

weather report

41°

10:30 a.m.
Thursday



Today

- Sunset, 4:29 p.m.
- Saturday**
- Sunrise, 6:36 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:29 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 43 degrees
- Humidity 41 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds southwest 16 mph
- Barometer 30.08 inches and steady
- Record High today 77° (1995)
- Record Low today 11° (1937)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Wednesday 42°
- Low Wednesday 15°
- Precipitation trace
- This month .28
- Year to date 18.89
- Below Normal .04 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near 66, winds out of the southwest at 5 mph and a low around 31. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 40, winds breezy out of the north at 15 to 30 mph and a low around 18.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 40 and a low around 23. Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 47 and a low around 27. Tuesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 51 and a low around 27. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

10:30 a.m.

- Wheat — \$6.37 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.42
 - Corn — \$6.11 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.22
 - Milo — \$5.79 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$10.43 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$11.01
 - Millet — \$11.50 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$29.40 cwt.
 - Confection — no bid
 - Pinto beans — \$28
- (Markets by Scouler Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



All-League selections

Cowboy senior Dallas DeLaRosa was one of the Cowboys selected to the Great West All-League Teams. Volleyball and football all-league selections were announced. See story, photos on Page 8A



Chief honors American veterans

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkans.com

More than 120 people attended the Veterans Day Service on Friday morning at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall and heard Police Chief Cliff Couch talk about those who serve in the military and encourage young veterans to become involved in the service organizations.

Chief Couch was the featured speaker at the 25th Veterans Day Service presented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary and Goodland American Legion at 11 a.m. on Friday.

Chief Couch said he was new to town and said he could see this event meant a lot to the community from all the decorations and effort put into the program. He said made him feel he had made the right decision to move to Goodland.

Before beginning his talk Chief Couch had those who were present from each service stand and be recognized. Couch said he had served in the Marines, but seeing all the U.S. Army men in the crowd he would be careful about his Army jokes and that got a chuckle from the audience.

He gave a short history of Armistice Day that was the celebration of the end of World War I is now called Veterans Day and how the day has become a day for all veterans who have served whether in war or not.

"It is right to honor those who served and the sacrifices they have made," he said, "because America would not be the country we have today.

"We are a nation of laws and justice and cherished freedoms and hopes for peace.

"Despite all these ideas we live in a world where freedom has to be defended by force. The sad fact is America wouldn't be free if it weren't for the sacrifice of so many servicemen and servicewomen past and present.

"Because of all the sacrifices the world is a better place. Things would be different if America weren't around."

He said the apparent philosophy today is that American exceptionalism is not important, but he said that is not true. He said the world has always been filled with madness and uncertainty and America has been a source of civility for the entire planet.

He said sometimes the worst enemies are from within, and that it appears our moral fabric has decayed from within.

"As a law enforcement officer I have seen the worst of society," he said.

He said those servicemen and women who are living have led praiseworthy lives and their service did not stop when they left the military.

"In the midst of this society we live in veterans stand out," he said, "and display the same traits they acquired while in the military service."

At the end of his talk Chief Couch said looking out at the room he could see the need for more young veterans to get involved, and said



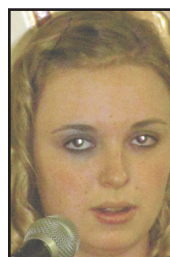
Couch



Wahrman



Cullens



Hendrich

he was willing to join one of the service organizations presenting the program.

Dick Liess was the master of ceremonies and opened the program with the VFW color guard presenting the flags and Dani Mangus signing the National Anthem.

American Legion Commander Dennis Musil presented the invocation and VFW Commander Marv Cullens welcomed everyone and said it was normal to hold the service at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, but that this was a special day being 11 a.m. on 11-11-11.

Joe and JoAnn Wahrman presented the Patriot's Pen awards and the Voice of Democracy winner.

JoAnn Wahrman handed out the certificates and Joe Wahrman handed out the checks. First place in the Patriot's Pen was Jamie Nemechek, second Anthony Hernandez and Dani Mangus third.

JoAnn Wahrman said the Patriot's Pen is a 300 word essay open to those in sixth through 10th grades. She said they had about 15 entries with most from Grant Junior High. The theme this year was "Are you proud of your country."

She said Nicole Hendrich was the winner of the Voice of Democracy, which is a five minute speech open to all those from ninth grade to high



Members of the Goodland Veterans of Foreign Wars Color Guard opened the Veterans's Day Service on Friday morning with the presenting of the flags. Winners in the Patriot's Pen essay contest were First Jamie Nemechek (below left) and Third Dani Mangus (below right).

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

school seniors. She said the theme this year was "Is there pride in serving in our military."

In her speech Hendrich spoke about the sadness for those visiting the USS Arizona memorial at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and the sacrifices the military men and women face today.

She said the young men who died and served in the war had pride in what they were doing and were willing to make the sacrifice to defend the freedoms

She said she had thought about those who serve and when in eighth grade interviewed a man who had been at Pearl Harbor and she felt his pride in the comradeship of those he served with.

