

# Goodland graduate races solar car across country

**By Sharon Corcoran**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
A 2001 Goodland High School graduate competed in a solar car race this month as a member of the Kansas State University Team.  
His team started in the pole position and finished eighth out of 20 teams.

Brad Larson, son of Kyle and Ellen Larson of Pretty Prairie, will be a junior this fall at the Kansas State engineering school, majoring in computer science. His mother said he does electrical work on the solar car.

College teams design and build the cars and then race them 2,300 miles from Chicago to Claremont, Calif., on historic Route 66. The article, "Solar Cars to Begin Gasoline-Free Journey Sunday" on the [www.energy.gov/engine/content.do](http://www.energy.gov/engine/content.do) web site, said the race, which began Sunday, July 13, and ended Wednesday, is considered the world's longest solar car race.

The article said the cars used photovoltaic solar cells to convert sunlight into electricity and store it in batteries for use when needed. Weather and energy management play important roles in the race, the article said.

The cars mostly travel at highway speeds and are required to obey local speed limits, but the sunnier the day, the farther and faster the cars can run. And bright days allow the cars to fill up their batteries for cloudy or rainy days.

The article said the Kansas State team, with its car CATalyst, had the best qualifying time and began in the pole position. Reports From the Road on the American Solar Challenge web site said the car completed 526 miles in the qualifier, significantly more than any other team.

The Kansas State team received



The Auburn University solar car (left), "Sol of Auburn," passed through the town of Moriarty, N.M., on Historic Route 66 as it made its way to the checkpoint in Albuquerque. The Kansas State University CATalyst (above) followed Route 66 through the Mojave Desert in California.

Photos from the American Solar Challenge web site

two of the 10 awards given at the kick-off dinner for the teams at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry Saturday, July 12. The awards were for the fastest figure eight and for earning the pole position.

Other awards were given for most together team, most innovative car mechanically, fastest lap qualifier and the Whew! award for

overcoming adversity.

The Kansas State team was in the thick of things throughout the race, being the third car to the first two checkpoints, Springfield, Ill., and St. Louis, Mo., and being fifth to other checkpoints. Ellen said the car was in first place for part of the race.

The cars are able to travel at speeds of 60-70 miles per hour, she

said, but have a ways to go to be road ready, that is, ready to turn the average citizen loose with them.

The cars had to qualify as mechanically ready for the journey, and teams did mechanical work on them throughout the race.

The American Solar Challenge web site said solar racing began in 1982 when Hans Tholstrup drove a solar-powered vehicle across Aus-

tralia. A year later, the site said, a group from Crowder College in Neosho, Mo., challenged Tholstrup to a race across the United States. He declined, so in the summer of 1984, the Crowder team crossed the country alone.

Competitions have sprouted up around the world, the site said, including the United States, Japan, Germany, Switzerland and Austra-

lia. The first American Solar Car Challenge was in 2001.

The challenge combines the history and adventure of Route 66, the site said, with the futuristic look of solar and electrical vehicle transportation.

Solar car races are just one of the many ways solar power and electric transportation are being tested, refined and perfected, the site said.

## Auditor says city revenues flat, carryover slipping; commission approves city ordinances

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
There were no errors found in the city audit for last year, Auditor Jim VonFeldt of VonFeldt, Bauer and VonFeldt of Larned told the city commission Monday evening during their regular meeting.  
VonFeldt said his firm had not found any problems or errors in doing the audit for last year, and that it was good to work with City Clerk Mary Volk and City Manager Ron Pickman.

He said the economy and the state cuts had reduced the revenues, and that the lower interest rates meant a drop over last year and probably this year of nearly \$300,000. He said he did not see that changing much for at least a year or two, and that it was equal to a drop of 4 mills of property tax.

Using charts VonFeldt told the commissioners the city has done pretty well in maintaining expenses where possible. However, he did say the city needs to look at the utility rates because the sewer, water and electrical revenues are not covering the costs of operation.

Commissioner Chuck Lutters made a motion to accept the audit as presented, and a second motion to hire the same audit firm for the next three years at a cost of \$12,500 for 2003; \$13,000 for 2004; and \$13,600 for 2005.

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked about putting the audit out for bid. He was told that the last time the audit was bid VonFeldt, Bauer and VonFeldt were the low bidder by quite a percentage, and that the feeling of most of the commissioners was that they were doing a good job for the city at a reasonable price.

The commission voted unanimously 5-0 to accept the audit and

to hire the auditors for the next three years.

