

# Student votes counted

President George Bush is a favorite to easily carry Kansas and win his second term, at least if you figure on the results of the mock election at Goodland High School last week.

Jo Ann Wahrman, high school librarian, said the students were allowed to vote during class last Monday and Tuesday, with 66 percent voting the county ballot and at two web sites for Channel One and for Youth Leadership where the kids can vote in national mock elections for president.

For president, the Republican Bush-Cheney ticket received 143 votes from the students, with the Democratic Kerry-Edwards ticket getting 54. Other candidates received votes included Reform ticket Nader and Camejo 8, Independent ticket Peroutka-Clymer 3, and Libertarian ticket Badnarik-Campagna 1.

Sen Sam Brownback easily “won” reelection with 158 votes over Rosile 18, Jones 15, and Cook 12.

Rep. Jerry Moran had 172 votes to 31 for Libertarian Jack Warner.

In the State Senate District 40 race, Ralph Ostmeyer had 140 votes to 56 for Tim Peterson and there were 6 write-in votes for Dan Rasure, 1997 Goodland High graduate.

Republican Kevin Butts was the winner in the Sherman County sheriff’s race, with the students giving him 130 votes to 64 for Democrat John McCool. There were write-ins for Art Lovington, Rod Cooper and Dee Albers.

County Commissioner Mitch Tiede had no competition and received 172 votes. There were write-ins for Jenna Esinbart and Bill Borneman.

There were no vote totals for Commissioner Kevin Rasure because the ballot used did not include his commissioner district.

Iris Scheopner received 185 votes for county treasurer and there were two write ins for Crystal (Linsner) Wright, who lost to her in the Republican primary.

Bonnie Selby received 165 votes for county attorney, and there were two write ins for Scott Showalter and two for Perry Warren.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel had 189, and Register of Deeds Carol Armstrong had 184.

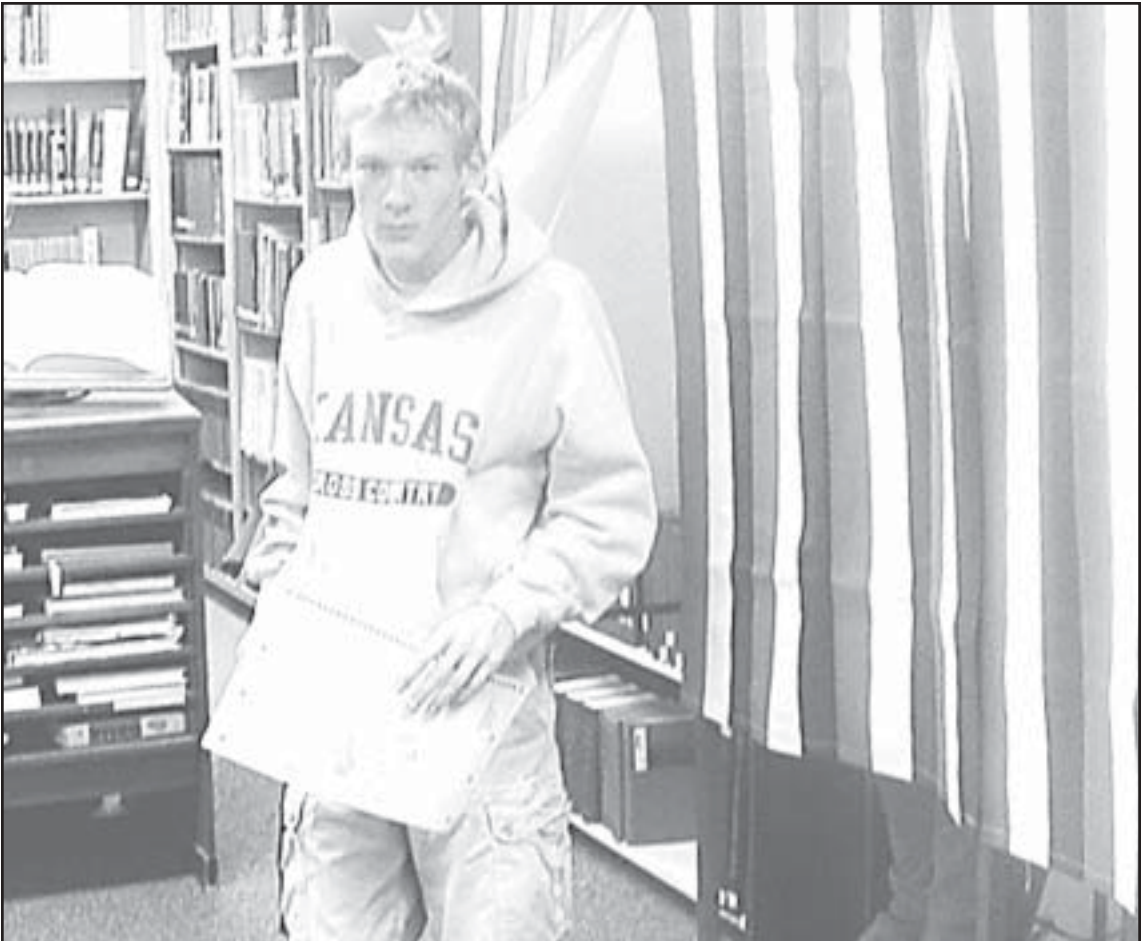
State Rep. Jim Morrison had 165 votes to out distance Libertarian Dannis Robison, who received 32.

