

weather report

45°

noon Monday

Today

Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Wednesday

Sunrise, 6:57 a.m.

Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 36 degrees
- Humidity 38 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds northwest at 21mph
- Barometer 29.85 inches and rising
- Record High today 66° (1921)
- Record Low today -19° (1961)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Sunday 58°
- Low Monday 19°
- Precipitation —
- This month tr
- Year to date 22.02
- Above normal 2.47 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, high near 55, low around 23.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high near 50, low around 23. Thursday: Partly cloudy, high near 63, low near 26. Friday: Mostly sunny, high near 64, low around 26. Saturday: Partly cloudy, high near 53, low around 21. Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 39. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$4.30 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.63
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Corn — \$3.51 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.26
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Milo — \$3.16 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$5.71 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$5.74
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
 - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - NuSun crop — \$12.95
 - Pinto beans — \$19 (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



Cowboys win Topside

Cowboy Nick Angelos (23) and Cyclone Ben Harris (4) went after a rebound in the Topside Tip-off championship game Saturday. The Cowboys won at the buzzer, 64-62. See story, photo on Page 8a

Jury says city fire chief innocent

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland Fire Chief Scott Gilmer was found innocent on a misdemeanor charge of stealing cigarettes from a wrecked truck by a jury of six in Sherman County District Court last Monday and is back on the job.

"Gilmer has been reinstated as fire chief," City Manager Wayne Hill said Wednesday. "He was found innocent by a jury of his peers."

Gilmer, who had been on paid administrative leave since July, expressed relief.

"It is wonderful to be back to work," the chief said Monday. "I just wish it hadn't taken so long. I was



very pleased with how the trial went."

A full-time city employee, Gilmer, 46, was one of four firemen who responded to a report of a semi-trailer rig rolled over on I-70 on Wednesday, July 19, along with volunteers Neil Normandin, David

Avila and Sam Zelfer.

The truck, driven by Robert Proffitt, Laurel Fork, Va., was heading west on I-70 when it went off the road about nine miles west of Goodland. The wreck split the trailer open and some of the \$1.5 million worth of cigarettes spilled out.

Avila testified that Proffitt was able to free himself from the truck before the firemen arrived. The squad stayed to help the ambulance crew and check for fuel leaks.

Witnesses called by County Attorney Bonnie Selby for the state included Steve Evert, an emergency medical technician who was at the wreck; Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts, Deputy Sheriff Jason

Showalter, Avila and Zelfer. The driver of the truck was not present. Judge Jack Burr presided.

Defense attorney Kevin Berens of St. Francis, representing Gilmer, did not call any witnesses. Berens maintained that the state had not proved any intent by Gilmer to permanently deprive the owner of any cigarettes.

The chief said Monday he did not testify on advice from his attorney. Asked about what happened at the scene he said, "I think it was misinterpreted at the scene, picking something up and throwing it back into the ditch. For the level they took it to, yes I think it was misinterpreted."

Gilmer said his attorney told him if he had been county attorney, he

would not have pushed the case to the level it was taken.

Avila and Zelfer both testified that had not seen the chief with any cigarettes, but had seen Normandin with some.

Normandin, 38, has been charged with felony theft for allegedly stealing two boxes of cartons of cigarettes worth more than \$1,000 but less than \$25,000. Normandin has turned in his gear after the wreck and is not answering fire calls.

"They went about checking for gas leaks and got (Proffitt) loaded into the ambulance," Selby said. "They did their jobs professionally."

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Parking permit allowed

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Next time you or a friend or relative pull a recreational vehicle or boat trailer in front of your house, a quick call to the Goodland Police Department will get you a free five-day permit to park on the street.

The city commission last Monday approved an amendment to the city parking ordinance establishing the permits, and redefining recreational vehicles to include a trailer with a boat, motorcycle or motor-driven cycles.

"I think this took care of the biggest problem," Mayor Rick Billinger said. "I think most people will be satisfied with this. We can 'what if' and 'what if' all night."

City Commissioner Dave Daniels, who brought the parking question up in September, said the changes looked good to him, but wondered if it should include lawn tractors on a trailer.

"Is that a problem?" City Commissioner Josh Dechant asked Police Chief Ray Smee.

"It isn't now," Smee replied. Daniels said he was asking because there are lawn businesses in town.

Billinger noted that people are not

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Give me a taste...



