

Specialist offers latest eye surgery and treatment

By Sharon Corcoran

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Dr. Robert E. Wise, a corneal specialist, has been treating patients at the Goodland Regional Medical Center's specialty clinic for four months, bringing the latest eye surgeries and treatments to northwest Kansas.

Wise, who practices in downtown Denver with the Wise Vision Group, says he has performed laser vision correction for 12 years, corneal transplants for 15, cataract surgeries for 19 and a new procedure, known as decemets stripping endothelial keratoplasty, for two.

There are always new things coming along, he said, and every few months there's something new you have to learn and master.

"It's like everything else," Wise said — "it keeps changing, so you have to keep current. It's fun and hard at the same time."

Eye surgery is a rewarding profession, he said, because you help a lot of people and they see improvement quickly.

Wise said he does several laser vision corrections and cataract surgeries a week and two to three corneal transplants a month. They are common today, he said.

The most common type of laser eye surgery is LASIK, he said, which corrects vision using a cool beam of light from the Excimer laser

to reshape the corneal tissue beneath the surface.

Wise also performs photo-refractive keratectomy, which treats refractive errors by using a laser to remove tissue from the surface of the cornea, allowing the eye to focus more directly on the retina. It is effective in treating nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism, he said, and is a good alternative for patients with thin, steep or flat corneas who are not candidates for LASIK.

The procedure can be customized, Wise said, by creating a three-dimensional map of your eye with Wavefront technology.

There are new techniques in corneal surgery, he said. Since the cornea has several layers, you can replace just the front surface or just the back. In Descemet's stripping automated endothelial keratoplasty, he said, the patient lays on his back, and a bubble pushes the new cornea into place so the transplant does not require stitches.

For most corneal transplants, Wise said, corneas from organ donors are used, but there are also plastic corneas that can be put on the front of the eye. It is a prosthesis that is like a telescope embedded into the eye, he said, but is only used when there is so much abnormality to the surface of the eye the patient would otherwise be blind.

The procedure costs \$15,000, he said, and for insurance to cover it, you have to explain what it is.

Wise said he is hoping to bring some of these services to Goodland and surrounding areas. He can do some surgeries here, but not laser surgeries. They don't have the equipment here for that, he said.

However, Wise said, he can evaluate patients here to see if they are candidates for laser surgery and make arrangements for the surgery in Denver. Their follow up care could be done in Goodland, he said, making the trip for surgery the only one they would need to make.

Wise said he also treats glaucoma and handles a lot of trauma cases in Denver. Most of the trauma cases are from industrial or occupational accidents, he said, adding he sees three to five new patients a day from accidents. He is also on call at the hospitals, working frequently with St. Anthony Central.

Wise has been in private practice in Denver since 1995. He received his medical training in Johannesburg, South Africa, and completed an internship in internal medicine at the University of Colorado, followed by a four-year residency in ophthalmology at the University of Texas, Southwestern at Dallas. He then completed a fellowship in corneal disease and surgery at the University of Texas, Southwestern.



Dr. Robert Wise, a corneal specialist, examined a patient's eyes Friday at the Goodland Regional Medical Center's clinic.
Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Fall cleanup community service project by high school students set for Oct. 24

By Ramona C. Sanders

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Goodland High School students will be bringing rakes to school instead of books on Monday, Oct. 24, as part of the Goodland Fall Cleanup.

More than 350 students will spend the day in their neighbors' yards, raking and hauling tree limbs and other yard debris. This is the second year that the students have participated in the school-sponsored service project.

"We're trying to teach the kids they can do the work for free and for other people," said science and physical education teacher Connie Livengood. "They learn the responsibility of helping other people."

Livengood said the students will focus first on the yards of the elderly and disabled, but the services may be available to any community member depending on how many requests they receive. Anyone interested in having their yard cleaned can call the high school office at 890-5656.

Bonnie Daily, 78, was one recipient of the free yard services last year.

"They got all the trash for me because I couldn't do it last year," she said, "and I sure do appreciate the



Goodland High School students Forrest Trachsel and Michael Ledesma pitched in during last year's fall cleanup event.
Photo by The Goodland Star-News

How to help

The Goodland Fall Cleanup, a community service project for high school students, is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 24. Student volunteers will rake yards and haul off debris. The project needs volunteers with pickup trucks to help haul equipment. Anyone interested in having their yard cleaned or in helping out can call the Goodland High School office at 890-5656.

fact that someone would do it for me."

Esther Splatts-toesser, who is in her 80s, was especially pleased with the students' attitudes as they trimmed her bushes and raked her leaves.

"I think it's wonderful that they have the ambition and the strength and the energy," she said.

