

weather
report

83°

noon
Tuesday

Today

Sunset, 8:16 p.m.

Wednesday

Sunrise, 5:27 a.m.

Sunset, 8:16 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 75 degrees

• Humidity 38 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds south 14 mph

• Barometer 30.04 inches
and falling

• Record High today 106° (1973)

• Record Low today 48° (1924)

Last 24 Hours*

High Monday 83°

Low Monday 56°

Precipitation none

This month 1.87

Year to date 12.6

Above normal 1.71 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 90, winds breezy out of the southeast at 10 to 30 mph and a low around 61.

Wednesday: Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 75, winds out of the north northwest at 10 to 30 mph and a low around 58.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high near 78 and a low around 59.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.70 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.81

Corn — \$3.13 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.38

Milo — \$2.84 bushel

Soybeans — \$8.53 bushel

Posted county price — \$8.98

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$14.75 cwt.

Confection — \$28/\$15 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)

(Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside
today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News

College signs golfer

Northwest Tech has added a third member to the Maverick's Women's Golf Team with the signing of a woman from Burlington, Kallee Konecne. See photo, story on Page 10.

Food, music, fireworks, fun for all

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansasc.com

The day was cloudy and cool as people across the area gathered to celebrate the 234th birthday of the United State of America on Sunday.

Crowds of people stood in line for their turn on the carnival rides, sat on bleachers to listen to two live bands and waited in line to get a special Kiwanis burger at the Sherman County fairgrounds.

The Goodland Rotary cut up watermelons donated by Walmart and handed them out to the crowd as they enjoyed Freedom Fest.

The crowd line up about 9 p.m. to get into the grandstands and set up their blankets and chairs to await the great fireworks show to finish off the evening.

All day long the clouds kept the temperature down with a high of 73, much cooler than the near 100 of Saturday. A large thunderstorm built up along I-70 west of Limon, Colo., and threatened the evening. The storm spawned several tornado warnings as it moved east along I-70, but it was moving slow enough to allow the Freedom Fest crowds to enjoy the Joe Diaz fireworks show.

Kiwanis member Brad Schields said the expanded shack did well for the first try, and that more than 800 Kiwanis hamburgers were cooked and sold. He said the grill was turned on about 4:30 p.m. and they ran out of burgers about 8:45 p.m.

He said Leann Taylor was the Kiwanis member in charge of the

Freedom Fest on Sunday was a great time for everyone who came out to the Sherman County fairgrounds. The little kids (above right) had fun riding the Space Train as well as the other carnival rides being operated by volunteers from many Goodland clubs. The evening

program and felt she did a good job of organizing the Kiwanis part of the evening.

This was the first time in several years the Kiwanis Shack was selling hamburgers. In past years the 4-H had a hamburger feed, but this

year Kiwanis was the only place to get a meal.

The bleachers were full for the live entertainment provided by Nobody Important and GunnPoint sponsored by the Calvary Baptist Church.

ended with a spectacular sky (above left) and ground show (above) that left people cheering. The annual event celebrating the nation's birthday brought more than 1,000 people out for the evening of food, music, rides and fireworks.

Photos by Pat Schiefen and Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Once the lights were out at 9:30 p.m. the sky was filled with spectacular bursts of light as the fireworks took off. The sky bursts of red, white and blue, green and gold were added to by sprays and other special effects on the ground. An American Flag

ground display on the rodeo chutes brought cheers from the crowd.

The large number of explosions marked the finale of the show brought more cheers, and many

See FESTIVAL, Page 5

School board changes leader on a 4-3 vote

By Pat Schiefen

pjschiefen@nwkansasc.com

The Goodland School Board has a new president at the helm after its reorganization meeting on Thursday night. Chuck Wilkens was elected president on a 4 to 3 split vote.

Jane Philbrick was also nominated for board president. Those voting for Wilkens were Gary Slough, Mike Cochran, Andrew House and Wilkens. Those voting for Philbrick were Amy Sederstrom, John Hendrich and Philbrick. When nominated for vice president of the board Philbrick was elected 7-0.

