

weather
report

57°

noon Thursday



Today

- Sunset, 7:51 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 5:34 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:52 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 65 degrees
- Humidity 51 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds northwest 16 mph.
- Barometer 30.02 inches and rising
- Record High today 97° (1941)
- Record Low today 25° (1953)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	81°
Low Wednesday	42°
Precipitation	none
This month	1.11
Year to date	3.82
Normal	4.66

The Topside Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy with a patchy fog before 9 a.m., high around 62, low near 40, winds north northwest 9-29 mph. Saturday: Mostly sunny, high near 69, low around 42, winds north northwest 6-10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Partly cloudy, high near 76, low around 48. Monday: Partly cloudy, high near 84, low near 52.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings compiled by midnight



Members of the Kansas National Guard (above) escorted the casket of Sgt. Derrick Lutters in Max Jones Fieldhouse Thursday morning. The front two guardsmen were Specialist Bryan Varney and Staff Sgt. Rick Reasoner. Chuck Lutters, (right) holds the Purple Heart and Meritorious Service Medals presented to him by the Kansas Adjutant General on behalf of the U.S. Army.

Photos by Tom Betz/ The Goodland Star-News



Town lays fallen soldier to rest

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Chuck Lutters said goodbye to his son with a kiss as he leaned over the flag-draped coffin.

Even before 8 a.m. Thursday, cars were lining up at the Max Jones Fieldhouse for the funeral Mass for Derrick Lutters, who was killed by a car bomb in Iraq on May 1.

The line to get into the packed gym extended into the street as people stopped to pin on ribbons and sign the guest book.

On the gym floor, the stage was

decorated with bunches of red, white, blue and yellow flowers. A photograph of Lutters and a sketch of the fallen soldier were set up to one side.

As mourners filed in, "God Bless America" boomed on the loudspeaker.

After the song, silence punctuated with sniffles continued until family members took their seats.

Fellow Kansas National Guardsmen pulled the casket from behind a row of chairs for the family and moved it to the front of the stage.

A slide show with pictures of Lutters from childhood to his high school wrestling days flashed on a screen behind the stage.

The final photo, one of him in Iraq waving and smiling, remained on the screen through the funeral, allowing the fallen soldier to watch over the proceedings.

The crowd stood again while Andra Townsend sang "The Star Spangled Banner." Guardsmen removed the American flag and folded it for the Catholic Mass.

Father Norbert Dlabal thanked

the dignitaries for coming, including the Kansas adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting; Gov. Kathleen Sebelius; and others. He thanked the people for their support, too.

"We thank you for your presence," said Dlabal. "Your presence is a comfort to this grieving family and this grieving community."

He said the town will greatly miss Lutters.

"He was tough as a rock, but with a very sensitive heart," he said.

Gen. Bunting spoke on behalf of

the Guard.

"We are only free in America today because we are also the home of the brave," he said, commending Lutters' sacrifice.

Guard Chaplain Lt. Col. Larry Parish recalled Lutters as someone who liked to resolve conflicts. He said the young man, who was a prison guard in Burlington, volunteered to go to Iraq in part because there was a fight he needed to resolve.

See SOLDIER, Page 11

Chamber books headliner for Fourth fest

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Alibis and lying eyes will take over Goodland with a concert by Tracy Lawrence, country music singer of the hit song "Alibis," over the Fourth of July weekend.

The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce, with the help of sponsors throughout town, is working to bring the award-winning artist to the annual Freedom Fest.

The concert is scheduled for 8 p.m. on Saturday, July 2, at the Sherman County Fairgrounds.

Tickets are on sale at \$25 for general admission in advance but will be \$30 at the door.

Fans can buy VIP tickets, special seats directly in front of the stage, for \$50.

Tickets to meet and greet Lawrence at a private reception with snacks and drinks before the concert, including VIP seating, are \$100 each.

His catalog includes the CDs "Sticks and Stones" (1991), "Alibis" (1993), "I See 'It Now'" (1994), "Time Marches On" (1996), "The Coast Is Clear" (1997), "Lessons

Learned" (2000), "Tracy Lawrence" (2001), "Strong" (2004), "Live" and "The Best Of."

Some of his hit songs include "Alibis," "Can't Break It to My Heart" and "If the Good Die Young."

Lawrence was named Billboard's Top New Male Vocalist in 1992, the Academy of Country Music's Top New Male Vocalist in 1993 and Best New Touring Artist in 1993 by SRO Inc., a booking company out of Middleton, Wis.

He was awarded Country Weekly Golden Pick Awards' Video Artist of the year in 1995 and got the Editor's Choice Platinum Pick crown in 1996.

His first album had four singles in the Top 10 on country charts and he had four No. 1 hits on "Alibis."

He was No. 2 on the list of most played artists in all genres in the mid-1990s.

The album "Time Marches On" went double platinum.

Booking Lawrence will cost the Chamber more than \$25,000, but board members hope to pay for part

of the cost through business sponsorships.

Chamber Manager Courtney Warden said they need to providing a stage for the show and workers to help set up.

"We need a lot of people," she said.

To pay for the concert, the Chamber is seeking business sponsors.

Businesses can sign up at the gold sponsorships at \$800 or more, blue at \$400, red for \$200 or white for \$100.

The gold and blue levels come with two VIP ticket and the red a pair of general admission tickets.

Warden said for \$50, red sponsors can upgrade their tickets to the VIP level.

She said the Chamber must have all the sponsors by Monday, May 23, in order to have a \$10,000 deposit to Lawrence by Wednesday, June 1.

