

Park fountain could be running in near future

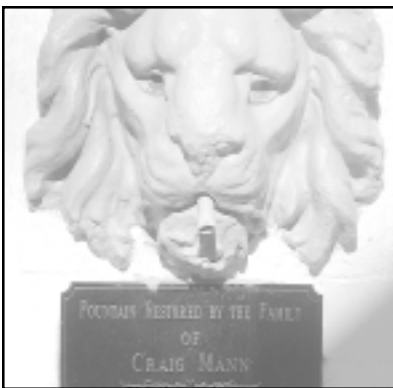
FOUNTAIN, from Page 1

fountain uses 720 gallons of water per hour — more than the city has ever been able to afford and especially in this summer of drought.

Installing the underground tank and pump, Pickman said, would mean the fountain would recycle the water it uses.

The city has been helping the Mann family restore the fountain as a memorial to Craig Mann, who died of cancer in September 2000.

Mann loved Chambers Park and his family has repaired and painted the fountain and replaced its fixtures in his



A plaque on the fountain at Chambers Park memorializes Craig Mann.

honor. City workers helped place a new two-foot cement eagle on top last week.

At that time, Sharon Mann, Craig's mother, said they were considering putting in a new pump that recycles water.

It was a maybe until the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce decided to donate all profits from the Sunflower Festival royalty contests to the project. Jo Simmons, Chamber office manager, said she felt it was appropriate because the festival is held in Chambers Park, plus she thought it was a neat project. "It would be nice to have the fountain working," Simmons said. "We feel most of the people who have kids now haven't seen it working in their lifetimes."

The Sunflower King/Queen and Prince/Princess crownings will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 17 in Chambers Park during the Sunflower Festival. Before the crowning, Simmons said, the contestants collect pennies as votes and the youngster with the most votes wins.

She said the Chamber donates the profits to a different cause each year. Last year, she said, six girls collected about \$1,000. It should be more this year, she added, because boys have

been allowed in the contest. Pickman said as soon as the city has enough money, it will order the equipment and get to installing it. He said the city crew will do the work to save on labor costs.

If the contest raises more than \$1,000, he said, the city will make more improvements to the fountain.

Pickman said the city may wait to do the project until after the "water emergency" commissioners declared on Monday has expired. The commissioners restricted lawn watering and set fines for violators.

When the tank is installed, Pickman said, workers will attach a device that

will allow more water to flow into the tank to account for evaporation. He said they will also install a device to stop any flooding of water.

"We want to do the work," he said, "but we don't want to waste water."

Pickman said the sooner the city starts saving water, the sooner the water emergency can end and the sooner the fountain can be fixed.

He said the work the Mann family has done to the fountain has really improved Chambers Park.

"I'm real impressed with what they have done," he said, adding that the city has removed dead trees to improve the look of the park even more.

Two companies vie to take over and haul trash for the City of Goodland

TRASH, from Page 1

we have to raise rates," Billinger said, "it would cost more for them, too. I don't see the difference."

Commissioner Curtis Hurd said private companies can run the service more efficiently than the city can.

"It would be nice to get away from the stress and aggravation," he said. "That's part of the job," Billinger replied. "I am against selling. I think it is a poor decision."

City Manager Ron Pickman said the

sale might be more convenient for the city's customers, because they could put most of their garbage in one dumpster, instead of sorting it. He pointed out the city would not be giving up control of the service, it would just be contracting it out. The city would still be responsible.

Topliff's proposal said it would be a good idea to keep the service local.

"I urge you to consider the long-term effect of sending this business out of town," he wrote.

Topliff, owner of Overhead Door,

said the more a company pays the city to take over trash service, the higher the rates will end up being.

"If the low bid wins, how long will it remain the low bid?" Topliff wrote. "While we need to make a profit, will an out of town company really care what the cost to the consumer is in the long run?"

The commission plans to make a decision at its next meeting. Billinger said he won't be able to be there, but will give a list of questions to the city manager to ask the two companies.

In other business, the commission: Appointed Jan Wilson, Jerry Fairbanks, Rich Hoffman, Joni Guyer and Bud Chester to a committee to come up with a five-year parks plan by June 1.

Adopted the 2003 budget. The budget hearing lasted about 30 seconds because no residents asked any questions.

Authorized the city manager to start negotiating for a piece of land after discussing it in a closed session. Appointed Max Alderman to fill a

term on the museum advisory board ending April 2005. Don McKenzie left the board and is moving to Colorado.

