

Colorado woman to serve 7 years

SENTENCE, from Page 1

lander in Wichita. Judge Burr said the results of a pre-sentencing report placed Adams in the category I, with no prior criminal history.

The judge rejected a motion by Adams' attorneys to depart from the recommended sentence and place her on probation. He said although she might be a "perfect" candidate for probation, the nature of the crime was "too egregious" for him to depart from Kansas sentencing guidelines.

At a preliminary hearing in October, testimony revealed that Adams had 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 of control just before the wreck.

A state trooper testified that she was clocked at 96 mph the first time she was stopped and 104 the second.

An opened bottle of vodka was found in front of the passenger seat of her car and an unopened bottle of beer in a cooler behind the driver's seat. Breath tests pegged her blood alcohol content at .265 percent, more than three times the legal limit of .08.

Goodland man injured in accident

A load of 50,000 pounds of corn spilled onto the highway and two drivers were taken to the Greeley County hospital after a Goodland truck was hit by a fertilizer sprayer about 12:10 p.m. Mountain Time on Thursday.

Trooper Clayton Tarpley of the Kansas Highway Patrol reported that Gary Lovelace, 55, Goodland, was heading south on K-27 about 13 miles north of Tribune. He had a 1993 Freightliner tractor-trailer hauling two grain trailers, which was hit on the passenger side by the fertilizer sprayer.

The report said Jeffrey S. Houston, 44, Tribune, was driving a 1997 Teregator fertilizer sprayer east on Greeley County Road D when he failed to yield at a stop sign. He struck the passenger side of the truck.

Houston, who was not wearing a seat belt, was disabled. Lovelace was wearing a seat belt, the trooper said, and was hurt less badly. He was taken to the hospital for a possible injury.

Officials at the hospital said it was policy there not to give out information about accident victims.

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SHARE Your Heart, Home, with a foreign teenager, August ar-

Adams attorney argues for lesser sentence

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Jennifer Adams wiped her eyes and her attorney, Stephen Joseph, held her arm as she stood in front of District Judge Jack Burr.

"I'm so sorry this happened," said the 29-year-old Colorado woman, who was about to be sentenced to more than seven years in jail for driving drunk and killing three Goodland women last summer. "I wish it hadn't.

"I wish it had been me, not them. I want to apologize from the bottom of my heart for what happened that day."

Joseph had a chance to speak on behalf of Adams after statements from 11 relatives of the victims, Christine Williams; her mother, Mary Wyant; and her grandmother, Aline Becker.

"It was a day of a horrific tragedy," he said, adding that no one questions who was at fault for the accident.

He said the pain of the accident extends past the family and friends to Adams herself, who will have to live with the guilt for the rest of her life. He added that Adams' parents are suffering, too.

Joseph said while there is nothing anyone can do to make the situation better, Burr's sentence could make it worse.

"I suggest all we can do is not make things worse than they already have to be," he said. "None of the choices make any difference. Causing someone else pain will not relieve your pain. Causing someone else grief will not relieve your grief. What happens here today won't help them. It won't even provide temporary solace."

Joseph added that Adams, who has suffered from "severe" depression and alcoholism her whole life, has

sought treatment and rehabilitation since the wreck.

He said no matter what the sentence is, Adams will be out of jail in a number of months. Sending her to prison, he said, will only make her a danger when she gets out.

"Prison changes people," he said, "and it doesn't change them for the better."

"She's not Jack the Ripper, BTK, a serial murderer; she's a 29-year-old fourth-grade school teacher ... who is sick.

"A long-term prison sentence for Jennifer Adams will destroy her."

Judge Burr told everyone in the courtroom that sentencing Adams was hard for him.

"No sentence is adequate to compensate for ... the death of three people," he said. "It simply doesn't equate.

"Ms. Adams is probably going to suffer the most punishment simply because for the rest of her life she's going to have to deal with what happened on June 11."

After Burr handed the sentence down, Adams began crying and people in the courtroom applauded.

Family members gathered to discuss the verdict and some thanked County Attorney Bonnie Selby. Others discussed Adam's turn at the podium.

"That was not an apology," murmured family members and friends as they left the courtroom. They said if she didn't turn around and look at the family, it was no apology.

