

weather report

73°

noon Monday



Today

• Sunset, 6:05 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 5:38 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:06 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 53 degrees
- Humidity 30 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds north at 20 mph
- Barometer 30.01 inches and steady
- Record High today 87° (1988)
- Record Low today -3° (1963)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	74°
Low Monday	40°
Precipitation	—
This month	.54
Year to date	1.52
Below normal	.31 of an inch

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, high near 70, low around 45.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high near 66, low around 32.
 Thursday: Mostly sunny, high near 58, low around 28.
 Friday: Partly cloudy, high near 61, low around 29.
 Saturday: Mostly sunny high near 51, low around 34.
 Sunday: Sunny, high near 66.

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

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$4.33 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.46
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Corn — \$3.76 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.62
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Milo — \$3.51 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$6.64 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.74
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - NuSun crop — \$15.90
 - 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



Fourth-grade choir sings

Fourth graders Kristina Stasser (left) and Stephani DeLaRosa sang a duet, "What if No One Cared?", with the choir last Tuesday night at the Goodland High auditorium. See photo, story on Page 3.

Clinic decision could take 90 days

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland's proposal for a Veterans Community Outreach Clinic is in the hand of the regional Department of Veterans Affairs office in Denver, with a decision expected by June.

Goodland and Burlington and Yuma, Colo., received word in December their towns were the short list for a new outreach clinic to serve a nine-county area on the eastern edge of Colorado and the west edge of Kansas.

Jay Jolly, administrator of the Goodland Regional Medical Center, said Friday the Goodland proposal was in Denver, and he was told the proposals from every site would be reviewed and scored in the next 30 days.

"The man in the outreach clinic office said he was impressed with our proposal," Jolly said. "He said the proposals would be reviewed and scored in the next month, and there would probably be a site visit of the top proposals."

"I got a sense from him that places other than Goodland, Burlington and Yuma sent in proposals for the clinic."

Jolly said he had talked Congressman Jerry Moran, who said he had been in contact with James Floyd, the acting network director in Denver, and said Floyd was aware of the community interest in Goodland.

"I know they were looking at the facilities we were offering," Jolly said. "I think we have indicated we could provide them with about

1,730 square feet, and do not think it would take much remodeling to provide what they are asking for."

"We were pleased with the community support. We wanted the Veterans Affairs to know this is not just a hospital proposal, but that it came from the whole community."

Jolly said he would encourage people to call the Denver regional office to support having the clinic located in Goodland. The number is (866) 301-9626.

The announcement about the clinic came from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson in Washington in mid December.

The agency said 4,000 veterans in the nine-county area are more than an hour's drive from government health care. Because 44 per-

cent of the area's population is 65 or older, is difficult for many to visit a distant facility, especially in the winter, Nicholson said.

The clinic will provide basic primary care and mental health services, the agency said, including medical evaluations and the diagnosis and treatment of conditions that do not require hospitalization or a specialist.

The clinic will be open five half-days a week, with a registered nurse on site during operating hours. Telemedicine will link it with doctors at other Veterans clinics and hospitals.

Community outreach clinics in Colorado already include Alamosa, Aurora, Colorado Springs, Durango, Fort Collins, Greeley, La Junta, Lakewood, Lamar, Montrose and Pueblo.

Adjutant general honors Goodland man

By Mark W. Reasoner

Kansas National Guard

A Goodland National Guard hero was one of two soldiers who received two medals, a Purple Heart and a Combat Action Badge, at a ceremony in Topeka earlier this month.

Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, adjutant general of Kansas, presented medals to Staff Sgt. Ernesto V. Gonzales of Goodland and Specialist Rodney A. Price of Gardner, both wounded during a mortar attack on their forward operating base in Iraq on Oct. 12.

Gen. Bunting was summoned to testify before the Kansas Senate at the same time the ceremony was to begin, but told the Senators they would have to wait. Nothing and nobody was going to get between him and his wounded soldiers, he said.

Col. Henry Martin, commander of the 287th Sustainment Brigade, opened the ceremony and shared his thoughts on the Purple Heart (given to those injured in combat), heroes, Staff Sgt. Gonzales and Spec. Price before introducing the adjutant general.

Gen. Bunting shared his thoughts about heroes and the conflicts raging around the world. He presented the Purple Hearts and then the Combat Action Badges, then a reception honored the men.