Appointments were made to the Shade Tree Board and the Airport Advisory Board. Ed. Cartoon and Judy McKee were reappointed to the shade tree board for 3-year terms, and Larry Dickey and Dan Barker were reappointed to the airport advisory board for 3-year terms.

The commission unanimously approved a sidewalk display permit for Aten Department Store, Mr. Jim's His Shop and Jacque's Hallmark for a sidewalk sale to be held Thursday through Saturday. The city issues permits for this type of sale under an ordinance dealing with obstruction of the sidewalks.

Public Works Manager Ed Wolak said the city has been running with two wells down, 9 and 7, and that they have been reduced to pumping well 11 at night because they lost an underground power line from Armory Road north to the airport. He said the lift station has been down, and that there was another water main break on Main.

Commissioner Dean Blume asked how the water pumping has

been this year. Pickman said for the first six months the total usage was below last year, but expected July to be up because of the hot weather and the lack of rain.

Commissioner John Garcia asked about the status of Pioneer Park and if it has been sent out to bid. Pickman said the project has been delayed by a requirement to get a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. "We are pushing on this project daily," Pickman said. "We are not pleased with the delays on this project. It is a priority, and we are trying to get this moving forward."

In other business the commission:

- Approved a payment of \$21,104 to Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates for engineering work done on the runway and taxiway lighting project at Renner Field.

Darin Neufeld of the engineering firm said this project is currently out for bid and that the bids should be back and ready for review at the next commission meeting. He said there has been interest from five contractors on this project.

- Approved a change order with

Ballou Construction Co. to bring the crack seal project at Renner Field down to the level of the money that is available. The change order was negotiated by Neufeld and dropped the price by \$60,825 to bring it to \$168,950.

- Approved five ordinances. Ordinance No. 1504 amended the solid waste collection ordinance to include the enforcement of overdue bills by allowing the city to cut off utilities. This has been the case in the past, but Pickman said when the new ordinance was drawn up it was accidentally omitted.

- Approved Ordinance No. 1505 setting the mill levy of the public library and establishing that the library board and the city commis-

sion will review the levy on an annual basis.

Approved ordinances adopting the new "Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities," and an ordinance adopting the "Uniform Public Offense Code for Kansas

Cities," with changes passed by the state legislature.

Approved an ordinance amending the city zoning code to allow motel, hotel or tourist court owners to have a single family dwelling unit in conjunction with their business.



# Thank You

**The City/County Recreation Department would like to thank the following businesses for all of their help with the West Regional K-18 Tournament that was the weekend of July 18, 19 and 20th.**

Seamhead Sports and Apparel, Picnic in the Park, Bowladium Lanes, RubiDolls, Wendy's, McClure's Plumbing and Heating, McDonald's, Dairy Queen, Taco John's, people's State Bank, Total/A&W, Pizza Hut, Gambino's, Goodland Chamber of Commerce, City of Goodland employees, Goodland Fire Department, Coca-Cola, Snappy Snack, Howard Johnson/s, Goodland Police Department, Cub Scouts #142, Boy Scouts #142, Catholic Youth Group, Color Guard of Goodland High School, Vocal Appreciation Club, and finally a big thank you to all the fans, players and coaches for making this tournament a great big success.

**We would also like to thank some other individuals that helped out with this tournament by working the firlds and making sure the players, coaches, umpires and fans were will taken care of:**

Tess Schultz, Stephanie Fairbanks, Jay Pettibone, Sheila Smith, Donna Fenner, Shauna Johnson, Andrew Melia, Dustin Zelfer, Erik Roeder, Bill Knox, Dean Fenner, John Walz, Sam Zelfer, Tammy Hayes, Amanda Hoffman, Erinn Abernathy and Buddy Williams.

Northwest Kansas District Free Fair  
**Howdy Rowdy Rodeo**  
Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.  
Sherman County Fairgrounds  
Sign up deadline postmarked August 1<sup>st</sup>  
For Information contact  
John Dautel 785-899-7426 evenings or  
Greg Sederstrom 785-899-3594 evenings

SIGCO is again cleaning seed wheat at **Edson**. We have made many improvements to the facility, including a Gravity Cleaner!

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**785-899-5607 or 899-6518**

**SIGCO**  
SUN PRODUCTS<sup>INC.</sup>

SIGCO Sun Products  
1701 Industrial Loop  
Goodland, KS 67735

**corrections**

In the Looking East story that ran Tuesday, July 22, Kin Huang was reported as being a Goodland resident for 48 years. It should have read Kin Huang has been a Goodland resident for 38 years. Our apologies to Kin. This was a reporting error.

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The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.