"Things are happening fast," said board member Karen Ginther.

The stage, she said will be set up with people in VIP chairs near the front and standing room behind.

Behind the standing room, the grandstand seats will be open to general admission.

Warden said the stage is five feet tall, so all guests will have a clear view of Lawrence.

Warden said she plans advertisements on KNAB radio in Burlington and KXXX radio in Colby.

She said they will trade out advertisement with S&T Communications.

The Chamber is looking into placing advertisements in print, too.

Warden has fliers for people to put up in windows and spread around when they visit other towns.

After the Chamber books sponsors she said, they will print up new fliers and posters including all of the names.

Tickets for the show will be printed on plastic cards featuring a picture of Lawrence.

"Those are neat," said board member Debbie Reed.

Warden said she has sold 27 tickets so far.

She said anyone working the show will need a security badge with an identification photo.

The preliminary schedule for Freedom Fest Weekend includes a chili cook-off in the evening on Friday, July 1.

Saturday, July 2, the town will gear-up for the city-wide garage sale and pool events.

The Sherman County Fairgrounds will open up for rides and vendors later that evening. The Tracy Lawrence concert is set for that night.

On Sunday, July 3, a Freedom Brunch is planned for late morning.

The Chamber is looking for a group to put on the feed.

The annual parade will be in the afternoon and the fairgrounds will be open for the Chamber dinner.

Local entertainment will be set up until the fireworks start sometime after dark.

"Sounds like a pretty good weekend," said board member Brian Linnin.

"Our major focus for Freedom Fest 2005 is to get visitors to Goodland and introduce them to our many unique shops, motels and eateries," said this month's Chamber newsletter.

City searches for new manager, hires interim

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Replacing the city manager is a major project, and Wednesday the city commission took the first steps down the path.

One step was to hire an interim city manager to work with Ron Pickman, who is retiring at the end of May, and take over in June. The commissioners approved a contract with Tom Armour of Hutchinson, who will run the city staff while the search is underway.

The contract would pay Armour, a professional interim manager suggested by the League of Kansas Municipalities, \$250 per day, 40.5 cents per mile and lodging costs.

The commission expects Armour to be in Goodland at least two to three days a week. He will handle staff and commission meetings, help with budget planning and reports and provide the commission

with weekly reports and background information for meetings.

Armour is expected in Goodland on Monday to begin working with Pickman and attend the commission meeting that evening.

The league will guide the search under a contract signed by the commission, helping with advertising and screening applicants.

Mark Tomb, intergovernmental relations associate with the League, was at the meeting to talk with the commissioners about the search process and set a timeline for getting the applications, screening and interviews.

The contract with the league will cost the city \$4,166 plus about \$1,000 in advertising costs, Billinger said.

Tomb said the advertising will begin as soon as he can get the opening posted on some Internet web sites, and ads will begin appearing

in professional publications over the next week or two.

The ad says the City of Goodland (population, 5,000) is seeking a city manager to handle the duties of an "independent, full service city including electric, water and wastewater utilities. Goodland is located in northwestern Kansas and serves as a major retail outlet for northwest Kansas, southern Nebraska and eastern Colorado."

The ad says the city has a \$14.6 million budget and 61 employees. The city is asking for applicants who have at least a bachelor's degree and three to five years of municipal management experience, though a master's degree in public administration is preferred. The salary range is \$65,000 to \$75,000, depending on qualifications. (Pickman makes \$71,353.72) A resume and cover letter are to be sent to the league office in Topeka.

Tomb said the ads will ask that resumes be submitted by Friday, June 17. He said the league staff will review the applicants and provide the commission a list of the top 10 to 15 by the meeting Monday, June 20. He said once the commission rates the top 10, he will begin to set up interviews.

Commissioners discussed when the interviews could be held and suggested June 24-25 and 27-28 to keep away from the July 4 weekend. Tomb said second interviews with the top finalists could be scheduled in early July.

Tomb said from survey information the commissioners submitted, the league has developed a list of desired characteristics and an ideal candidate profile.

"I believe this is one of the best surveys we have seen," he said. "The Goodland City Commission has a clear understanding of the

roles and responsibilities of the city manager position.

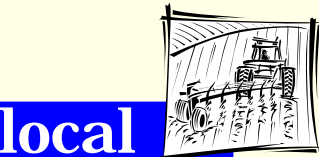
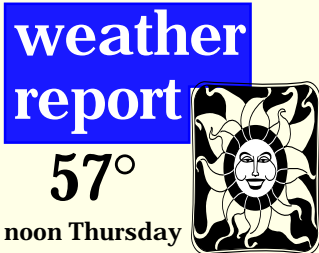
"The commission believes the city manager is an integral part of the governing process and the survey results point to a firm belief in the concepts of teamwork, specification and division of labor."

Survey results centered around three themes, Tomb said. First, the candidate must have strong administrative skills; second, need for strong communications skills, both verbal and written; and third a friendly and proactive management philosophy.

Tomb said he will update the commission about the number of applicants and how the process is going. He said he expects to see 35-40 resumes, about half from within Kansas.

The league started the search as-

See MANAGER, Page 11



local
markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.80 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.95
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$1.68 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.81
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 14¢
- Milo — \$1.40 bushel
- Soybeans — \$5.46 bushel
- Posted county price — \$5.82
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$5 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$9.60 cwt.
- NuSun — \$10.60 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Confection — Ask
- 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
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Cowboys lose twice

Freshman Josh Doke hit a single in the second inning of the second game Monday to drive in a run against the Beavers of Scott City at Memorial Field. Story, photo Page 12.