

## weather report

**81°**  
noon  
Monday



### Today

- Sunset, 8:15 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 5:29 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:15 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 71 degrees
- Humidity 54 percent
- Sky partly sunny
- Winds northwest 7 mph
- Barometer 29.94 steady
- Record High today 106° (1897)
- Record Low today 42° (1952)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High Monday	97°
Low Monday	55°
Precipitation	.37 inches
This month	1.94 inches
Year to date	6.22 inches
Below normal	4.79 inches

### The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly sunny. High upper 80's. Winds east 10-15 mph. Tuesday night: Partly cloudy, lows in the lower 60's, winds southeast at 10-15 mph, shifting southwest after midnight. Wednesday: mostly sunny, high upper 80's, winds southeast 10-15. Wednesday night: partly cloudy, low temperature in lower 60's.

### Extended Forecast

Thursday night through Friday: mostly sunny, high in mid 90's. Mostly clear, breezy, low's in mid 60's. High in upper 90's.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets

### Noon

- Wheat — \$7.81 bushel
- Posted county price — \$8.27
- Corn — \$6.70 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.54
- Milo — \$6.25 bushel
- Soybeans — \$14.47 bushel
- Posted county price — \$12.41
- Millet — \$10.75 cwt.
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$30.00 cwt.
- NuSun — \$30.00 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scouler Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

## inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



## Granada wins tourney

Granada pitcher Chris DeLeon tried to pick off Goodland American Legion player Tanner Smith at first base in the first inning on Saturday, but Tyson Thrall missed the ball and Smith advanced to second. See photo, story on Page 12.



# Cheer signals festival finale

By Tom Betz

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A wild cheer came from the grandstand from more than 500 people who watched the Freedom Fest fireworks show on Friday as the finale to a great evening rose to the sky.

The spectacular fireworks, produced by Goodland native, Joe Diaz, began about 9:30 p.m. and lasted about 20 minutes with continuous displays in the sky and an American flag ground display set up in the arena.

The 4-H Ambassadors opened the evening with a fund-raising hamburger feed. The group ran out of hamburgers in a little less than two hours, selling 630 patties they had brought. They had a few hot dogs left, but chief cook Steve Duell said the feed had gone even better than last year.

Brad Shields, chairman of the Freedom Fest committee, said he was more than pleased with the crowds, and that he had talked to people from out of the area who had heard about the show and stopped to spend the night.

He estimated the total crowd at more than 1,000 for the carnival and entertainment. He said the carnival people were counting, but felt it was a record night selling over 900

First to ride the Graviton-type ride (above), which is new to the carnival this year, were (below left to right) Autumn, Debyn and Steven

Johnson and Darin Stewart. The ride twirls and tilts into the air. Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



wristbands for the rides.

The carnival rides opened at 6 p.m., and lines quickly formed at most rides, especially the newest ones, a Graviton-type ride and a new kids' Space Train.

First in line at the Graviton-type ride were Autumn Johnson, 9; Debyn Johnson, 13; Steven Johnson, 12; Darin Stewart, 13; and Katie Baird, 18.

Some of the kids said they had been on similar rides at larger carnivals and knew what to expect, as the ride spins and then lifts and tilts at an angle, with centrifugal force holding the riders in place.

At the end of their ride, most came off smiling, but Debyn Johnson said it was a different sensation than she

had expected.

The Goodland Rotary Club sliced up 15 watermelons donated by Wal-Mart, and members Steve West and Wayne Aten said they had gone through more than half of them in about 45 minutes.

Before the rides opened, Curtis Duncan of KLOE radio, welcomed the crowd. The Goodland Veterans of Foreign Wars presented the colors and Janet Redlin sang the National Anthem.

The band Pieces of Eight, featuring Richard Johnson, Andrew Melia, Charlie Baker all of Goodland and Howard Culver of Colby, took to the stage to open the entertainment and played until 7:30 p.m. After an

exchange of equipment, the Blue Healers band from Hays played until about 9:15 p.m.

The Kiwanis Snack Shack was open, but member Bruce Gleason said they were not selling hamburgers. He said they were selling nachos and trying out large pretzels to see how they went. He said the evening had gone well, and they may add the pretzels to their menu for the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair in August.