Sgt. Gonzales' guests included his



Maj. Gen. Todd Bunting, state adjutant general, talked with Staff Sgt. Eric Gonzales about his wounds after presenting the Goodland guardsman with a Purple Heart and Combat Action Badge at a ceremony in Topeka. Photo by Rick Reasoner/Kansas National Guard

fiancé, Stephanie Corcoran; mother and father, Mary and Marcos Gonzales; his daughters, Ashley and Erika, and son Alec; sister Andrea Barnett and family; brother-in-law

Reggie Boyed and family; and nieces Wendy and Becky. Also present from Goodland were Officer Candidate Donald J. Frecks and Mark W. Reasoner, unit admin-

istrator at the Goodland army.

On the day the two men were injured, they had just left a daily meeting at the command post of the 714th Security Force Company of the Kansas Army National Guard at Mosul, Iraq, when the base came under indirect mortar fire.

The group was moving to shelter when Gonzales and Price were hit by shrapnel. The men were treated by combat lifesavers of the 714th Security Force before being flown to Baghdad.

Sgt. Gonzales, who turned to his left just as the round landed, was sprayed with shrapnel all up and down his left side, including his face, neck, shoulder, arm, torso, hip, thigh and leg. The largest piece wedged behind his left kneecap, but the most serious wound was a piece that entered his left elbow and severed the nerve to his left hand and wrist.

He still has shrapnel in his face, neck, arm, thigh and upper leg. Spec. Price sustained wounds to his legs, stomach and chest, as well as a collapsed right lung. Price still carries shrapnel in his body as well, including both his heart and lung. Both soldiers were flown to Germany for more intensive care before moving on to Fort Gordon, Ga.

Both Gonzales and Price have been reassigned back to Kansas and are receiving follow-up care under

the Army's Community Based Health Care Organization.

Gonzales first enlisted in the Army as a cannon crewman, and left as a sergeant after seven years and three months. He then enlisted for a year in the Colorado Army National Guard as a cannon crewman.

Gonzales enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard on Nov. 18, 1996 as a utilities equipment repairman. He volunteered for deployment when the 995th Maintenance Company was notified for a six-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

This deployment involved the upkeep of equipment for an entire active duty engineer brigade that had returned from years of service in Iraq. The task was completed well ahead of the end of the six months projected.

Gonzales was awarded the Army Commendation Medal during this deployment.

Almost a year after he first volunteered, Gonzales again volunteered for deployment when the 714th Maintenance Company was called for service in Iraq. Gonzales was selected from among his peers to serve as a platoon sergeant and convoy commander for the company, which was retrained and designated as the 714th Security Force Company and tasked with providing convoy escort security in Iraq.

Ducks Unlimited banquet raises money to save habitat

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

Hunters and their families gathered to eat, have fun and support preservation of habitat for ducks and wildlife Saturday as the Northwest Kansas Chapter of Ducks Unlimited had its third fund-raising banquet at the Goodland Elks Lodge.

The chapter has 170 members, mostly from Sherman and Thomas counties, with a few from St. Francis, said Bill Jenkins, a member of the banquet committee.

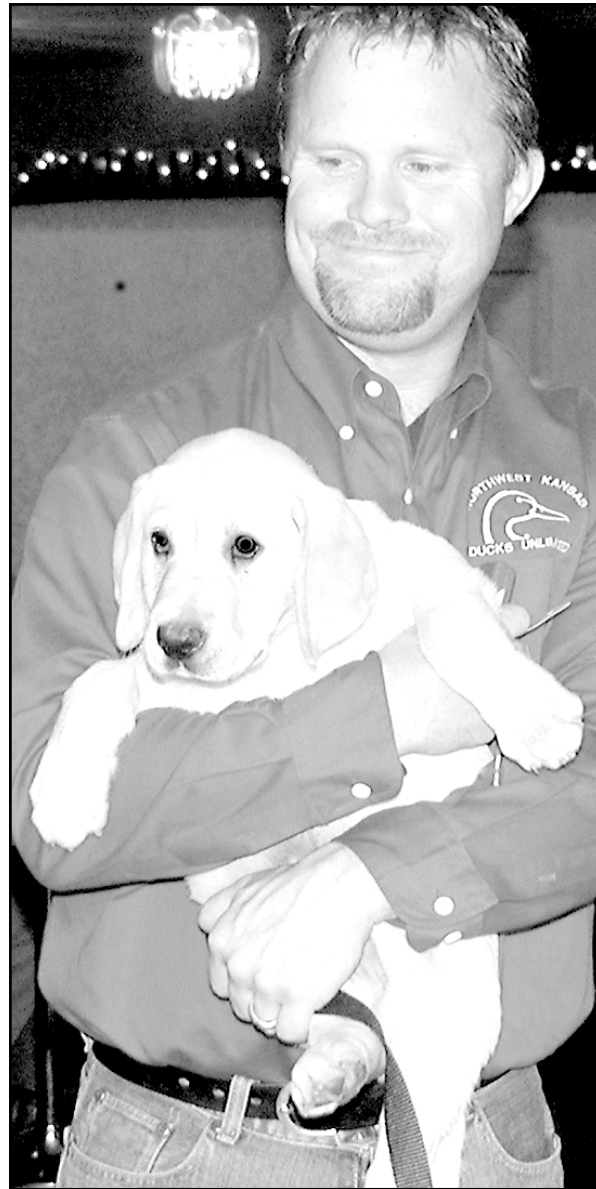
One of the items in a live auction was a 3-month-old yellow Labrador puppy from Lankas Lab. Jim Kennedy had winning bid. He and his family had been taking care of the puppy for a couple of weeks before the auction, Jenkins said, and his daughter had fallen in love with it. Dad paid \$1,350 to take the furry little dog back home.

