

# Have you voted?

Polls are open until 7 p.m. at VFW Hall

## The Goodland Star-News

**MIDWEEK**  
**Tuesday, April 5**  
**2005**

**75¢**

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Twelve Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

### weather report

**75°**

noon Monday

#### Today

• Sunset, 7:13 p.m.

#### Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:24 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:14 p.m.

#### Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 51 degrees

• Humidity 16 percent

• Sky partly cloudy

• Winds light and variable

• Barometer 29.63 inches

and falling

• Record High today 86° (1932)

• Record Low today 18° (1945)

#### Last 24 Hours\*

High Sunday 73°

Low Sunday 31°

Precipitation none

This month none

Year to date .59

Normal 2.23

#### The Topside Forecast

Today: Cloudy and windy with a 80 percent chance of showers after 4 p.m., high around 52, low near 34, winds north northwest 23-61. Wednesday: Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain before 9 a.m., high near 59, low around 28, winds north 28-46 mph.

#### Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny, high around 65, low around 34. Friday: Mostly sunny, high around 73, low near 39.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

### local markets

#### Noon

Wheat — \$2.85 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.01

Corn — \$1.82 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.87

Milo — \$1.54 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.39 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.48

Millet — \$5.25 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$9.90 cwt.

NuSun — \$10.90 cwt.

Confection — \$19/\$13 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$25

(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



## Cowboys open track season

Sophomore Stephanie Sheldon cleared 7 feet to finish in a tie for sixth in the pole vault at the Ogallala Invitational on Saturday in Nebraska. Story, photos on Page 11.

# Drunk driver pleads no contest

By Kathryn Burke

*The Goodland Star-News*

Through teary eyes, a 28-year-old Colorado woman pleaded no contest Monday morning to three counts of felony involuntary manslaughter in a deadly car accident on I-70 last summer.

Jennifer Adams wiped her cheeks repeatedly as Judge Jack Burr accepted her plea to the felony counts and entered a finding of guilty on all six charges against her.

Along with manslaughter, a lesser charge than the original counts of second-degree murder, Adams pleaded no contest in Sherman County District Court to one charge of aggravated battery, also a level 5 person felony, and driving under the influence of alcohol, and transporting an open container, both misdemeanors.

Court records show that Adams' blood alcohol tested more than three times the legal limit when her car struck a Ford Explorer from behind on June 11, knocking it out of control and killing the three Goodland women.

On the other side of the barrier, the courthouse was filled with family and friends of the victims, Christine Williams, her mother,



Jennifer Adams at crash scene

Mary Wyatt, and her grandmother, Aline Becker. The accident also injured Williams' children, Garrett, 8, and Caylee, 6, but they were not present in court.

Williams was a science teacher at Goodland High School, and Wyatt was an aide at West Elementary.

As they filed into the courtroom, the supporters took up the first five rows on the prosecution side.

The court session opened Monday with County Attorney Bonnie Selby moving to

dismiss the second-degree murder charges in favor of three counts of involuntary manslaughter.

Judge Burr agreed and read the other charges, asking Adams if she was aware of what she was facing.

"Yes, sir," she said.

Burr asked if she was aware she signed a defendant's acknowledgment of rights.

"Yes," she answered.

The plea was entered by Adams' attorney, Christopher McHugh.

"To count one A, two B, three C, four, five and six," he said, "our client's plea is no contest."

"Ms. Adams, is that what you want to do," asked Burr.

"Yes," Adams answered almost inaudibly.

Burr asked if she understood that she was giving up her right to a trial by jury, a chance to make the state prove her guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, the right to question witnesses, present witnesses on her behalf and to testify herself.

"Yes, sir," she said.

Burr said Adams was giving up her right to appeal the case, too. He asked if she had

been threatened or promised anything to plea.

"No, sir," she said.

"This is what you choose to do?" he asked.

"Yes, sir," she said.

"You are telling me that you are not contesting the allegations made in these charges," said Burr. "You are satisfied with those allegations?"

"Yes," she said.

Burr explained that the sentencing for the charges could be anywhere from 38 to 172 months in prison, depending on her criminal history. He said Adams could be facing a fine along with the jail time.

Burr asked Adams if she remembers any of the events of that day.

"My memory's not very clear," she said, still crying. After further questioning, she said that she was aware of what the charges contain.

At a preliminary hearing in October, testimony revealed that Adams has been stopped and ticketed twice that day for speeding on I-70 west of WaKeeney, and that her car was moving fast and nearly out

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# Five school hopefuls tackle tough questions

By Kathryn Burke

*The Goodland Star-News*

With only three seats up for grabs, candidates for the Goodland School board tackled question on the "One-to-One" initiative, academic eligibility, declining enrollment and financial responsibility in a one-hour forum Thursday.

The candidate forum, put on by the 2005 class of Leadership Sherman County and the Sherman County Farm Bureau, put candidates to the test with prepared questions and some from the audience.

All of the candidates for school board attended except for Sheriff's

Deputy Jason Showalter, who was working.

**Q — Describe your philosophy of what a good board of education should look like, including goals, priorities, methods and responsibility to the community.**

The first candidate under fire was LeAnn Friedrichs, a deputy court clerk, who said she believes the board's priorities should be provide the best education possible from kindergarten through high school.

"I think a good school board listens to everybody," she said. "The school board is probably one of the most important groups in the community."

Andrew House, a Goodland native and farmer, said his goal for the board would be to teach kids the basics.

"The whole goal is to teach essential and necessary skills it takes to be active in the community as adults," he said.

Amy (House) Sederstrom, a housewife, farmer and part-time office manager at Truck and Tractor Repair, said she supports a good foundation in grades one through three.

"My philosophy on a good edu-

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# No identity confirmed for bones found in field

Sheriff Kevin Butts said Monday he had not heard from a Kansas State University expert who is trying to identify skeletal remains found northwest of Goodland last week.

The discovery may answer questions about what happened to Jimmy McClelland, 44, who has been missing for over a year. McClelland disappeared the night of Nov. 23, 2003, a few miles east of where the bones were found by a farmer working the field.

He had been in an argument with the homeowner, and sheriff's deputies looked for him that night

and the next day. Later, a posse searched the area, coming as close as a half mile to where the body was found.



Ault

Dr. Micheal Finnegan, a forensic anthropologist, took the skeleton back to Manhattan for identification and possibly determination of the cause of death. The sheriff said Finnegan had hoped to begin the examination on Friday, but it may take longer than expected.

Meanwhile, Marco Ault Jr.'s family is still wondering where he

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## K-27 bridge taking shape



Juan Zuniga, crew leader for L and M Construction of Great Bend, told Carlos Sandoval and Artemis Arzata to lower the level on one of the pilings of the north portion of the new bridge on K-27 over the North Fork of the Smoky Hill River. Ivan Flores (on ladder) checked the level of the tops of the beams.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

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