Asked for volunteers to fill a spot on the cemetery board ending in February. Jan Beynon left the board and is moving to Colorado.

Talked about an invitation to join the Kansas Rural Water Association, which has 414 Kansas cities as members. Dues would be \$720 per year. The commission asked the city staff to look over the proposal and see if it would be worth the price.

Learned there will be a Municipal Leadership Academy session on effective municipal courts on Tuesday, Aug. 23, in Larned.

Found out they were invited to a meeting discussing changes in the open meetings law by the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission Sunday, Aug. 28.

Learned that Goodland had recycled 355.5 tons of newspaper, 51.5 tons of aluminum cans, 4.75 of clear glass and 3.25 of brown glass in the first half of the year.

Son of local woman killed in crash

David Aaron, son of Dorine Aaron of Goodland, died in a three-vehicle accident north of Bristol, Colo., last Thursday.

He was driving southbound on Hwy. 385 in high winds and poor visibility due to blowing dirt.

He crossed over the centerline and collided with a northbound vehicle driven by Ronald Batterton of Holly, Colo.

After impact, Aaron's vehicle stopped in the southbound lane facing south. A tractor trailer driven by Chris-

topher J. Cleveland of Burlington was traveling south on the highway and hit the rear of the vehicle.

The tractor trailer pushed Aaron south until both vehicles went off the west side of the road. Aaron's vehicle rotated clockwise and rolled one time before coming to rest on its wheels facing west. The tractor trailer continued on the shoulder until Cleveland got it back on the roadway and stopped on the west shoulder.

Timothy Aaron, 14, a passenger in the car, was taken to Prowers County

Medical Center then was flown to Denver Health Center with a fractured hip and femur and head, facial and shoulder lacerations.

Batterton was not injured, and Pamela Batterton, 45, and Tyson Batterton, 18, both passengers, were examined and released. Cleveland was not injured.

Aaron's and Cleveland's vehicles were not equipped with airbags, and Batterton's vehicle has an airbag which did not deploy. The drivers and passengers all used seat belts.

House leader thinks sanctions will end

WICHITA (AP) — House Majority Leader Dick Armey said Wednesday the United States needs to have access to Cuban markets, saying his votes against easing trade and travel restrictions to the island came from his loyalty to two Cuban-American House

members. Armey, R-Texas, made the statements to reporters before speaking at a trade forum hosted by U.S. Rep. Todd Tiahrt, R-Kansas. The forum was held at Kice Industries, a manufacturer of grain processing equipment.

The retiring House leader said he believed Cuba will be open to trade, and that economic sanctions against Cuba may not last much beyond this year.

"If they last a year — it will be the last year they last," he said.

People warned not to water lawns

WATER, from Page 1

sioner Chuck Lutters, the school district's maintenance supervisor, was the sole vote against the policy, saying it would be hard for the schools to follow without killing the grass.

One of the calls to the city Wednesday was from someone saying the Northwest Kansas Technical College was watering its lawns. Pickman said he spoke with Richard Hoffman, the school's vice-president, and explained the new water restrictions.

Ken Clouse, president of the college, said he is working on a watering plan which he will present to the city commission.

"We are concerned about the water supply, we want to conserve and we want to abide by the policy," Clouse said,

"but at the same time we feel you can't just put a policy in place with no time frame and expect people to be able to follow it."

"You can't reasonably expect to print it in the paper one day and have it in effect the next day."

The school covers more than two blocks, Clouse said, and there are 11 sprinkler stations. If each runs for 30 minutes, he said, it would take five and a half hours to water the grounds, more than the three hours the city allows.

His plan would cut back on wa-

tering, and would work on an even-odd schedule. Clouse plans to put it into place today, and said he hopes the commission will let him continue with it.

"We hope people realize we are trying to be reasonable," Clouse said, "But we cover a lot of area, and I don't think we should be considered just one household."

Wednesday was the first time warnings were given, but Pickman said it won't be the last.

"We'll end up seeing a lot more before this is finished," he said.

At the meeting where the decision to restrict watering was made, Pickman said the policy will probably be lifted at the end of the month because it will start cooling off in September.

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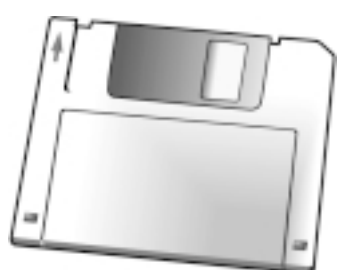
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