

1,010-word list takes contest prize

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
A Goodland woman was able to find 1,010 words using the letters from "germinate" in the fifth annual Goodland Star-News Sunflower Word Contest.

Karen Weber, 62, 2802 Commerce, won a year's subscription to The Goodland Star-News for her efforts.

Weber, a retired teacher from Burlington, submitted a total of 1,040 words, but 30 were found to be duplicates or not qualified words.

There were 66 entrants in the contest, with the oldest being Dorothy Hirsch, 97, from Cortez, Colo., and the youngest Ryan Brethower, 10, from Yamhill, Ore. Hirsch submitted 194 words and Brethower 146.

Among the other entries was one from Lewis Patten, 91, of Brewster who had 50 words.

Evelyn Ward, 602 E. 7th, had 337 words. Denise Floyd, 1515 U.S. 24, had 338 and Sylvia Hurst, 708 W. 12th had 208.

"My son and I had fun doing this," wrote Sylvia Walker, 49, of Atwood, who had 99 words. She said if they were to win, the subscription was to go to her aunt, Velma Holste of Goodland.

The average age of the entrants was 54 from Goodland and 52 from the other cities. There were five under the age of 20 and 10 over the age of 80.

About half the entries came from Goodland with others from Bird City, Herndon, Brewster, Winona, Kanorado, Wallace, St. Francis, Hoxie, Oakley, McDonald, Weskan, Foley, N.M., Colby, Sharon Springs and Atwood.

The staff is already looking for a word for next year.

Cleaning up a winner



Crew members Willie Ater and Ian Swanger helped crew chief Scott Gerkin of Steve Kinser Racing load up a freshly washed sprint car at the Goodland Car Wash before heading to Denver

on Tuesdays as a part of the World of Outlaw Series. Kinser placed fourth while racing in Jetmore on Monday night.

Photos by Shannon Davidson/The Goodland Star-News

City renews lease of Carnegie Arts Center building

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

More than 40 supporters of the Carnegie Art Center jammed the chairs as the city commission discussed renewal of the lease for the Goodland Arts Council. After some wrangling, it was approved unanimously.

Director Tina Goodwin told the commissioners about the council's programs and the importance of the Art Center. The council has been in operation for 25 years, she said, and moved into the old Carnegie Library in 1983.

Goodwin was supported by board member Linda Koons, who talked about the early history of the council and how they raised money to help remodel the old library before it opened as the art center.

Gennifer House, a member of the state Historical Society board, gave the history of the early years of the building and the effort to have it listed on the state and national historic registers. She said the city had qualified for two historic grants to help with remodeling and upkeep of the building.

Richard Whitmore, a center board member, said the council gets

25 percent of its income from memberships, 50 percent from fund raising events during the year and that government support from the city, county and state is just 20 percent of their budget.

"We have a break-even budget every year," Whitmore said.

Janet Warren, also a board member, said it was important to the council to continue the lease on the Carnegie library building. "It is the key to the continued existence of the art program."

Commissioner Dean Blume asked a question about the lack of handicap access. Several plans have been proposed, but they have either been impractical or would mar the historical nature of the building.

City Manager Ron Pickman said this remains a problem. He said they are waiting for a decision from the state attorney general as to whether the building may be exempt from the American with Disabilities Act because of the historical designations.

A new option was discovered in a design that was done for the art council in the late 1980s or early '90s which for a ramp and door on the east side of the building. It

would create an attractive courtyard area there. Pickman said the city will ask the state Historical Society to send an architect out to look at the building and see if the east-side ramp is a possibility.

"This would be a great alternative," he said, "because it accomplishes the handicap access and does not destroy any of the appearance of the front of the building."

"We are hopeful this will work," Goodwin added, "because it would add to the attractiveness of the building and be a part of the downtown revitalization."

Pickman said several projects need to be done on the outside of the building, including replacing the front columns and tuck pointing the brick.

He was asked if the city could use grant money to do these, but he said the money was used on the roof.

"We requested bids on this twice," he said, "but could not get anyone to bid because of the special restrictions the state Historical Society has."

He said the city would ask for another grant, but did not know what the chances are.

"When I talked to the people in

Topeka," he said, "they said there is money in the Heritage trust fund."

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked about the second paragraph of the leases which said it would be renewed for five years, and that the council would have the option to renew each five years for a total of 20.

Daniels asked whether that was one-sided because it did not give the city an option to cancel.

Mayor Rick Billinger said the only option the city had under the lease was to sell the building. The arts council would be given the first option to purchase the building, and if they did not buy it, the city could sell it to anyone else.

Blume made a motion to approve the lease as presented.

There was dead silence when Billinger asked for a second. He asked a second time and there was no response from the rest of the commissioners.