Hendrich said there is pride in those serving in the military today and the young men and women know the dangers they face and are willing to serve because they believe in what they are doing and that is how they show pride.

JoAnn Wahrman spoke about the activities of the VFW Auxiliary, and about the upcoming White Elephant sale on Saturday, Dec. 10, to raise the money to buy candy to be sacked on Friday, Dec. 16 and handed out to

See HONOR, Page 5A



Prison sentence given in death of School Board Member

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkans.com

A little more than 13 months after a head-on accident killed a Goodland School Board member, the young man driving the other vehicle was sentenced Wednesday in Sherman County District Court to 41 months in prison.

Chief Judge Glenn D. Schiffner of Colby, presided over the sentencing hearing for Anthony Vincent Urban, 19, who had plead guilty in April to the charge of involuntary manslaughter under the influence of alcohol in the accident on Sept. 21, 2010 that killed Andrew House, Sherman County farmer and Goodland School Board Member on County Road 65 west of Goodland.

Judge Schiffner reviewed the guilty plea with Urban and asked again if he understood what he was doing by pleading guilty. Urban said he understood.

Bonnie Selby and Brock Abbey represented the state and Justin Barrett of Colby and Leonard Chesler from Denver represented Urban.

Judge Schiffner asked Selby about the presentencing report done by Kathy Russell of the court service office.

Selby said he had reviewed the report and two changes needed to be made to the report. One was that the defendant was brought to Sherman County on Sept. 2, and that would give him 75 days credit for time served. Second was a change in the amount of restitution. The amount had been reduced because the cost of the funeral had been reimbursed

separately, and the family is not claiming another amount.

Attorney Barrett said he had reviewed the report and had no objections to the modifications.

Selby said the state has agreed to stand mute for the proceedings.

Schiffner said the defendant had filed a motion for downgrade of the sentence.

Barrett said the motion had been filed on behalf of the defendant.

After the sentencing Selby said she had not seen the motion until that morning, but had agreed not to say anything during the hearing.

Schiffner asked Barrett if he wanted that motion heard, and to call any witness he had.

Barrett called Urban to the stand and had him sworn in.

Barrett asked Urban about his early life and where he had grown up.

Urban said he grew up in Elizabeth, Colo. He said he had gotten into some probationary trouble in Colorado and had come out to Goodland to attend Northwest Kansas Technology College for electrical.

Barrett asked Urban about seek the reduction of the sentence to 24 months, and if he understood the chart was based on certain number of months for the guidelines for sentencing for a criminal act.

Urban said he understood, and he was not asking to get probation.

"I feel with my crime I need to be punished," he said, "for some length of prison time."



Urban

Urban said he had been in jail for five months and 18 days, but not all of in Sherman County. He said he was held in Colorado on a probation violation.

Barrett asked about an accident Urban and his father were involved in on Aug. 5, 2006.

Urban said he and his father had been building a barn for an uncle at Byers, Colo., and were out there all day. He said his father was tired and pulled over and asked him if he wanted to drive. Urban said they were coming up on a gravel stretch and hit a bump wrong.

"I hit the brake or something and the car rolled over and I got ejected," he said, "and my dad had to be airlifted from the scene."

Urban said his father died four days later. Urban said he was injured and had a broken femur and the doctor prescribed prescription drugs for pain.

He said he was 14 at the time of the accident, and had counseling with two different psychiatrists, but did not feel it helped.

Asked if he had come to grip with the loss of his father, Urban said he had not and felt his father would come through the door one day.

Urban said he stopped counseling after about a year, and said he continued the use of oxycontin and began to abuse the drug and added alcohol, marijuana and other pain killers. He said he became addicted to these.

He said he was trying to start over when he decided to go to Northwest Tech in Goodland. He said he made the decision on his own, and did not have any friends or relatives in Goodland.

Barrett asked if Urban met any friends and if they were helpful or hurtful.

Urban said he met people, but they were hurtful. He said the first guy he met was a drug dealer living in the dorm next to him. He asked me if I needed drugs, and that was August of 2010.

As to his school work Urban said he attended class, but did show up late a couple of times.

"I was doing really well," he said, "and I was the electrical maintenance guy while I was there."

Barrett asked about what happened on the day of the accident that killed House.

"I was going to a softball game for all the departments," Urban said. "Electrical had invited me out and we were drinking before the game and after."

Urban said he had smoked some marijuana, and went to a house.

"I had no intention of leaving," Urban said. "I planned to pass out on his couch."

Barrett asked what he remembered next.

"I do not remember getting into the car that night," Urban said. "I remember going to the house and the next thing I remember was in the hospital bed at Swedish Medical Center."

"Why do you feel you deserve to be sent to prison?" Barrett said.

"I hit someone very close to a family and I know how that feels," he said. "I think probation would not be anything, and feel prison time would help alleviate some of the guilt the family has against me and the guilt I feel about what I did."

Asked if he had family who would support

See SENTENCE, Page 8A