People began filling the grandstands about 9 p.m., and cars gathered in the fields to the north and east, plus a number who parked in the newly lighted fairgrounds parking area to the south.

As the lights went off, the fireworks show began with a flourish that brought cheers from the crowd and horn honks from the surrounding fields.

Schildts said enough money had come in to pay for this year's show, and there was a nice start to raising the fund for next year.

Aaron Duell, committee member, said the donations of those going into the grand stand brought in about \$500, and the fireworks fund should have about \$2,000 to start on next year's show. He said the fund could grow more as other donations come in and the committee hopes to have about \$3,000 by the end of the summer. The fireworks show costs \$7,000.

# Robbery suspects lead chase to Burlington

By Tom Betz

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A van fleeing after two armed robberies at the I-70 rest area west of Colby led troopers from two states, sheriff's deputies and city police on a chase from Goodland through Burlington, where the driver lost control and ran into some pipes near the road.

The driver and a passenger had to be flown to a Denver hospital after the crash, but a third person, a woman in her 20s, was locked up in the Kit Carson County Jail.

A report of the robberies was broadcast from Thomas County about 7:30 a.m. Sunday, and within 20 minutes officers spotted the minivan driving off I-70 into Goodland. When a trooper tried to approach the van, the driver sped off, leading a chase that ended near Burlington.

Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn said Sunday his office got an emergency call reporting the robberies at the rest area west of Colby.

Baughn said John D. Stephens, 50, Colby, reported he had been hit on the head and

robbed while cleaning the restrooms. Deborah L. Hall, 37, Bartlesville, Okla., said she had been threatened with a sharp object and robbed at the rest area. Hall said she had four children in the car, ages 4, 11, 15, and 16, but no one was hurt.

About 8 a.m., Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Eric Hodges and Sherman County Undersheriff Roger Studer spotted a minivan matching the description and followed it down the off ramp at the west Goodland exit.

Studer said the van pulled into a gas station and he was getting ready to ask dispatch to check the license plate as Hodges approached the van.

"I was getting ready to run the plates," Studer said, "and Hodges was walking up to the van."

The driver took off, Studer said, and he and Trooper Hodges followed it onto I-70, headed toward Colorado. The chase hit speeds of 120 mph, Studer reported.

He said the driver tried getting off at Caruso, but came right back onto I-70 at

high speed.

Hodges and Studer got permission to follow the van into Colorado and dispatchers asked the Colorado State Patrol to set up a roadblock.

Studer said the van was cutting off cars and trucks he passed, and he was worried the driver was going to cause an accident.

"If it had been a simple traffic stop, we would have called ahead and let Colorado handle it," Studer said, "but when it is an armed robbery, we had to take action."

"I am glad no one else got injured."

The van continuing at speeds near 120 mph, crossing into Colorado about 8:13 a.m. with the Kansas officers close behind.

About 10 miles west of Burlington, the a couple of trucks had the highway blocked, but the van drove around on the shoulder and continued toward Burlington.

Colorado troopers set up "stop sticks," equipped with sharp spikes to puncture tires, a couple of miles west of Burlington to try to stop the van. It hit the sticks about 8:20 a.m. Troopers said one front tire went flat, but the

driver kept going, still pushing 100 mph.

The van lost a second tire about a mile later and the speed dropped down to about 60, with both front wheels running on the rims, Trooper Hodges reported.

The van took the off ramp at Rose Ave. and turned north through a Burlington residential area a 70 mph.

Hodges reported the Colorado troopers were behind the van and the Burlington police joined the chase on U.S. 24. The driver ran a stop light at Lincoln Street and continued north.

A minute later, Hodges said the van had run into some pipes in a private lot to the west of the road. When the driver tried to run, Hodges said, he shot him with a Taser stun weapon.

The van had South Carolina plates, Hodges said. The driver, William R. Blake, 52, and a passenger, Sharon A. Horne, 38, were taken to the Burlington hospital, then flown to St. Anthony Central Hospital in Denver for treatment of injuries from the crash. Blake was