

weather
report

77°

noon Monday

Today

- Sunset, 7:19 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 6:15 a.m.
- Sunset, 7:20 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 46 degrees
- Humidity 14 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds southwest at 19 mph
- Barometer 29.69 inches and falling
- Record High today 87° (1916)
- Record Low today 11° (1997)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	77°
Low Monday	14°
Precipitation	—
This month	.28
Year to date	2.86
above normal	.43 of an inch

The Topside Forecast

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. High around 69 and low of 36.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Partly cloudy. High around 76 and low of 44. Thursday: Mostly sunny. High around 84 and low of 46. Friday: Mostly sunny. High of 80 and low near 43. Saturday: Partly cloudy and breezy. High of 85 and low of 42

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.94 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.90
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$2.13 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.09
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$1.78 bushel
Soybeans — \$4.77 bushel
Posted county price — \$11.04
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$5.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$8.35 c wt.
NuSun — \$9.35
Confection — Call
Pinto beans — \$17 (new crop)
(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



Tennis team
at Larned

Junior Josh Cech was one of two Cowboy tennis players to qualify for the state tournament last year. Goodland opens its season today in Larned. See photo on Page 12.

Gag order clamped on horse case

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

The horses may have new owners but the legal maneuvers are still going on.

Cal Williams, attorney for Tim and Shaunna Armknecht, filed an order limiting the flow of information about an animal cruelty case from the county attorney's and the sheriff's offices.

The agreement was signed March 28 by Judge Jack Burr and went into effect immediately. It limits "dissemination of inappropriate statements, effectively placing a gag order on the Sheriff or at least forcing him to check with his counsel before making statements or otherwise run the risk of violating this court's order."

Mike Merriam, legal council for the Kansas Press Association, said that this type of order is not uncommon.

In papers filed March 28, the attorney told the court that the continued release of information from law enforcement officials could make it hard for the Armknechts to be able to have a fair and impartial jury pool. There has been "overwhelming" press and electronic

media coverage, including appeals to the public and thank yous, he said.

The horses were confiscated Feb. 28 after a report they were not being fed came into the sheriff's office.

Deputy Jason Showalter and Undersheriff Roger Studer investigated the report at Armknecht's residence, 6975 K-27, about five miles north of Goodland.

Deputy Showalter reported finding 10 horses in need of food and water by their appearance. There were four dead horses in with the others. The county seized the horses and moved them

to Prairieland Animal Clinic for care.

The horses were sold at the Colby Livestock Auction last Monday following an agreement by the parties, said Scott Showalter, who is handling the case for the Sherman County attorney's office.

The Armknechts are scheduled to be in court on Monday, May 8, facing 14 counts of animal cruelty, a Class A nonperson misdemeanor, and four counts of unlawful disposal of dead animals, an unclassified misdemeanor with a possible fine of \$100 for every 24 hours for each count.

Volunteers combine efforts to clean up city

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

With blowing snow piling up Friday, no one was sure there would be a second annual citywide clean up on Saturday.

Forecasters kept saying it would clear up by afternoon, though, and by 4 p.m. the sun was out. Saturday dawned clear and beautiful.

Volunteers gathered at 8:30 a.m. at the Northwest Kansas Technical College to spread out and pickup trash as part of the Chamber Beautification Committee's second annual cleanup.

There was a chill in the air from the quick storm on Friday but the sun was out.

People were out early putting things on the curb, and even throwing things over their fences. Some of the stacks of trash had been out several days in advance, while other people got up early to have their junk out before the teams came by after 9 a.m.

Ken Clouse, college president and head of the beautification committee, had maps worked out and assigned people to the eight teams that fanned out at 9 a.m.

Christi Rasure of Rasure Lumber, also a member of the beautification committee, made sure the volunteers got signed in and assigned to a team.

The city brought two loaders and four dump trucks, and the county brought two loaders to help load at the sorting site, across from Rasure Lumber.

Teams of four to six people with a pickup and trailer left the college



Saturday Ken Clouse, chair of the Chamber beautification committee, was the "king of trash" on Saturday, surrounded by the

parking lot, with three teams working the streets from east to west in sections and three teams working from south to north in sections. Another team was to cover the Armstrong and Paxton additions, plus any trash piles on Business U.S. 24.

