

weather
report

84°

noon Monday



Today

• Sunset, 8:18 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 5:23 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:18 p.m.

Middy Conditions

- Soil temperature 74 degrees
- Humidity 35 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds variable 4 mph.
- Barometer 29.96 inches and rising

- Record High today 106° (1970)
- Record Low today 43° (1985)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	94°
Low Sunday	62°
Precipitation	none
This month	2.62
Year to date	8.27
Normal	9.90

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny and hot, high around 97, low near 62, winds north northwest 11 mph. Wednesday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon, high near 89, low around 62, winds north 8-11 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday: Mostly sunny, high near 89, low around 64. Saturday: Mostly sunny, high around 92, low around 64. Sunday: Mostly sunny, high near 93.

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

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.94 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.00
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$1.98 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.04
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$1.60 bushel
Soybeans — \$6.26 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.88
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$9.70 cwt.
NuSun — \$10.70 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
news and
views from
your
Goodland
Star-News



Bell building
may get grant

The decorative parapet on the Southwestern Bell Building at the corner of 10th and Main could be repaired with a Heritage Trust Fund grant if the county agrees to have the building listed on the National Historic Register. Story, photos on Page 3.

Colorado woman to serve 7 years

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

A 29-year-old Colorado woman was sentenced to seven years and two months behind bars Friday for driving drunk and killing three Goodland women in a highway accident last summer.

Jennifer Adams cried, but applause roared through the first seven rows of seats in the Sherman County courtroom Friday as District Judge Jack Burr delivered the sentence.

With a few loud clicks, Sheriff Kevin Butts handcuffed Adams.

“Jennifer,” said the sheriff, “we’ve got to go now.”

Then he led her out of the courthouse to the Sherman County Bastille to await a trip to the Women’s Correctional Facility in Topeka.

In April, Adams pleaded no contest and was found guilty of three counts of felony involuntary manslaughter while driving under the influence of alcohol, each a level 4 person felony; one count of aggra-

vated battery, a level 5 person felony; and driving under the influence of alcohol and transporting an open container, both misdemeanors.

Friday, Burr sentenced her to 43 months each for the manslaughter charges, with the terms to run consecutively. That adds up to 129 months, but Kansas statutes prevent Adams from serving more than double the first sentence or 86 months.

Burr then sentenced Adams to 34 months for the battery charge and six months each for driving under the influence of alcohol and transporting an open container, to run concurrently with the others.

Court records show that Adams’ blood alcohol tested more than three times the legal limit when her car hit a Ford Explorer from behind on June 11, 2004, knocking it out of control.

The accident killed three women in the Explorer, Christine Williams; her mother, Mary Wyant, the driver; and her grandmother, Aline Becker. Williams’ children, Garrett, then 8, and Caylee, then 6, were injured.



Adams

Family asks for max sentence

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Greg Williams leveled his eyes at Jennifer Adams, the driver whose out-of-control sport-utility killed three women a year ago on I-70.

“What did you do for Mother’s Day?” he asked. “I planted tombstones.”

Adams was sentenced to more than seven years in prison in Sherman County District Court on Friday for involuntary manslaughter.

Williams, husband of Christine Williams, was the second family member to take the stand, sitting to the right of District Judge Jack Burr as they all asked for a maximum sentence for Adams. His wife was killed, along with her mother, Mary Wyant, and grandmother, Aline Becker.

Williams moved a framed collage of family photos to sit in front of Adams before taking the stand.

“Your honor,” objected Adams’ attorney, Stephen Joseph, “there is something we call torture.”

Burr had Williams move the photos farther from the defense table, but allowed them to be displayed through his speech.

Williams described the photos, addressing Adams. He said the snapshots of the children playing with their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother were taken on the day she hit their car.

“I think of dates I will have to share with my kids without their mother,” he said, asking Adams if her mother was there for her graduation, her prom and her wedding.

Williams went on to read a note his 9-year-old son Garrett wrote to Adams, who asked, “Would you like to die like you killed my mother?”

The tear-filled testimony started with Charles Wyant.

“You killed my mother-in-law, Aline Becker,” he said as he set a framed photograph of Becker on the

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

The victims’ family was in court Friday to speak before Burr handed

down the sentence. The group wore buttons made with the pictures of the three women. Eleven family members spoke, all asking for the maximum sentence.

Adams came with her attorneys, Stephen Joseph and Christopher McHugh of the firm Joseph & Hol-

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Freedom Fest kicks off this weekend

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland will celebrate freedom this year with a country music concert, fireworks and more.

The focus of this year’s Freedom Fest and Fourth of July weekend is a concert by Tracy Lawrence, a DreamWorks recording artist, on Saturday.

Gates will open at 5 p.m. at the Sherman County Fairgrounds and Lawrence will take the stage at 8 p.m.

Lawrence is know for the hit songs “Alibis,” “Can’t Break it to My Heart” and “If the Good Die Young,” among others.

A beer garden will be set up at the concert in a roped-off area at the grandstands. Courtney Warden, Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce manager, said the beer will be served in plastic cups. She said the alcohol will remain in the special section where participants will be able to see the concert. People will need to have a concert ticket to get into the beer garden.

The fairgrounds will be open to vendors Saturday,

Weekend festival schedule

Goodland’s Fourth of July Freedom Fest weekend will run from Friday through Sunday. Monday is reserved as a rain date.

