

weather
report

77°

noon Monday

Today

Sunset, 7:39 p.m.

Wednesday

Sunrise, 5:47 a.m.

Sunset, 7:40 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 63 degrees

• Humidity 37 percent

• Sky partly cloudy

• Winds southwest at 15 mph

• Barometer 29.92 inches

and falling

• Record High today 94° (1959)

• Record Low today 21° (1967)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 86°

Low Monday 46°

Precipitation —

This month 2.44

Year to date 5.65

Above normal 2.15 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly cloudy, high near 75, low around 50.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, high near 72, low around 50.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, high near 75, low around 49.

Friday: Mostly sunny, high near 77, low around 51.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, high near 80, low around 51.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.62 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.66

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c

Corn — \$3.46 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.41

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c

Milo — \$3.21 bushel

Soybeans — \$6.27 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.36

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c

Millet — \$7 hundredweight

Sunflowers

NuSun crop — \$16.20

Pinto beans — \$25 (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

Goodland
finishes third

Nick Angelos (above) reached back to get a handoff from Zach Loehr in the 4 x 100 relay. The Cowboys and Cowgirls finished third in the Tri-State Relays. See photos, story on Page 10.

Teen asks friends why they drink

By Pat Schiefen

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Goodland High School student Jake Kling challenged his peers to ask themselves when they are planning on drinking. “Why am I doing this?”

Kling said he asked other students at the school when invited to be on the panel why they drink and they said it’s fun, they drink to have a good time, bond and have sex, make memories and finally, “I don’t know.”

“I consider myself lucky, my friends are not partiers,” he said. “If my friends are going to drink, I try to watch over them.”

Kids need to plan if they are go-



Hillmer



Pinalto



Kling



Cotter

ing to drink how they are going to get home, he added.

Around 100 people heard about the effects of underage drinking has from a panel at the Goodland High School Auditorium on Wednesday, April 18. Everyone on the panel was concerned that kids stay safe.

The panel included Sherman County Attorney Bonnie Selby; Tracy Hillmer branch manager of High Plains Mental Health offices in Goodland and Colby; Goodland police officer Frankie Hayes; Trooper Joe Greene from the Kansas Highway Patrol; Sherman

County Sheriff’s Deputy Burton Pinalto; Rob Cotter, from Alcoholics Anonymous; and Kling. The meeting was put on by the Regional Prevention Center.

Wendy Wellman, community prevention specialist for Sherman County, introduced the group. She said this fall she was giving a presentation on cigarettes and marijuana and its effect on the brain at an elementary school in a different county when a 12 year old approached her. He asked if alcohol was a drug. She said yes. Then he asked if it hurt your brain if you started drinking in the third grade.

“I have been on the Highway Patrol for 5 1/2 years, and underage

drinking has been a problem in every community I’ve served,” said Trooper Greene who started off the panel. “A party is a party, even a pasture party. If I see a teen on Main late at night, I have a reason to talk to them even if they are walking.”

A ticket for consumption of alcohol can cause an underage drinker to lose their driver’s license for 30 days, he said. It only takes a sip of wine or alcohol for their blood alcohol level to be .02. Driving under the influence can mean the loss of a teen’s license for a year.

“If I pick up someone for drinking if they are under 18, I will take

See DRINKING, Page 9

Springtime increases drinking problems

By Pat Schiefen

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With warmer weather, says Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts, the opportunity for teenagers to drink at illegal parties increases.

Partying has been a staple for teens for decades, he said, and few years go by without teens getting hurt in or killed in car wrecks involving alcohol.

Approaches to the problem include the threat of punishment, peer pressure and activities to keep teens busy.

Students at Grant Junior High re-

cently formed a new chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions, or SADD, a peer group that works to keep teens away from underage drinking, drug use, impaired driving, violence and suicide.

“Teens sometimes make poor choices when it comes to drugs and alcohol, without realizing the harmful consequences,” said junior high counselor Brenda Linin.

Officers for the group are President Ryan Fisher, Vice President Katlyn Topliff, Secretary Kendra Promise, Treasurer Patrick Carson, eighth-grade representative Cory

Millam and seventh-grade representative Michaela Garrett.