As the teams began collecting

trash, Chuck Redlin of In the Can, the county's trash collection contractor, got his people and three compactor trash trucks in position on Rasures' open lot at Seventh and Clark. They were ready when the first two loads of trash arrived within 15 minutes, and for the next four

hours there was a steady stream of pickups and trailers bringing loads to be sorted.

Over 80 volunteers helped with the collection, sorting, hauling to the transfer station and cooking hamburgers and hot dogs for the workers.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Teen learns consequences of bad choices

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

What do you do when you throw a party and no one shows up? Members of the Community Partnership for Prevention and Education decided to go ahead and have fun anyway.

They learned a lot, even though a Colby teen had the maze all to herself. The big lesson for the evening was that when it comes to teen drinking, it's often the parents who get in the most trouble.

And when they tried on the goggles that give them a view of the world with the legal limit of alcohol in their blood, they found that figuring out where the straight line was drawn was a challenge, much less to walk it.

The partnership planned a teen maze for Saturday evening at the Elks Lodge to teach high school students the consequences of bad choices. The only kid who showed up came from Colby with her mother, who was there to help out.

Members of the partnership talked Amber Bond, 12, daughter of Becky Bond, who was there to represent the Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, into being the guinea pig to test the maze out.

Since the partnership had persuaded Municipal Judge LeAnn Taylor and Goodland Police Officer William Fulcher into preparing a

presentation on the consequences of teen drinking, tobacco and drug use, they decided that was a good place to start.

Amber played out a scenario of teen drinking where her parents had bought the alcohol which she was drinking at a party with other teens. She asked Taylor what would happen if she was caught, and Taylor asked her questions to get details of the situation. Then they talked about what would happen when Officer Fulcher picked her up for drinking.

Since Amber is a juvenile, Taylor said, municipal court wouldn't handle the case; it would go straight to the district court. Taylor said she deals with 18-20-year-olds when it comes to alcohol. Most of the younger kids she sees are those caught in the middle of domestic cases.

Fulcher told the teen if he knew her mother provided the alcohol, he wouldn't release Amber to her. That means the police have two choices, he said, a relative or foster care.

If she was put in foster care, he said, she could be sent anywhere in the state, even as far as Wichita.

She would be in foster care for at least three days, he said, until a court hearing, and her parents would have to pay \$135 a day for that.

In the scenario Amber described, he said, her mother would probably be charged with supplying alcohol to minors. Most likely, he said, she would be in foster care a lot longer than three days, and her mother would have to pay for it. If parents allow their teens to have alcohol at a party at their house, Taylor said, they can be charged with hosting as well as furnishing the alcohol.

Parents are, however, allowed to give alcohol to their own kids in their own homes, Fulcher said, to a

point. But if the kids leave the house after their parents let them have a beer or two, he said, the parents can get in trouble if anything happens.

If the kids go out and get in trouble, he said, when officers pick them up, they will likely be considered children in need of care because they had access to alcohol and were not supervised. Then, he said, they could be put in foster care, and their parents would have to pay for it.

When kids are caught drinking and their parents didn't furnish the alcohol, Fulcher said, the kids are usually released to their parents, as long as the police can get in touch with them.

Sometimes, Fulcher said, parents want the police to keep their kids awhile until they find out if they don't come pick them up right away, the kids will be placed in foster care, they'll be charged with abandonment and have to pay \$135 a day. That usually changes their minds, he said.

When members of the partnership tried out the goggles, many commented that it was hard to find a line. Fulcher had put on the floor with masking tape. With the goggles on, it looked about a foot to the left of where it actually was.

Several members staggered around with the goggles on; others walked pretty straight but weren't right next to the line. Fulcher said a lot of times officers catch someone under the influence when they turn to walk the other way on the line.

How high they raise their hands can be an indicator, he said, and the eyes never lie — there's nothing you can do to hide that.

A lot of times people who are caught driving under the influence are stopped for something like having a tail light out, making a wide turn or not using a turn signal, he said.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News