While they were pondering, Kin Huang, a former member who has recently returned to the arts council board, talked about the importance of the center, and how impressed she was with the positive attitude of the people when she

came here 38 years ago from Hong Kong. She talked about being part of the group that did fund raising for the building remodeling 20 years ago.

Daniels asked how soon the city might know about the handicap access, but Pickman said he had not idea how long that might take.

Billinger asked about making a minor change that would allow the city be part of the renewal process.

Blume said that it is an expensive building to maintain.

"I know it could come to a point where it could be too expensive," he said.

"Maybe this time," Commissioner Lutters said. "This is a unilateral agreement for the arts council. We need to negotiate something because the city is suffering under financial cuts."

Everyone agreed that the council was a good organization, and important to the community.

"I believe it is a vital part of the community," Daniels said, "but I am looking at this clause and thinking about down the line."

"I have full confidence in how the lease has been written," said Commissioner John Garcia. "I would support tabling this and get a change of words."

There was a large chorus of "no" from the audience, and some commissioners also said they did not think it should be tabled.

Billinger asked Blume if he would withdraw his motion, but Blume said he had not heard a good reason to do that.

"I do not want this to die," Blume added.

Pickman said that without a second, the motion would die anyway.

Billinger again asked Blume to withdraw the motion so he could suggest an alternative. Blume reluctantly agreed.

Billinger asked Daniels if he would be satisfied if the words "and landlord" could be added to the paragraph. Daniels said that would be sufficient because it gave the city the option as well as the arts council.

Billinger asked for agreement from the council board members and the answer was it was OK.

Garcia made a motion to amend the lease to add the words. Daniels seconded it and it passed unanimously. Garcia made the motion to approve the amended lease, it was seconded by Daniels and passed unanimously.

The new lease will take effect on Oct. 7.

Newest e-mail scam hits computer systems

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Checked your e-mail lately?

You may notice when you have e-mail messages with ".pif" attachments. Maybe a LOT of messages.

"We have yet to see a legitimate .pif attachment," said Evan Barnum, systems administrator of *nw-kansas.com*. "The .pif attachments that are coming through are a Windows-based virus being sent from one (or several) infected computers — somewhere — that is trying to spread itself to non-infected computers."

"Treat ALL e-mails with .pif attachments as virus-infected messages, and trash them. At the same time, go into your e-mail attachments folder and trash all attachments that end with .pif."

"Because *nw-kansas.com* is a Macintosh-based system, the virus that spreads these .pif attachments cannot infect or damage us directly. They do, however, take up space — and might be accidentally spread.

"Our customers should not see any further .pif attachments. As of today our e-mail server is blocking any e-mail with a .pif attachments," Barnum said.

Last week the "Blaster Worm" had the headlines as the latest computer virus hit the world. At the same time, a new e-mail scam game started showing up, telling people their credit card was being charged for "money laundering."

Attorney General Phill Kline recommends that anyone who receives such an e-mail just delete it without sending any reply. The e-mail message says: "We have just charged your credit card for money laundry service in amount of \$234.65 (because you are either child pornography webmaster or deal with dirty money, which require us to laundry them and then send to your checking account).

"If you feel this transaction was made by our mistake, please press "No".

"If you confirm this transaction, please press "Yes" and fill in the form below.

"Enter your credit card number here:

"Enter your credit card expiration date:"

The attorney general's office said the messages appear to be coming from Uruguay. No one has charged your credit card, but if you send

them the number, they might well do so. The safest course is not to reply at all.

Computer users who have the Microsoft operating systems — Windows 2000, Windows NT, Windows XP and Windows Server — risk receiving the Blaster Worm.

The symptom of the new virus is that your system keeps coming up with a message that says it will shut down in 60 seconds. If you have been hit, go to the "www.microsoft.com/windows" home page and follow the instructions on how to download a patch to prevent the worm, and then update your anti-virus program to make sure it is cleaned out. In the past, one of the most prolific e-mail scam letters has

been the "Nigerian scam," claiming that a high government official was trying to get money out of the country, and if the person receiving the message would send their bank information, they would get a large reward.

"If you have been victimized by one of these Nigerian schemes," Kline said, "please forward written documentation to the U.S. Secret Service, Financial Crimes Division, 950 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20223, or telephone 202-406-5572."

"If you have received a letter, but have not lost any money to this scheme, please fax a copy of that letter to the Secret Service at (202) 406-5031."

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Arvada man arrested in assault of Kanorado girl

An 21-year-old Aurora, Colo., man has been arrested for a sexual assault on a Kanorado girl under the age of 16.

Sheriff Doug Whitson said Wednesday that Albuero Bueno-Moncada had been arrested Monday on a charge of aggravated indecent liberties with a person under 16.

He said the incident happened in Kanorado on Sunday, Aug. 3.

"We interviewed him in Aurora on Monday and placed him under arrest at that time," Whitson said.

"He is in jail in Aurora awaiting extradition, and is facing some local charges there as well."

corrections

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.

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