

weather
report

29°

noon
Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 5:12 p.m.
- Sunrise, 6:50 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:13 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 31 degrees
- Humidity 92 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds south 20 mph
- Barometer 29.81 inches and falling
- Record High today 74° (1963)
- Record Low today -22° (1982)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 46°
- Low Wednesday 18°
- Precipitation .09
- This month .09
- Year to date .27
- Below Normal .23 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Cloudy then becoming mostly sunny, a high near 39, winds out of north at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 22. Saturday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of snow, a high near 41, winds out of south at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 22.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow before 11 a.m. and then a slight chance of rain and snow, a high near 34 and a low around 15. Monday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow and a high near 29. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

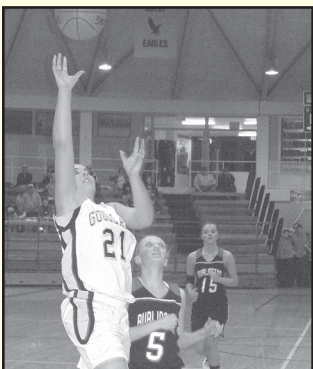
local
markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$3.81 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.95
- Corn — \$2.96 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.34
- Milo — \$2.67 bushel
- Soybeans — \$8.06 bushel
- Posted county price — \$8.39
- Millet — \$5 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$14.35 cwt.
- Confection — \$28/\$15 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside
today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowgirls win
in overtime

Cowgirl Jennifer Rome got a pass and raced for a lay up. She was fouled and made the free throw as the Cowgirls won in overtime 66-64. See photos, story on Page 11.



Courtroom drama unfolding

By Ava Betz

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Fourteen Sherman County residents are spending the week on the second floor of the courthouse in the court of District Judge Scott Showalter listening to a tale of sexual allegations which spans four years and two states.

Witness testimony was expected to end Thursday afternoon or Friday morning. Closing arguments would then be presented followed by jury instructions from Judge Showalter before the case is turned over to the jury for deliberation.

The judge has continually cautioned the jury members throughout the trial not to discuss the case and not to seek information about the case outside the courtroom.

Representing the State are prosecuting attorneys Amy Hanley and Christine Ladner of the Attorney General's office in Topeka.

Goodland attorney Jeff Mason is representing defendant Steven Moyer.

The charges are one count of aggravated criminal sodomy, one count of aggravated indecent liberties with a child, and three counts of criminal sodomy. The sodomy counts are attached to specific dates in 2008 and 2009.

Monday the 12 jurors and two alternates were selected from a pool of Sherman County citizens.

First day of trial

Tuesday morning Ladner gave the state's opening statement, telling the jury, "This case is about long-term sexual abuse." Alleged abuse of the victim began in Denver when she was 11 years old and continued into her 14th year. During that time the family moved from Denver to Goodland.

Ladner listed condoms and a tape recording the alleged victim had collected to back her up when she revealed the abuse to her mother. In addition to various rooms in the house, the abuse is alleged to have taken place in a shed behind the house. Also involved in the case is a "contract" which assigns a number and a points system to each sexual act the defendant allegedly required his daughter to perform, Ladner said. On Sunday, April 5, 2009, the girl told her mother of the abuse and gave her the evidence she had collected. Her mother contacted Investigator Burton Pianalto of the Sherman County Sheriff's Office. Ladner then outlined the steps that were taken by various agencies to investigate the accusation.

Mason next addressed the jury, responding there was more than one version of the events in question. The state has the burden of proof in establishing what happened, he reminded them. He said his client and his client's daughter were working on math problems

in the shed when the recording was made. Because the October weather was cold, his client bolted the door shut. The "contract" was a piece of paper generated because the children were having trouble with Internet viruses getting on their computer. Mason said that Moyer's wife, Jessica, was unhappy in her marriage and had talked to her husband and to the children about divorce. Further, the day the alleged victim revealed the abuse to her mother, the family had been further stressed by mishaps when they tried to tow a disabled van from Moyer's work place back to the house.

"I want you to compare the information you're going to get from the state to the information you will ultimately get from me and Mr. Moyer," Mason told the jury.

When opening remarks were concluded, the state called its first witness, Special Agent Mark Kendrick of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI). Kendrick explained the investigation procedures which ensued after the KBI was contacted by Pianalto about a possible sexual abuse case. The alleged victim was interviewed and examined by a nurse at the Child Advocacy Center in Colby. Search warrants were obtained for the property, family vehicle and DNA of the accused. Photos taken during the property search were identi-

fied and submitted into evidence. DNA was volunteered and taken from the mother and daughter, he said. The search took the better part of two days.

KBI forensic scientist James Newman was the next witness to take the stand. He said he participated in the search, specifically in the areas of collecting samples for DNA testing and searching for biological materials pertaining to sexual assault such as saliva, seminal fluid, blood, etc. He listed non-biological materials collected during the search, including a calendar belonging to the victim, a journal belonging to her mother and a day planner belonging to the defendant. He showed the jury a diagram he made of the house and pointed out the areas he searched for biological materials. No biological materials such as seminal fluid were found, he said, though due to the use of cleaning materials, places in the bathroom "glowed" when reactive chemicals were applied.

The next witness called was Jessica Moyer, wife of the defendant. She gave some family background, including the names and birthdays of her five children. She said while the family lived in Colorado she asked her husband to pay attention to his children. He

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City helps sponsor Chute Out

By Tom Betz

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City commissioners agreed to donate \$1,000 to the Thunder on the Plains group for their Professional Bull Rider event to be held at 6:30 p.m., on Wednesday, Aug. 4, during the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair.

Randy Whitmore, representing the Thunder on the Plains group, showed up a bit late to the city meeting. He said he thought it started at 6 p.m. instead of 5 p.m. The commissioners were in closed session to talk about purchasing land from the Goodland School District, when Whitmore came to the meeting.

When the commissioners returned and opened the meeting Whitmore explained he was sorry he was late, but was there asking the city to be a sponsor for the event.

He said the event went well last year, and the group had made enough money to get the basic costs covered.

Commissioner John Garcia said he thought the event last year had brought some top names to town.

Whitmore said that a number of the top cowboys had been at the Goodland event, and that one of the bulls "Chicken on a Train" had been up for bull of the year and had finished high in the finals.

He said the top purse has gone up to \$15,000 this year, and that the BPR had changed the divisions so the Goodland event would be in Division One, and be the same level as the Denver National Western Stock Show.

He said the plan is to do the tickets over the Internet through Terri Richardson and Homestead Realty. He said it worked pretty well last year.

Mayor Josh Decant said the city had given \$1,000 last year and asked if the commissioners were OK with that.

Garcia said the city got some tickets last year.

Whitmore said the city got six tickets and he remembered the city did a drawing with the names of those who paid their bills or entered at the city office.

Decant asked if the bull riding event had been put in the budget.

City Clerk Mary Volk said it was not in specifically, but was talked about during the budget meetings.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he thought it was a good program and felt the city ought to do it again.

Whitmore said the group wanted to spread out a bit and try to get more people and get the motels involved. He said the group was going to try to reach people from Limon to Salina.

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Building going up, house going out

Workers for Miller Construction (above) cleaned off the foundation for the L&W Insurance office last week, and began construction of a new building at the corner of Eighth and Main Ave. At the corner of 11th and Walnut Mike Yarger is removing the foundation from a home that was on the corner and had been condemned by the city. Yarger was the successful bidder to demolish and remove the house.

Photos by Pst Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News