The high vote getters were the district judges, with Glenn Schiffner and Jack Burr both receiving 193. All of the appellate and Supreme Court judges were retained by the students.

The presidential votes for Channel One were to be tabulated on Friday and broken down by state, and the Youth Leadership votes will be tallied on Friday.

Wahrman said Monday the Channel One totals gave the popular vote to Bush with 55 percent and 44 percent for Kerry.

The electoral vote was 330 for Bush and 208 for Kerry. The winner needs 270 electoral votes to win.



Kerek Mason left the voting booth after expressing his choices last week. Goodland High School photo

# City wants to buy water rights to improve its supply

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*  
Goodland’s water supply should improve with the approval at last Monday’s City Commission meeting to purchase 435 acre feet of water rights for \$210,000.

The motion came after a 15-minute closed-door session to discuss acquisition of property. Commissioner Jim Mull made the motion to authorize the mayor to sign the documents to purchase the water rights, and the vote was unanimous.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the water rights, being purchased from Marsha and John Golden, are on the west edge of the city, south of Eighth Street.

He told the commission that the

city was making a counteroffer to the Goldens, and they have not signed the contract.

The city and the Goldens have been negotiating for months, Pickman said, and the city had some tests run on an existing well to be sure it is good water. He said the city will have to build a water line to connect the well to the city system, and there will be other costs.

Costs for producing electric power may be taking a jump later this year, Pickman told the commission.

“The diesel fuel we buy for the electric plant has gone from 44 cents (per gallon) when we purchased it last year to a quote of \$1.90,” he said. “The costs for natural gas are at \$3.50, and are projected to hit \$9 this winter.

“It costs us over \$60 per megawatt hour now to produce electricity. If this increase happens, it will double, and I am not sure how our people are going to be able to pay these costs.

“We may have to curtail some of our activities, and will be developing a plan of action. I will be watching this daily, and will notify you if we need to take such action.”

The city power plant is a dual-fuel system which allows the engines to use either natural gas or diesel to produce electricity, but it’s usually cheaper for the city to buy power. The costs of fuel to produce the electricity is passed directly on to the customers through a fuel adjustment charge. The city does not

keep any of this money.

In other business, the commission:

- Approved the refinancing of two general obligation bond issues from 1996 at a savings of \$11,677. Greg Vahrenberg of Piper, Jaffray out of Leawood is handling the refunding. He wrote to Pickman on Thursday with the final refinancing analysis.

The savings comes from lowering the interest rate on the \$530,000 in bonds to 3 percent. The \$11,677 is the net savings to the city after costs and fees. Originally, the city had been told the savings might be as high as \$18,000.