The national organization began as Students Against Driving Drunk in 1981 in Wayland, Mass., and in 1997 expanded its mission to include other threats.

Sheriff Butts said he wants to cut underage drinking and save lives. In 2004, he said, state figures show that 1,625 youths under 21 were involved in alcohol-related wrecks in Kansas, with 22 deaths.

Research in states that lowered the drinking age to 18 from 21 in the late 1960s and early ’70s showed a

significant increase in teen highway deaths in, says the Students Against Destructive Decisions. When those states moved the legal drinking age up to 21, teen deaths in car crashes dropped as much as 28 percent, according to statistics from the state highway departments.

A teenager’s brain responds to alcohol differently than an adults, the group says, making teens less sleepy but their decisions about how and when to drive worse.

Sheriff Butts said he wants to remind people that it is illegal for anyone under 21 to buy, possess or con-

sume alcohol; to furnish alcohol to those under 21; and to permit property to be used by minors consuming alcohol.

The state Department of Transportation has a toll-free hot line that allows people to report underage drinking anonymously, (866) MUST-B-21 or (866) 687-8221.

Sheriff Butts said that good communication between parents and teens can prevent a lot of problems. Parents need to set ground rules when their teens attend parties.

“It’s all about saving lives,” Butts said.

Concealed carry
law ends city ban

By Tom Betz

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The Kansas Legislature overrode a veto by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius of a bill eliminating city and county authority to restrict where concealed weapons can be carried on public property.

Goodland City Manager Wayne Hill said Friday he thinks the law pretty much guts an ordinance the city passed back in January adding public buildings and parks to the list of places where concealed weapons are not allowed.

The new state “concealed carry” law had been in effect less than a month before Kansas cities, including Goodland, began adopting ordinances adding public buildings in their cities, plus parks and recreation areas, to the list of places restricted under the conceal carry law.

Hill said he had not seen the final version of the new law (HB2528), but from what he had read and heard from others, it eliminated many of the places the city had sought to add.

The ordinance banned concealed guns at the fire department, waste water treatment plant, public works shop, power plant, parks, playgrounds and recreational areas, and the public transportation van.



Hill

Sen. Phil Journey, R-Haysville, the chief sponsor of the new bill, was upset that cities passed ordinances to add places to the list the Legislature had approved over the governor’s veto two years ago. He said the list of public buildings in the original law was designed to make the enforcement of the concealed-carry law consistent across the state.

Hill said the state law covers the City Administration Building and the library but not other city buildings or parks.

In her veto message, Gov. Sebelius said she felt city officials have the responsibility to keep their residents safe and should have the authority to make reasonable decisions.

“For example,” Gov. Sebelius wrote, “concealed weapons currently may be banned at professional and school sporting events, however this bill would prevent communities from banning them at similar such events at city or county sports fields.”

Hill said under the city ordinance, concealed weapons were not al-

See CONCEALED, Page 9

Action team plans
to add U.S. flags

The Convention and Visitors Bureau, Chamber of Commerce and Sherman County Economic Development have purchased welcome flags and banners for Main Street, and now a committee wants to add American flags for patriotic holidays like Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veterans Day and the Flatlander Fall Festival.

“We want to buy enough American flags to go from Eighth to 17th (on Main),” said Tiffani McMinn, economic development director, and a member of the Community Beautification Action Team.

She said this is the first step for the team, formed from the Shine on Sherman County process that began last year.

