

Bull riders event features entertainment



Punkin Town Clown and his "smart" horse Wrangler (above) entertained during the Western Plains Chute-Out Wednesday and helped protect the cowboys riding the bulls. Demi Mitchcheck, 10, (right) and her cousin entertained the PBR crowd before the show began and she sang the national anthem.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

City cuts budget, property tax

CITY, from Page 1

flow the payment to repay the city reserves.

Gerber said each department included a 3 percent in salary, but said the total would not make a 3 percent total compared to this year.

He said the budget includes doing a salary survey next year using an outside firm.

With each department Gerber would indicate if any major changes were anticipated.

He said the police budget keeps the status quo and includes some new equipment to update the protective vests.

Chief Ray Smee said the vests need to be done every five years, and that a Department of Justice grand will pay for about half the cost.

He said this is the last year for the Crown Victoria as Ford is coming out with a new police package.

There were no major changes in the municipal court budget, and Judge Leann Taylor said she was working with the county to file some cases in district court.

Billinger asked how the animal control program was working.

Gerber said he felt the city was keeping a lid on things and that it is going relatively well. He said they have someone picking up dogs from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and the police are picking up at night.

He said the city payment is offset a bit because of the increase in dog and cat licenses and the county has established a payment for picking up and caring for dogs.

Billinger said he was glad to see the budget included the \$2,000 donation to the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter to help them take care of the dogs.

In the fire department Gerber said the staff removed money from the budget for a rescue vehicle.

"I think Chief Brian James is in agreement for the most part," Gerber said. "We realize this is not going to move forward and we took it out so we do not have a problem between the staff and the commission."

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he could not see the city purchasing a rescue vehicle for five to 10 years.

"The county has a new one," Billinger said.

Billinger asked about raising the doors on the firetruck bays.

James said the original doors are 9 feet tall, but the new trucks are about 12 feet tall. He said he has had two

people come look at the job and feel it can be done.

He said another option would be to do what Colby did and drop the floors, but felt that would be more expensive.

A firetruck replacement is in the budget James said.

Billinger asked how old the truck would be that is to be replaced.

James said it will be about 30 years old.

He said the other major cost will be replacement of the individual bunker gear – boots, pants, coat, helmets and gloves. He said the bunker gear is considered obsolete after 10 years. He said the plan is to use the money from the rescue truck for this purchase.

On his job as building inspector James said he would like to see more money for demolition and cleanup.

Mayor Josh Dechant asked James how he likes the dual role of fire chief and building inspector and code enforcement.

"It makes my life interesting," James said. "More on the code enforcement side than the building side. I meet interesting people."

Talking about city parks Rich Simon, public works director, said he had one employee quit and hired one at a lower salary with a difference of about \$6,000.

Dechant said he felt the city parks crew was doing a good job of keeping up with the dandelions.

Linda Holton said the High Plains Museum budget had not changed much.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said the new front looks good, and the painting and sign was quite and improvement.

Holton said one thing coming is to put new doors on the front of the building.

Under recreation Gerber said there is growing momentum for a dedicated fastpitch softball field, and the people are looking to apply for grants to help with this.

He said the plan would be to turn one of the existing softball fields into a fastpitch field.

"There is no reason for us not to say yes at this point," he said.

Simon said it has been a good year at Steever Water Park, and he has turned all the problem over to Doug.

Dechant said he liked the canopy and it is well used.

Gerber said the city has been approached about doing an Eagle Scout project to put up another canopy. He said he would let the commissioners know when he has more details.

He said he was looking at possibly some improvements for next year including a water spout that looks like a mushroom.

Dechant asked the commissioners if they were fine with the budget.

City Clerk Mary Volk said the city will have to do something about the water fund as the problem is not going to go away.

"I think I have made my case for water," Gerber said, "that we need to look at more than \$5."



Chemicals, truck raise weed budget

WEEDS, from Page 5

Hall said the spray truck has a specific duty of spraying ditches and the other smaller truck is for spot spraying noxious weeds.

Linin asked if the sprayer is something that could be taken off and get a different chassis.

"It could be done," Hall said. "Nothing is wrong with the sprayer unit. You could buy a chassis from a local dealer for about \$60,000 and the spraying units is about \$30,000.

"If you get to spraying more roads we will need two trucks."

"That gets us back to the total," Strnad said. "if we can reduce the mowing we would move that into the spraying."

"It is going to take a while to figure out what it is going to take. I know you can grow grass, but you have to work at it. I have seen the state do that when they redo a road.

"If the county elevates a road it needs to be seeded. It is going to take time to do it, but I think it is the way to go."

Thomas asked if the transfer to a new chassis would work.

Hall said the Honda engine is working OK. He said a new truck

comes with four compartments and the one the county has is a compartment. The spray unit has a 1,200-gallon main tank and 300 gallons in the back. He said some places around the area are using the second tank for spraying noxious weeds.

Thomas asked if Hall was doing some weed spraying for farmers.

Hall said he has been doing a little, but needs a smaller spray rig to get into most of those spots.

Prairie dog bait will have a big change this year he said, and has already put in an order for a truck load of bait. He said the label on Rozol will change and say you cannot use the bait within five miles of a colony of black footed ferrets.