- Tabled approval of the Easton property drainage project to see if there are other possible bidders on

building a grass waterway north from First Street to Armory Road on the east edge of the property, which is on the northeast edge of the city.

Pickman presented a bid he was given by Fred Wedel of the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service for the project. He said the city was being asked to pay \$5,000 of the cost and that the federal agency would cover the rest. He estimated the cost would be \$6,000 for digging the waterway, and \$3,000 for the seeding. Commissioner Rick Billinger asked to have the item tabled because he felt the project should be bid out to all those certified to do such work.

- Approved a contract with Sherman County for the Goodland Public Library. The county will provide \$15,000 next year to pay for library service to county citizens.

• Heard that because of the increase in valuation, the city property tax would increase by .75 of one mill rather than the 3 mills expected by the commissioners when they approved next year’s budget. For next year, each mill of property tax will raise \$24,862, and the city levy will be 50.81 mills.

• Held two closed-door sessions to evaluate the city manager. The first was for 15 minutes without Pickman in the room, and the second for 15 minutes was with Pickman and the commission. When the meeting reopened, no action was taken.

The meeting began at 5 p.m. and adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

# First money received from 911 charge on cell phones

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*  
Sherman County has received about \$1,250 so far from the new 911 charge on cell phones, the county commissioners were told last Tuesday.

Mary Messamore, county emergency management director, said the new law went into effect in July. The first check was received in September for \$536, and with a second check in October, the total received has been \$1,248.

The new law puts a 50-cents-per-month charge on each of the estimated 1.5 million cell phones in the state. The money is distributed to the counties according to where the cell phones are billed, Messamore said.

She said this money will help pay for a planned upgrade to the Enhanced 911 system, which appears to be more expensive than she had first estimated.

“I am having some mapping problems,” Messamore said. “The

files will not convert with the software we have, and it may cost about \$2,000 more to do the upgrade.”

Messamore handed the commissioners information on possible grants the county might qualify for to help upgrade its radios. She said she had seen information about the need to upgrade the emergency medical radios, and said that was only a small part of what will need to be done and channels change in the next few years.

The information was handed to Commissioner Chuck Thomas to be

forwarded to Penny Nemechek, who is the joint community grant writer.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede reported that the new fire truck for Kanorado had arrived Monday at Dan Brenner Ford, and that it would be taken to Hays this week to begin having equipment installed. That may take up to 90 days.

The commissioners discussed the five-year transportation plan with Curt Way, public works manager. The document is an agreement with

the Kansas Department of Transportation’s Bureau of Local Projects, which handles federal money that is given to the state for city and county roads.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked about changes in the agreement, and Way said he was told the new agreement has incorporated the details from the original agreement signed in 1948 and a revised agreement from 1975.

The commissioners approved the agreement and signed three copies

for Way to send to Topeka.

Delegates for the upcoming Kansas Counties Association meeting were elected, with County Treasurer Shelby Miller being named the delegate, Janet Rumpel as first alternate and Thomas as second alternate.

Crystal Wright said in a memo to the commissioners that Infinitec was interested in buying the county’s old IBM AS400 computer to use for spare parts. She said they had offered \$500.

The commissioners said they would allow the sale, but asked Wright to contact Sunflower Computer to see if they might be interested.

A closed session on personnel was held for five minutes, but no action was taken when the meeting reopened. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m. The next commissioner meeting will begin 8 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 29, in the commission room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse, 813 Broadway.



1st Annual  
Big Brothers/  
Big Sisters of Sherman  
County

## DANCE FOR KIDS \$AKE

Halloween Costume Dance  
Live Music - Aces and Eights  
**Saturday, October 30**  
**8 p.m. - 12 a.m.**

Knights of Columbus  
In advance \$5      At the door \$7  
Kids under 10 free

**Best Costume Competition**  
1st place - \$50, 2nd place - \$30,  
3rd place - \$25 gift card to El Dorado

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El Dorado Western Wear and Fashion