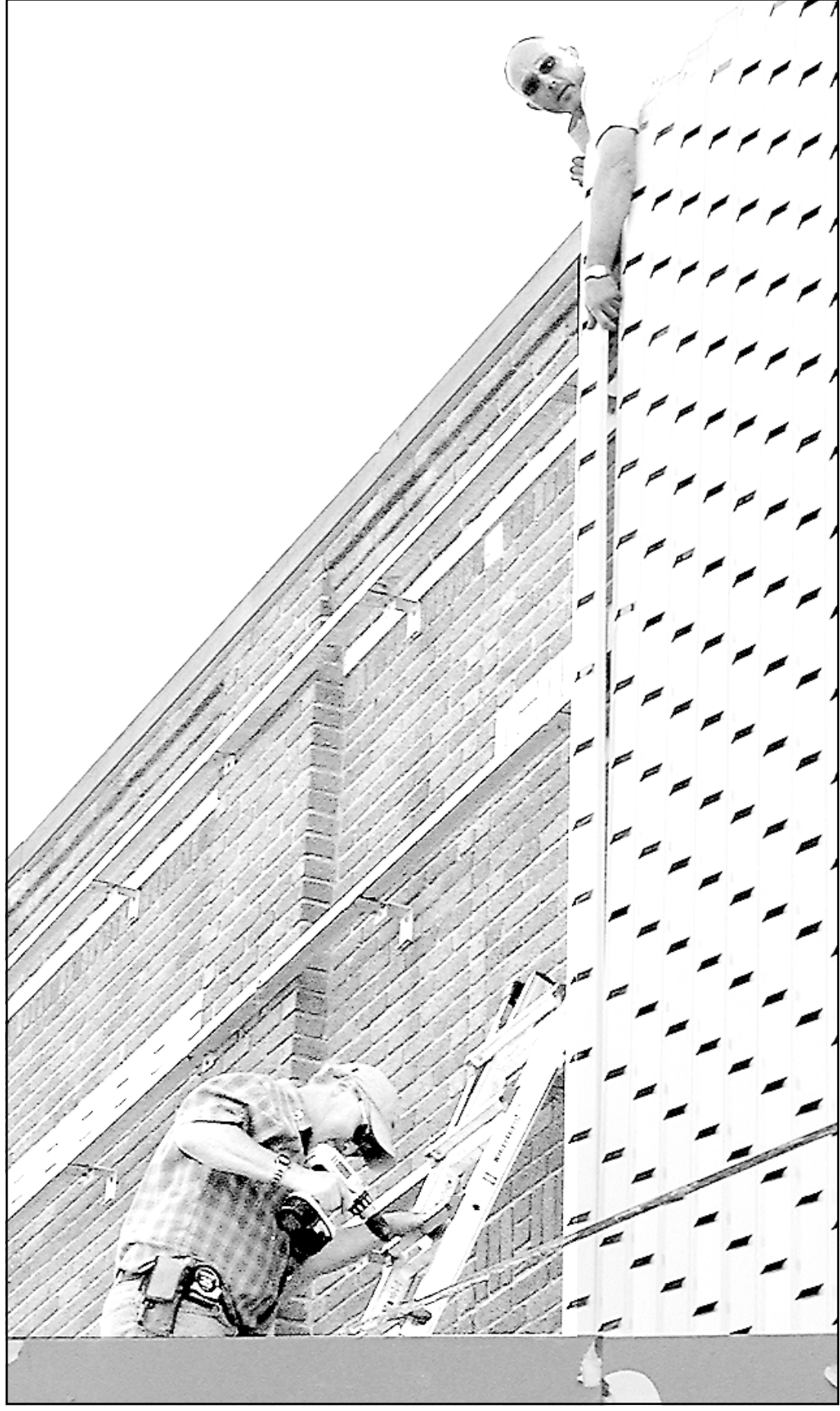
The flags would be attached to the light poles. McMinn each of the 45 flags needed would cost \$40 for a total of \$1,800.

“Our goal is to have enough flags for all of Main Street by Memorial Day,” she said.

Anyone interested in buying a flag to help fill Main Street is asked to make a check payable to the Sherman County Foundation and put on the memo line Community Beautification. By going through the foundation, the donations are tax deductible.

Mail donations to the Sherman County Economic Development office at Box 614, Goodland, Kan. 67735 or drop them off at the economic development office at 104 E. 10th.

History uncovered...



Dave Branda (leaning over parapet), owner of the Sherman Theater, helped Tim Lee of Lee Construction remove the old aluminum facade Monday morning covering the brick front and windows above the marquee. Branda said as part of his remodeling of the theater he plans to put the windows back in the front. Having the brick front adds to the history of the building built in 1926, he said, adding that he and Lee think the aluminum was added to the front about 35 years ago.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News