Livengood said that the project was created to promote a positive atmosphere at the school. It was the brainchild of the school's attitude committee, which Livengood chairs.

"The attitude committee pro-

motes rewards for good grades and a positive attitude for our school, and community service is a part of that," Livengood said.

Last year, the students raked 15,000 pounds of leaves and hauled 2,000 pounds of metal and 2,000 pounds of lumber and construction material, she said. This year, the project could use volunteers with pickups to help

haul equipment.

Volunteers and community members helped out last year by baking cookies and providing treats for the students, and several businesses made donations. Help was also provided by the city and county.

"It was really neat to see the city, county, school system and all the people in the community work together on it," Livengood said.

Breakfast to bolster coffers for skate park

By Ramona C. Sanders

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They've washed cars, cleaned a mile-long pasture, held a skateboarding exhibition and manned booths at both the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair and the Flatlander Fall Festival.

Now the Shine On Sherman County youth committee is asking people to help raise money for the proposed Goodland Skate Park by sitting down and having breakfast with them.

The fund-raising breakfast will be from 5:30-10:30 a.m. on Nov. 10 at the Sugar Hills Golf Club. Tickets are \$5.

Committee co-chair and high school teacher Connie Livengood said the group hopes to sell 500 tickets, which would add \$2,500 to the \$12,000 they've already raised. The total cost of the park is expected to be \$47,000.

The committee hopes to begin construction on the first of three phases this spring, including the concrete base, two half-pipes and a "fun box," at a cost between \$20,000 and \$22,000. The park will be at Steever Park on land donated by the city.

On Friday, the diverse group of elementary and high school students, teachers, community members and business and civic leaders held an early-morning meeting at the high school to talk about what they've achieved and what they hope to accomplish.

"You kids, your hard work paid off," Livengood said. "I would have never thought we would have raised \$12,000 by now."

Committee members said the feat is a result of a citywide effort on the part of students, neighbors, businesses and civic groups. In addition to fund raising, the group has received donations from several area businesses and the city.

The skate park was one of the first goals of the Shine On Sherman County youth committee. When the group passed a petition about interest in the park, it received more than 160 signatures in four days, Livengood said.

"We're embracing this interest; it's a positive interest," said school Superintendent Shelly Angelos.

Helen Dobbs, Sherman County Economic Development Council executive assistant, agreed: "What's important to me is that, as adults, we listened to what the kids want."

The students said there is a real need for a dedicated area where skateboarders can enjoy their sport.

"Now we'll have a place to go and not get into trouble," said high school student Jordan Cochran.

"We struggled a lot from getting kicked out of places (to skateboard)," added Cisco Medrano, also a student at the high school.

Calvary Gospel Church youth pastor Ben Coats pointed out another reason the park will be valuable to the community.

"This gives them a safe environment to (skateboard)," Coats said.

And although all of the youth committee members have put in hard work, not all are skateboarders.

"I don't skate, but we wanted to do something for the kids," said high school student Courtney Sheldon. "There's stuff to do around here, but not much."

That's why skateboarder and high school student Lucas Medrano is impressed with the effort.

"I just want to say thanks," he told the committee. "Me and all my skater friends really appreciate what you're doing."

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines have been paid in the Sherman County District Court:

June 13: Roxanne Murphy was fined \$132 for speeding.

June 14: Sung C. Lee was fined \$144 for speeding.

June 16: Cimian L. Ferguson

was fined \$132 for speeding.

June 17: Avraham Y. Karsh was fined \$132 for speeding.

June 18: Christopher M. Hyner was fined \$138 for speeding.

June 21: Jennifer A. Martinez was fined \$138 for speeding and \$100 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

June 22: Xinyang Jia was fined

\$120 for improper parking.

June 23: Jonathon W. Janson was fined \$140 for speeding.

Taquiuddin Mohammad was fined \$144 for speeding.

Frontier Ag Inc. would like to thank the Participants, Judges and Companies that helped make the 18th Annual Flatlanders Chili Cookoff so successful!

Participants:

The Scouler Company
City of Goodland
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KLOE/KKCI/KWGB
Trachsel A&B
The Insurance Agency
Smitty's Sports
Unruh Chiropractic
SunOpta
People's State Bank
Wal-Mart
Finley Motors Inc.
Rasure Lumber
Dollar General

Frontier Ag would like to thank the following companies for their \$50 or more donations:
Cochran Farm Supply
Dr. Terry Imels
Vignery & Mason, LLC
Truck & Tractor Inc.
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Frontier Ag would also like to thank other citizens that chose to help out with other amounts.

All in all, Frontier Ag Inc. collected \$1,127 which will be presented to USD 352 for the Literacy Program!!

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