The meetings for the school board will be

at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of the month at the Administration Building.

The board continued its support of the Western Plains Arts Association by continuing as a member for \$160.

A new three-year agreement was signed with Northwest Tech for the option of junior and seniors at Goodland High School to attend the college if they want to. This agreement was the same as the previous one.

Pat Juhl was appointed as the clerk for the school board and Marcia Harkins as the treasurer.

Substitute teacher pay will be \$85 per day for non-licensed people and \$100 for those

with a teaching license.

In other business the board:

- Adopted with a 1,116 hour calendar.
- Bankwest was selected to handle the checking account and the petty cash funds for the district. The First National Bank will have the activity funds for Goodland High School and Central Elementary School and Bankwest will have the activity funds for Grant Junior High and West Elementary School.
- The firm of Vignery and Mason LLC will be the school board attorneys.
- The official newspaper for the district will be The Goodland Star-News.
- Dick Short will remain as the representa-

tive of the district on the board of directors of the Northwest Kansas Technical College with Cochran as alternate.

• House will be the representative to the Northwest Kansas Education Service Center with Slough as the alternate.

• Board clerk Juhl was appointed as the representative Kansas Public Employees Retirement System with Becky Schulte as alternate.

• Superintendent Shelly Angelos would be the authorized representative for the Food Service Program and transportation with Jim

See SCHOOL, Page 5

Jury chooses assault charge with conflicting testimony

By Ava Betz

star.news@nwkansasc.com

Jurors Thursday morning brought in a verdict of guilty of aggravated sexual battery in the case of the State of Kansas vs. Micha Wayne Seamens following a three-day trial in Sherman County District Court last week, heard before District Judge Scott Showalter.

The case arose from an incident occurring "on or about" Dec. 1, 2007, when Seamens entered the room of his step-daughter, Mercedes Gulley, who was then 16 years old. No forensic evidence was presented, and the jury was presented with a variety of testimony as to

what then occurred. A common point testified to by both principal witnesses was that at some point Gulley jumped from her bed and started to leave the room, at which point Seamens grabbed her arm.

Jury selection began Tuesday morning and opening arguments started at 1:30 p.m. in the second-floor courtroom. Calvin K. Williams represented the defendant and Sherman County Attorney Bonnie J. Selby represented the State. The press was not present until Wednesday, the second day of the trial.

Following opening arguments Tuesday, testimony for the State was first presented by Sherman County

Investigator Burton Pianalto. This was followed by testimony from Mercedes' younger sister, Jacqueline Gulley, who was 14 years old at the time, and then by Lana (Miller, Gulley, Seamens), who was married to the defendant at the time of the incident.

Wednesday morning testimony began with State's witness David Fyler, co-director for the Western Child Advocate Center and a licensed clinical therapist and marriage and family counselor. He explained to the jury his background and the interview process. Fyler interviewed the victim several days after the event and a DVD of the

interview was presented into evidence and was viewed by the jury. Also introduced was a drawing of a female form like the form used in the interview and a more detailed form which was used to instruct the jury on sexual terminology.

Mercedes Gulley Gilliland then took the witness stand. Much of her testimony paralleled the DVD which the jury had just viewed. There had been a party in her parents' home which began the evening of Dec. 1, 2007. She and her sister had spent most of the evening watching movies in her bedroom and then her sister left to go to bed. At some point after she fell asleep,

her step-father came to her room and began rubbing her back and talking to her, she testified. When the physical contact moved to the front of her body and underneath her clothes, she jumped out of bed and attempted to leave the room. The defendant grabbed her arm, but she got away and ran upstairs to her mother's bedroom.

Following Gilliland's testimony, Attorney Selby rested the case for the State.

When court reconvened after a break, Defense Attorney Williams called on Micha Seamens, to testify.

See TRIAL, Page 5