The commissioners agreed they had not heard of any black footed ferrets in Sherman County.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the noxious weed department might have a problem with budget authority. She said she had \$40,000 for the whole year, and the expenses are about \$94,000. She said she is not sure what's going on. She said the prairie dog expense is under the courthouse general, and should have enough budget authority to handle that.

"You are going to really have to look at

that," Rumpel said. "I am not sure about reimbursement on prairie dog bait. We got \$26,000 back in this year."

"We need to decide what we are going to do about the prairie dogs," Strnad said.

Thomas said he felt the county ought to contract the prairie dog baiting out.

Hall said he agreed because if the county does it all he would almost have to have a full time man.

"I agree about contracting the prairie dogs," Linin said.

Strnad made motion to contract for prairie dog bating. The motion passed 3-0.

Thomas said getting back to noxious weeds Hall could forget the four-wheeler. He was not sure what to do about the truck.

"The truck is something I really feel we need," Hall said. "With two tanks could use one on noxious weeds."

He said he started out in the southeast part of the county driving every road. He said there is a lot of bindweed in the county.

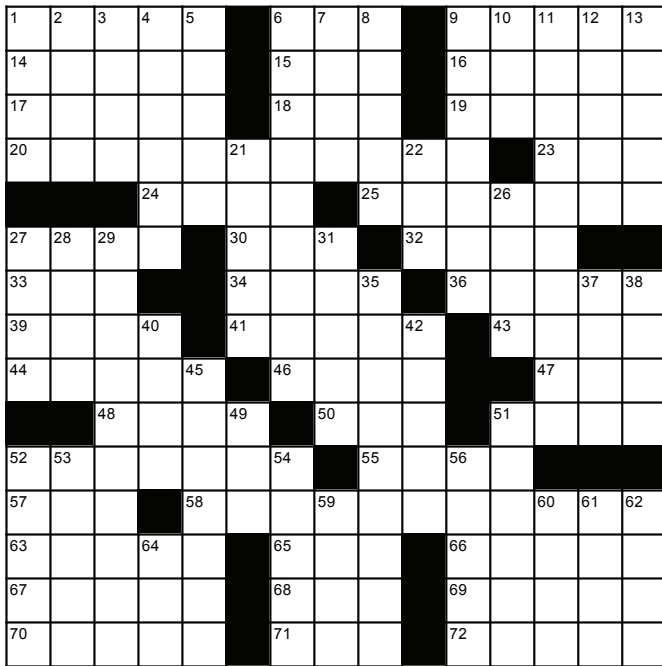
Thomas said he would like to digest all the budget information, and they would talk about it again at the work session to begin at 8 a.m. on Tuesday.

Crossword Puzzle

The Hole Truth

ACROSS

- "Barbarella" director Roger
- Jazz style for Charlie Parker
- Like a beaver, perhaps
- "Maria ___" ('40s hit)
- AP rival
- Single-handedly
- Certain circus star
- Sample the sherry
- Permanent location?
- It has holes
- The Marlins' home: Abbr.
- "Pygmalion" author
- Any of the Chicago 7, e.g.
- Cartoon skunk Le Pew
- HBO competitor
- Car bomb?
- Prefix with glottis or dermis
- Shoe attachments
- Comes down in buckets
- Mudville complement
- Deep-six
- In perfect alignment
- 1983 movie with Mr. T
- Welles character
- Entrepreneur-aiding org.
- Surfer, these days
- Common surgical replacement
- 180-degree turns, slangily
- Waldheim was its president
- Management level



American Profile Hometown Content

8/1/2010

- Librarian's admonition, maybe
- It has holes
- Grofé's "Grand Canyon ___"
- Conventioneer's topper
- Sine or tangent
- Loud, as the surf
- Multipurpose truck
- Large computer key
- Lionesses lack them
- Letters for Leary
- Taunt

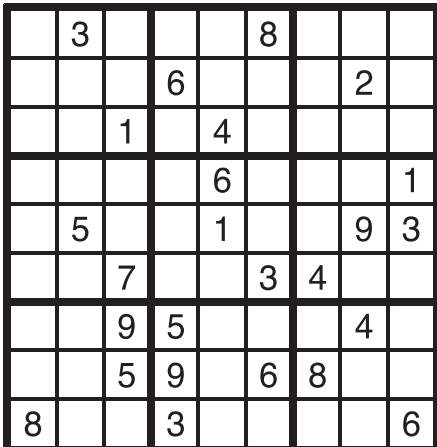
DOWN

- November paraders
- What "there oughta be"
- Moore of "G.I. Jane"
- Actually existing
- Everglade
- Attack by surprise
- Aunt Bee's charge
- Kilted musician
- Lessened the pressure
- Taking after
- It has holes
- ___ Gay (Hiroshima bomber)
- Kidney-related
- Playbill listings
- Two cents' worth
- "___ You Babe"
- Hang in the balance
- Monumental
- It has holes
- First name in afternoon TV
- Disinfected
- Keeler of "42nd Street"
- Salty septet

- Vane direction
- Charlemagne's father
- North African tribesmen
- Cruise port, brief
- Suave
- State of India
- "Star Trek" lieutenant
- Worth two thumb down
- White-plumed bird
- "___ Make a Deal"
- "___ boy!"
- Baloney
- Folk wisdom
- Menlo Park monogram

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:

FUN BY THE NUMBERS



Level: Intermediate

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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