Adams was joined by her parents, who hugged her and comforted her.

"Hang in there Jen," said her mother as Adams was led out of the courtroom. "We'll call. We'll write. We'll visit."

Freedom Fest begins on Friday

FEST, from Page 1

Park, featuring boys and girls from 2 to 7.

Contestants are judged based on answers to a question, a talent or trick and general cuteness. Warden said the contest will cost \$5 to enter and each participant gets a prize. The winners, one boy and one girl, will be named Mr. Firecracker and Miss Sparkler and they will ride on the Chamber float in the parade Sunday.

The vendor booths will open at the fairgrounds at 4 p.m., an hour before the gates open for the concert.

On Sunday, events will start at 3 p.m. with a parade down Main to the fairgrounds. The theme is Hometown Heroes. Warden said she plans to announce the parade herself.

Carnival rides will start at the fairgrounds at 4 p.m. The rides will cost 50 cents each. At 6 p.m., the Chamber will provide entertainment and serve dinner. Warden said the meal should be similar to last year with hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, crab legs, corn on the cob

and beans. She said they will serve cans and bottles of soda this year since the dispenser was slow last year. Two lines will be set up to take money, she said, to make the lines shorter.

The fireworks display will start at dark. The Chamber describes the show as "the biggest fireworks display between Kansas City and Denver."

Tickets to the Lawrence concert are still on sale at \$25 for general admission and \$50 for VIP reserved seating. The tickets will be \$30 for general admission at the gate and

\$50 for VIP. The Chamber can accept credit card payments, too, Warden said.

Tickets are available in Goodland at Bankwest, Dan Brenner Ford-Mercury, Finley Motors, First National Bank, the Chamber office, Hayden Inc., High Plains Office Supply, Hitchcock Inc., NAPA Auto Parts, People's State Bank, T-Bone Feeders, The Goodland Super 8, Truck and Tractor Repair, Western State Bank; in Burlington at First National Bank of Burlington; and in Colby at Farmers and Merchants Bank.

public notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SHERMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

FILED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 59 OF THE KANSAS STATUTES ANNOTATED

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PHYLLIS SEAMAN, Deceased

Case No. 04 PR 41

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

The State of Kansas to All Persons Concerned:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed on the 23rd day of June, 2005, in said Court by Rory Lynn Schreiber, executor of the estate of Phyllis A. Seaman, deceased, praying for a final settlement of the estate, approval of her acts, proceedings and accounts as executor, allowance for attorneys'

fees and expenses, determination of the heirs, devisees and legatees entitled to the estate and assignment to them in accordance with the Will of Phyllis A. Seaman, deceased. You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 19th day of July, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., on said day, in said Court, in the City of Goodland, in Sherman County, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course and upon said petition.

Rory Lynn Schreiber, Executor

VIGNERY & MASON L.L.C.
214 E. 10th, P. O. Box 767
Goodland, Kansas 67735
Telephone: 785-890-6588
Attorneys for Petitioner

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Family asks judge for maximum sentence

FAMILY, from Page 1

witness stand.

"You killed my wife, Mary Wyant," he said, adding another framed photo.

"You also killed my daughter, Christine Williams," he said, lining up the third picture and adding two more, of Williams' children Garrett and Caylee, both injured in the accident that took their mother's life. "You scarred them for life," he said.

At the end of his testimony, Wyant said he prayed Judge Jack Burr would give Adams the maximum sentence.

"I know in my heart that you will rot in hell," he said to Adams.

Chuck Wyant, brother of Christine, son of Wyant and grandson of Becker, took the stand after Williams.

"You have forever changed my life and the lives of my family," he said. "I will never get back what I have lost."

Craig Wyant, another brother, told Adams she didn't deserve to know anything about the family members he lost. He said she had choices on that day last year, but chose to keep driving.

"You didn't stop until you killed my mother, grandmother and sister," he said, turning to the judge. "I think she needs to pay for what she did."

Wyant mentioned a letter Adams sent to the court explaining her rehabilitation efforts after the accident.

"I don't care what she's doing now," he said. "We're only here because of what she did on June 11,

2004."

More testimony came from wives, sisters and grandchildren of the three women.

