

weather report

77°

noon Monday



Today

• Sunset, 8:10 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 5:21 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:10 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 71 degrees

• Humidity 30 percent

• Sky mostly sunny

• Winds northeast at 10 mph

• Barometer 29.95 inches

and steady

• Record High today 98° (1956)

• Record Low today 36° (1998)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 79°

Low Monday 45°

Precipitation —

This month .04

Year to date 6.4

Below normal .84 of an inch

The Topside Forecast

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, high near 83, low around 53.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, high near 96, low around 56. Thursday: Mostly sunny, high near 83, low around 52. Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, high near 75, low around 55. Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, partly cloudy, high near 81, low around 56.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.68 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.66

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Corn — \$3.86 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.67

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Milo — \$3.56 bushel

Soybeans — \$7.21 bushel

Posted county price — \$7.16

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Millet — \$7 hundredweight

Sunflowers

NuSun crop — \$16.50 cwt.

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



Old motel nearly gone

Gone! Workers were digging out the foundations on Monday, the last step in demolition of the old K-Inn motel on Business U.S. 24 near Cherry Ave. The city hired Goody's to remove the old motel. See photo on Page 3.

Fire fighting chief's career choice

By Tom Betz

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The city fire department has changed completely since all 12 volunteers quit in March, and the last change brought a new young face with top-quality training to the position of acting chief.

Even before the 12 city volunteers quit, embattled city Chief Scott Gilmer was talking to Brian James, 24, who had moved to town at the first of the year, about joining the department.

Gilmer made James, one of the volunteers who stepped up after the mass resignations, assistant chief. City Manager Wayne Hill named him interim fire chief after Gilmer's resignation last month.

Hill said he is taking applications

for the chief's job, and that James has applied.

"I am very impressed with the young man and his professional approach," Hill said.



James

James said he sees firefighting as his career. He earned an associate's degree in fire science from Aims Community College in Greeley, Colo., in 2005. He has been a part-time firefighter for the Berthoud Fire Protection District in Colorado for four years, earning certificates in emergency medical technician, firefighter 1 and hazardous operations.

James is no stranger to the High Plains, having grown up on a farm about 20 miles northeast of Burlington with his parents, Dawn and Greg James.

He attended Burlington High School, graduating in 2002. He married his high school sweetheart, Kelly Giedd, daughter of Kathy and Kevin Giedd of Burlington. Her father is a parts man at McArthur's John Deere in Burlington and her mother recently retired from a lawn-care business.

The couple went to Greeley where he went to college for fire fighting and she went to the University of Northern Colorado to become a meteorologist.

James said he was hoping to get on full time with the Berthoud department, but his wife got a job with the National Weather Service in Goodland and the couple moved here in January.

He said the Berthoud department covered about 100 square miles and had about 2,000 calls a year.

"We did lots of training," he said,

"and it was a busy department."

He said that department has 19 paid fire fighters and 25 part-time and volunteer.

James said he feels the 12 men in the city fire department are good people, and they are working hard to learn the things needed to be top-notch firemen.

"We have exceptional, willing and competent men who have stepped up to the plate and taken responsibility for this city," he said.

James said the city firemen have been working on their gear training because to be certified, a fireman has to have all the gear on and completely ready in two minutes. He said for the Firefighter 2 certificate, a fireman has to have everything on and ready in 90 seconds.

"I can do it in about one minute, 10 seconds," he added.

James said last week the city men

did about three hours training on car fires. He said they had a mini-van and a sedan and did some live-fire training.

One of the new training programs that came out of the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington is called National Incident Management System, designed to help everyone from city and county elected officials to the fire, police and other departments work together in an emergency. To qualify, all are required to take a series of on-line tests followed by some hands-on training.

James said he has completed the 100, 200, 700 and 800-level courses, and is getting the city firemen into this training. He said parts of the course require hands-on classes, some of which he feels could be

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County asks man for bid

Sherman County commissioners told a man who wants to buy a piece of county right of way about six miles east of Goodland that he should make an offer for the land he wants to build a new access road.

Fred Stasser came to the meeting Thursday, saying he wanted to talk about price.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said the county would consider an offer for the fair market value, adding that the land would probably be considered prime pasture.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said Stasser should give the county something to base a price on.

"I have a price in mind," Stasser said, "but I don't want to disclose it except in a closed session."

Thomas said he thought that could be done, and started to ask for a motion to go into closed session.

Tom Betz, editor of The Goodland Star-News, questioned having a closed session. He said the state law has an exemption to allow a closed session for the county to purchase real estate, but not for selling public property.

Thomas said he had checked with County Attorney Bonnie Selby and thought she had said a closed session was OK. Thomas said he would check with Selby again.

Tiede said the land is part of right of way the county got when the state gave it old U.S. 24 years ago. He said he figured the whole area is about an acre, and asked Stasser how much he needs.

"I just need enough land to put the road in," Stasser said. "I figured an acre was an easy mark."

"Would you rather buy a full acre?" Thomas asked.

"I don't really need an acre," Stasser said. "Maybe half an acre. I want to be east of the property line

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Club builds viewing area for painting

Goodland Rotary club members Larry Keirns (right), Jeff Deeds (holding frame) and Bryce Cole (pouring) put up a sign to direct people to a Van Gogh viewing and parking area built by the club north of Business U.S. 24. The group took the giant painting and easel on as a project, and over the past year members installed a light to illuminate the painting at night, a brick triangle under the painting, brick sidewalks on the south and north sides with handicapped access, benches and finally the sign. The giant 24-by-36-foot painting was erected six years ago with \$150,000 raised here and a state tourism grant.

Photo by Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News



Carnival building \$25,000 over budget

By Tom Betz

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Winter weather and rising costs have put a few kinks in the plans for a new carnival workshop and storage building at the fairgrounds, and Thursday the county commissioners agreed to spend up to \$25,000 more to finish the job.

The county accepted the donation of about 12.3 acres south of the fairgrounds in October, and agreed to pay about \$88,000 to have Malsom Welding erect a 60-by-150-foot building with space for carnival storage and new handicapped-accessible restrooms for the fair.

Brad Schields, president of Sherman County Community Services, which runs the carnival, and Brad Schick from the carnival equipment

Donations needed for July 4 fireworks

Sherman County's homeowned carnival group is looking for money to put on the Fourth of July "FreedomFest" fireworks show, with jars out around town to collect donations.

Some jars have been placed, said Donna Price, director of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and more should be out later this week.

Brad Schields, president of the Sherman County Community Services, the carnival group, which in charge of the July 4 celebration, said Thursday that the group has money from last year and donations from community organizations, but still needs about

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maintenance committee were at the commissioners' meeting to talk about what needs to be done to finish the project.

"I guess you know why I am here," Schields said. "The exterior is done, and the cost has been over the original estimate."

He said Commissioners Chuck Thomas and Mitch Tiede met with the carnival people on Monday, May 21, to look at the building and talk about plans to finish the project.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he had missed that meeting, but had been out to look at the building and

the plans had been explained to him.

When the carnival group approached the commissioners in October, they estimated the building would cost \$115,000 with the group using \$27,000 in tax credits as a down payment. The would have left the county paying \$88,000.

One addition Schields said is an awning that will be put out in front of the building at a cost of \$4,000. He said the awning will be 42 x 12, and part of it will be done as an Eagle Scout project to include some benches.

Schields said the awning cannot be attached directly to the building because of the warranty, but flashing would tie it to the structure.

He said the restrooms had driven up the costs because of fire codes, and more stalls being added on the women's side than originally planned.

"We intended to do some of this with volunteers last winter," he said, "but the weather stopped that. Most

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