Leigh Fields handed a buffalo hot dog to a youngster visiting the Buffalo Guys' booth at the Taste of Goodland on Saturday. The event, planned by the Chamber of Commerce to highlight

restaurants and other food businesses, also included the smells of Goodland, as many booths were set up by businesses selling scented candles, lotions and cosmetics.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Retreat defines 10-year goals, action plans

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Volunteers at an all-day "vision retreat" Monday set four major goals for the "Shine on Sherman County" strategic plan, wrote a vision statement and formed action teams to move into the next phase.

The goals include:

- Making the Sherman County Community Foundation the driving force behind community projects, involving young people to help raise money for projects.
- Getting landowners involved in clean-up efforts and beautifying neighborhoods with the involvement of those living in them.

• Unification of city and county services.

• A youth center and improvement of after-school program. One suggestion was to purchase the Elks Lodge and make it a community building.

Training of the action team conveners will be on Jan. 4, and the teams are expected to have their first meetings later that month.

The final draft of the vision statement adopted was:

"Shine on Sherman County, an engaged community building economic diversity through family, agriculture, energy, transportation and business."

Forty-four of the 55 nominated attended the all-day vision retreat held at the Goodland Elks last Monday to filter through ideas from the "Community Conversation" open meeting held Oct. 17.

Consultant Terry Woodbury from Kansas Communities LLC opened the retreat, saying the turnout on a Monday was larger than he had expected.

Woodbury divided the group into eight units, saying the object was to try to have someone in each group from the four sections of what he calls "the public square," business, health and human services, government and education.

Each person was asked to introduce themselves and give a good reason for living in Sherman County.

Each group selected one person to be part of a group, which adjourned to another room to begin drafting a 10-year vision statement.

Their first draft was "Shine on Sherman County, building economic diversity through agriculture, energy, transportation and business in an energetic community."

The full group had some thoughts about the wording, saying it was lacking the people part. The committee adjourned again to redraft the statement, which was adopted at the

end of the goal sessions.

The other groups spent time reading all the ideas that had been collected at the community conversation under the headings "youth improvement," "citizen engagement" and "community improvement."

The members of each group chose their top three, and then compared with each other to see if there were some that stood out.

Each group then was to take the top ideas and develop a goal that could be reached in 10 years.

Under youth improvement, there was a lot of discussion of after-

See RETREAT, Page 7a

Business, offices can post 'no-weapons-allowed' signs

A new sign will soon be joining the "no smoking" signs in Kansas businesses and offices, a graphic of a pistol with a red circle and slash that prohibits concealed firearms.

The Kansas attorney general's office has released "no-concealed-carry" sign regulations for businesses and organizations that want to ban handguns.

The law already bans handguns in post offices, court houses, churches, police stations and schools.

Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts said Monday 3,250 people statewide have applied for permits here so far, but he doesn't know how many have been approved.



Butts said a lot of people have been taking classes, but Sherman County has had only 13 actually issued so far.

"I am expecting a lot more to

come in shortly," he said.

Butts said he has not had anyone ask about the signs, and has not seen any posted.

He said his office would be willing to print out signs if people aren't able to download the image and print it out in color. He said there would be a small charge, and people can call his office 890-4835 to get them to post on their buildings.

Under the regulations, the attorney general says, other businesses and offices may post the signs. These need to be at least eight inches square and the graphic at least six inches in diameter. The background is white with the image of a handgun

in black with a circle and diagonal slash across the pistol in red.

There should be no text within an inch of the graphic and the signs should be posted at the entrance.

The image for the sign can be downloaded from the attorney general's website at www.ksag.org/C o n c e a l e d _ W e a p o n / C C H _ S i g n s _ R e g s / N O _ C C H . j p g.

A bill allowing people to carry concealed handguns in Kansas passed March 23. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius vetoed it, but the Legislature voted to override her. The law took effect in July, but no permits will be issued until January.

Kansas joined 46 other states that

allow people to carry concealed weapons.

To get a permit, a person must be 21, apply at the county sheriff's office, complete an eight-hour training course and pay \$150. The attorney general's office conducts a background check to screen out people with a felony record, a history of mental illness, drug or alcohol addiction or physical infirmity preventing the safe handling of the weapon. The permit is good for four years.

Butts said the attorney general's office told him and a group of other

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