Lana Brown, granddaughter of Aline Becker, offered Adams a button that was made with photos of the three women killed in the accident. Adams took it.

Sixteen-year-old Cassandra Brown, great-granddaughter of Becker, told Adams she helped her learn something.

"I learned my lesson not to drink and drive from your mistakes," she said.

The last family member to speak was Gene Becker, son of Aline Becker. He recalled the events of June 11, getting a phone call from a state trooper and asking how bad it was.

"It's bad," he said Charlie Wyant told him, "Grandma's gone, Mary's gone, Christy is in the operating room and they're working on Caylee."

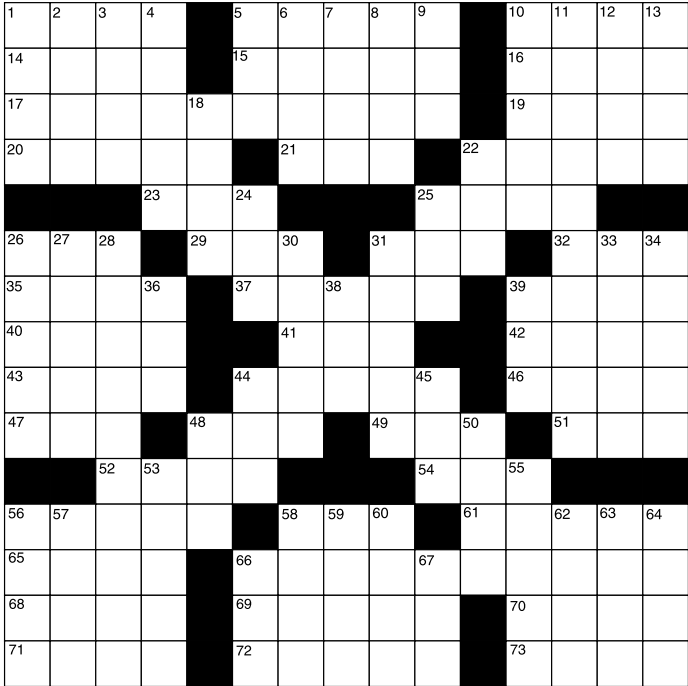
"It was stressful," Becker said. "Our family has many memories of that day, none of them are good."

He thanked Burr for allowing the family to make statements and asked for the maximum sentence to run consecutively.

Burr sentenced Adams to 43 months in jail for each of the three counts of involuntary manslaughter. That adds up to 129 months, but Kansas law says criminals must serve no more than twice the first sentence.

For her crime, Adams was facing a maximum under Kansas sentencing guidelines of 48 months for each manslaughter count. That would have been 96 months total, so Burr's sentence was just short of the maximum.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- Basics
- Honeys
- Press
- Kick
- Infuse
- Opposed
- Capital of Gabon
- Section
- Nudge
- Grain
- Pull____, sweaters
- Type of rally
- Peak
- Commercials
- Rock group
- Concord e.g.
- Brew
- Summon
- Vigil
- Parent Teacher Associations
- Healing plant
- Vehicle
- Ventilates
- Drink quickly
- Chocolate substitute
- Star
- Cousin
- Compass point
- Swab
- No
- Liability
- Male cat
- Drinking aid
- Legume
- Eastern religion
- Level
- Massive force
- Women's magazine
- Love
- Belief
- Stress disorder, abbr.
- Microwave laser
- School subject

CLUES DOWN

- Apt
- Seethe
- Ty____, Hall of Famer
- Sharpen
- Division, abbr.
- Ruler
- Skillfully
- Directions, related to game or sport
- Behold
- Shade of pink
- Incorporation
- Toss
- Swats
- Vase-shaped jug
- Choose
- Bench
- Remains
- Taken____, (shocked)
- City in India
- Villains
- Popinjay
- Young Atlantic cod
- Insect in wormlike form
- Analytic literary composition
- Small cask
- Pave
- Shallow container
- Time zone
- Cave dweller
- Compass point
- Danish physicist
- Worn
- Very small
- Tier
- Careen
- Cougar
- Freudian selves
- Malaria
- Zilch
- Pair
- Beehive state
- Block
- Goof



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