Friday — 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.: Sizzlin’ Summer Sales.

Saturday — 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.: Sizzlin’ Summer Sales.

8 a.m.: Citywide garage sales.

9 a.m.: First National Bank mud volleyball tournament at the old highway department building, 1201 West U.S. 24.

10 a.m.: Freedom Pageant at Gulick Park for ages 2-7.

4 p.m.: Vendors set up at Sherman County fairgrounds.

5 p.m.: Gates open for Tracy Lawrence concert at fairgrounds.

8 p.m.: Lawrence takes the stage.

Sunday — 3 p.m.: Parade on Main from 17th Street to the fairgrounds.

4 p.m.: Carnival rides will be open at the fairground, 50 cents each.

6 to 9 p.m.: Chamber Freedom Fest dinner and entertainment.

Dusk: Fireworks display.

Warden said. She said the Sno Cone booth and a kettle corn booth are lined up, but they hope to have a Chamber concession stand to sell hot dogs, nachos, candy and more.

Warden said the Chamber could hold a give-away for a Lawrence signed guitar and T-shirt at the concert.

Posters advertising the concert are already up in town, along with billboards on I-70. The Fourth of July weekend will kick-off on Friday with downtown sales.

“In-Store Sizzling Summer Sale” will start at 8 a.m. and run through 6 p.m.

Saturday, the summer sales will run again from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. A city-wide garage sale will start at 8 a.m. and people can pick up maps at the Chamber office on Wed.

At 9 a.m., First National Bank will sponsor a mud-volleyball tournament at the old highway department building at 1201 West U.S. 24, just north of Wal-Mart.

The Freedom Pageant will start at 10 a.m. at Gulick

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Wheat harvest begins slowly in Sherman County

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

The fields are ready and farmers have started wheat harvest in Sherman County.

At 10:20 a.m. Thursday, Mueller Grain received the first load of wheat from Pat and Lisa House. The field southwest of Goodland yielded wheat with a test weight of 58 pounds at 13.9 percent moisture.

Gina Snethen won the annual Harvest Countdown Contest sponsored by The Goodland Star-News and local businesses.

Snethen was the only person to guess June 23 for the start of harvest. She guessed 1:50 p.m. where the actual time was 10:30 a.m.

Second place goes to Vernon Swenson and third place went to Jack Faber.

Lynn Hoelting, general manger for Mueller, said over the weekend, they had between 20 and 30 loads of wheat, mostly from five or six customers.

He said the grain company normally sees the first load of wheat around June 25, but this year the first load came in on the 23rd.



Snethen



The first grains of wheat poured into an underground bin at the Mueller Grain elevator Thursday afternoon. Members of the Binder family, Eric, Amy, Wyeth, Ezra and Atticus, watched their first load of wheat ever as they traveled to California as part of a mission trip with the community World Horizons.

Photo by Eric Binder

Hoelting said they can’t tell yet how the wheat crop did overall, since they have such a small sample.

“What we’ve seen so far is quality wheat,” he said.

The crop started well, he said, with a good stand last fall. He said the lack of moisture in the spring caused problems.

“It made it a little tough,” he said, adding that a frost in May didn’t help.

“It’s been a big drought overall.”

Hoelting added a poor wheat crop hits everyone from the farmers to the grain firms to Main Street.

Rain over the weekend likely kept some farmers from getting to their

fields, he said. Some growers, he said, will only need a day for fields to dry out while others will need several days.

Hoelting said he expects harvest to pick up over the week.

“We should be in full swing over the Fourth of July,” he said.

Not too many custom harvesters have been in town yet, he said.

The wheat has been good quality, he said, but he isn’t sure what the yield will run per acre.

“So far, so good,” he said.

Wheat in the county can range from poor to excellent depending on the area, he said.

“It’s so hard to peg the yields out here,” Hoelting added.

When the wheat starts pouring in, he said, that means fields are starting to ripen. He said if one or two are ripe, chances are more are ready to cut.

Hoelting said as the fields are starting to fill up with equipment, more trucks will be on the road and people should be careful.

“Be aware that there’s big equipment out there,” he said, adding that custom combiners won’t be familiar with the roads and long days harvesting can tire workers.

Hoelting said a full grain truck takes longer to stop than a car, so drivers should be on the lookout on country roads.

mal on Road 20. West said the youth apparently lost control of the pickup and it rolled.

From the hospital, Meissinger was flown to Denver for treatment. West said Meissinger was back in town on Monday, but was taken back to Denver after complications.

Before the boy headed back to Denver, West said, he got to see Meissinger.

“He told me ‘thanks’ for saving his life,” he said.

head wounds, West said. He thought it was just his cheek at first, West said, and then discovered Meissinger was bleeding from the back of his head, too.

“If he’d been out there any longer, he’d be dead,” West said. “The doctors said if I wouldn’t have shown up, he wouldn’t be here.”

West said he made Meissinger keep talking and keep his eyes open on the three-mile drive to town.

“It seemed like forever,” he said.

He said he took Meissinger directly to the Goodland Regional Medical Center, calling 911 on the way.

West, owner of Alex’s Radiator and Repair, said owning a wrecker service, he has seen some bad accidents before, and he knew what to do.

“I’ve seen worse,” he added.

West said Meissinger told him he hit the brakes to avoid a group of birds that was feeding on a dead ani-