Diners got to whet their appetites on cheeses, vegetables and smoked salmon while they looked at displays and placed their bids for the silent auction. The auctioneer for the live sale was Bruce Corman from Burlington. Included in the auction were several Ducks Unlimited art prints, sculptures, knives, duck decoys, rifles, a Canada goose hunt, a hunt near the Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge, crop seed and asphalt millings.

The meal was barbecue pork and beef prepared by Ron Ludwig of Stratton, Colo. Jenkins said he thought around 175 people showed up for the banquet.

The northwest group is among the top five money-raising chapters in the state, behind Overland Park, Topeka and Kansas City, he said.

Jenkins said that Ducks Unlimited spends most of its money on breeding grounds and wintering areas for waterfowl. Projects the group has given money to in Kansas include the McPherson Wetlands area, Kanopolis Lake and Kirwin. Most of the Kansas projects are done with the state Department of Wildlife and Parks.



Brett Poling, owner of Lankas Labs and Poling Chiropractic of St. Francis, held a 3-month-old yellow Labrador retriever puppy that was auctioned at the Ducks Unlimited banquet Saturday night at the Goodland Elks Hall.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Water-system project top issue in Kanorado

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Finishing the project for the new water system tops the agenda for both candidates for mayor of Kanorado, and both would like to see more improvements in the future.

Whether or not the mayor should work out of town has also been an issue.

Dennis Korbelik, a retired farmer, says the town needs to work on the streets and drainage system, and the trash transfer station needs to be repaired or replaced. He said he feels it is important for the mayor to be in town most of the time.

Sandra Bagley, cafeteria manager at the Northwest Kansas Technical College, says the town needs beautification, especially on Main Street, and some new businesses. She said she feels one of Kanorado's strengths is it is a good location for people to

drive to work in either Burlington or Goodland.

The winner will replace Bob Helderman, who finished Hazel Estes' term and then filled the seat the last two years.

There are holes in the paved streets, Korbelik said, and washboard areas in the gravel streets. This has been going on for years, he added, and something needs to be done to get the streets "halfway up to par."

"We'd probably have to get a grant or something," he said.

Everyone wants pavement, Bagley said, but that costs money, and people don't want to pay extra taxes. The city could get grants for part of the cost, she said, but the people in Kanorado would have to pay some, too.

Drainage is also a problem, Korbelik said, which the snow this

See KANORADO, Page 11

Incumbents seek re-election to Goodland commission

Without any competition for the three seats on the Goodland City Commission, the only question in Tuesday's election will be which two candidates win four-year terms and which one gets a two-year term.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks, owner of Teeters Abstract and Title Co.; Dave Daniels, a rental property owner; and Mayor Rick Billinger, manager of Nationwide Homes, all filed back in January.

Fairbanks won the third slot two years ago by one vote over Gary Farris, owner of Farris Manufacturing.

"I feel like I am getting to know stuff," Fairbanks said, "and I would like to give it a few more years. It is up to the voters. It has been very educational and I feel like I am giving back to the community."

Billinger, 55, has served on the commission for 16 years. He has been involved in several businesses in Goodland since 1975. Billinger was elected mayor by the City Commission four years ago.

Daniels, 48, has served four years

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