax increase and the number of years it would take to pay for the repairs.

Mayor Rick Billinger said all the projects together would cost about \$9,721,000, and that a full one percent sales tax could pay for it in about 10 years.

"This does all the city and county projects," Billinger said. "The best

we can do is take it to the people and see if they are willing to pay the price."

"I agree one percent is where you ought to go," said Larry Ihrig, farmer and new homeowner near the Sugar Hills golf course. "There is a possibility of a \$60 to \$80 million investment that may go in near Northern Sun's plant at Caruso, and there is a new subdivision developing near the golf course.

"It is important to economic development to have good roads, and the golf course is important."

"These projects are imperative," said Alan Townsend, farmer, "and would enhance the economic development of the city and county."

"Listening to the public," Commissioner Josh Dechant said, "we are looking at the ones they think are the most important."

"We need to do the bond issue and get the project done," Billinger said. "I think we have to move forward. I know one percent on a \$100,000 house is quite a kick. I think the people would go for it when they see all the details."

City Manager Ron Pickman said doing a project of the \$10 million size would bring the costs down and get some better bids.

"A project of this scope could save additional money," Pickman said. "The other side is if the sales tax income goes up, it could be paid off earlier."

"I think we have done our homework," said Commissioner Annette Fairbanks. "We need to get things done. This is way past due. It will

**See ROADS, Page 5a**

# Sports celebrities help raise money for health care

By Kathryn Burke

*The Goodland Star-News*

Bright stars will light up the greens at Sugar Hills Golf Course for the Slice of Life golf tournament Sunday, June 5, and benefit auction at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall on Saturday, June 4.

The 16th annual event will feature celebrities in a golf tournament and benefit auction to raise money for rural health care.

Brenda McCants, Goodland Re-

gional Medical Center's director of patient relations, volunteer services and marketing, said the event is put on by the Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation, the "giving" arm of the hospital.

Money raised at the auction and golf tournament will help buy items for the hospital's surgical suite, being re-equipped for a new doctor.

They want an anesthesia machine, she said, that's a \$100,000 piece of equipment; an operating table and

lights \$60,000; and a c-arm for radiology and pain management, \$100,000.

The foundation also provides scholarships for students who pursue medical degrees, she added.

McCants said hospitals need private donations to supplement federal and local funding.

"I think more hospitals are getting to the point where they have to rely on private funding," she said, adding that her sights are set high this year. "I would love to reach \$100,000."

The golf tournament and auction will feature a host of celebrities, mostly sports greats: Larry Brunson, Jack Gehrke, John Grant, Dr. Charley Johnson, Fran Lynch, Dave Preston, Billy Thompson and Billy Van Heusen, all of the Denver Broncos; Leroy Mitchell, Denver Broncos and Houston Oilers; Jerry Cornelison, Dave Lindstrom, Larry Marshall, Ted McKnight, Art Still and Walter White of the Kansas City Chiefs; Tim Kempton, Phoenix

Suns; Dave Krieg, Seattle Seahawks; Gator Rivers, Harlem Globetrotters; Dave Smoot, Squires ABA Basketball; Isaac "Bud" Stallworth, the University of Kansas, Seattle SuperSonics and New Orleans Jazz; Bobby Douglas, former KU and Chicago Bears quarterback; and Foots Walker, Cleveland Cavaliers.

Then there is Scott McPhail of DreamWorks, the only non-athlete

**See SLICE, Page 9a**

# Memorial service 10 a.m. Monday

Sherman County will pause Monday to remember those who have died in the service of their country, with services in Brewster, Goodland and Kanorado.

Memorial Day services will be held at the Brewster Cemetery at 8:30 a.m., the Goodland Cemetery at 10 a.m. and the Kanorado Cemetery at 11:30 a.m., all Mountain Time.

The speaker for the ceremony in Brewster will be Mike Baughn, Thomas County sheriff and Brewster's mayor. At Goodland, Pastor Scott Grimshaw of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church will speak, and at Kanorado Pastor Leonard Cox of the

United Methodist Church will speak.

Singing the national anthem at all three will be Goodland High sophomore Michael Smith. Eva Lou Selby and Denise Shoff will play "Taps" at Brewster. For Goodland and Kanorado, Mike Mangus and Andrew Pettibone will do the honors.

Goodland Veterans of Foreign Wars members and Boy Scouts begin the day at 5 a.m., raising flags along both sides of the main drive at the Goodland Cemetery.

These are flags used in the burial ceremonies of veterans, many buried in Goodland. The flags were donated by the veterans' families,

and are flown on Memorial Day.

Volunteers and members of the Goodland American Legion Post will gather at 5:30 a.m. to place small flags on about 740 veterans' graves. Mazie Sutton of the American Legion has been helping with the grave decoration project for over 20 years.

She said the veterans buried in the cemetery fought in the Civil War, Spanish American War, both World Wars, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm.

The small flags will be taken

**See MEMORIAL, Page 5a**

## Water park opening delayed

Steever Water Park will not open this weekend as planned because more problems have been found, making it unsafe to open until later next week.

The decision not to open this weekend was made Wednesday, and City Manager Ron Pickman said it was because the area around the slide pool had to be dug up as part of the ongoing repairs.

"The main pool is OK," Pickman said, "but the slide pool was not holding water, and the contractor was digging a hole to

work on the drain lines. It did not seem like a good idea to have kids running around with a big hole nearby.

"We will meet with the staff and engineers today to decide what we are going to do."

Pickman said the work around the youth pool is waiting on decisions by the contractors, and feels the slide pool problem can be fixed in a few days.

"We hope to be able to open the water park at the end of next week," he said.