



Eagle Scout candidate Matt Rohr showed his plan for a flag pole to be erected on Cherry Avenue to Mayor Rick Billinger at a City Commission meeting last Tuesday. The commission approved the plan to have it built this summer.  
Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

# Eagle Scout’s flagpole approved

CITY, from Page 1

Wednesday evening, Clerk Mary Volk said she had checked on the taxes and they would be about \$55. She said she called Russell and told him. She said he was to pay the city the one-third he had offered. Commission members thought about bidding the farming out, but agreed with the timing, it would be good to go with Russell’s offer. “If you are ready to go I’m ready,” Russell told the commission the night before. Fairbanks asked Lutters and Rich Simon, water and street superintendent, if the city is spraying for mosquitoes. Simon said they had started spraying at night in the middle of June, but the cost of the chemicals was much higher this year than ex-

pected. He said they would be spraying through the rest of the summer. Bob Brown, 224 E. 16th, approached the commission to ask that his trash charge be dropped from commercial to residential. Brown said when his property was purchased in 1977, he and his wife had three apartments plus their living area. However, Brown said, the apartments have been closed and he is no longer renting them out. He said he and his wife have retired and will not be renting out the apartments. He wanted to know how to get the trash rate changed down to a single-family residence. Volk said she did not know how to change the trash rate because the property is listed as commercial, and that is billed through In the Can.

The commissioners said they would see what could be done, but agreed that under the city ordinance, there is no provision for changing from commercial to residential. The commission adjourned at 6:15 p.m. and members walked down to the Ennis-Handy House for the picnic with Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. The commissioners returned at 7:30 p.m. to begin a budget workshop, which lasted until 11:30 p.m. Mayor Billinger said the commission was continuing to interview manager candidates and three more were to be interviewed last week. The commission held a special session at 5 p.m. on Monday to review the candidates interviewed and try to determine the finalists or make an offer to the top choice.

# Budget woes make decisons tough

BUDGET, from Page 1

Volk said the planned rate increase will balance that department’s budget. “That puts it in the black,” Volk said. Billinger asked Lutters when the city could expect to hear from Sunflower about a new contract. “About three days before the end of the contract,” Lutters said. “They are not going to be in any hurry, and if they know another power plant is being built, they will likely wait until they see the competition’s offer to the city.” Volk said the electric fund could be balanced without a rate increase if transfers to the general fund of \$430,000 and \$95,000 for a pool payment were taken out. The commission agreed that was not a realistic solution and agreed to the rate study and adjustments to bring the revenue up by \$410,000. Water was showing a deficit of \$184,000. Interim City Manager Tom Armour listed the water rates of a few Kansas cities. Mulvane charges \$9 on first 2,000 gallons \$4.70 for each additional 1,000 gallons, he said. St. John charges \$5 for first 3,000 gallons and \$1.60 for every additional 1,000. Volk said the current rate here is \$7.60 for the first 300 cubic feet and 95 cents per 100 cubic feet after that. A cubic foot is about 7.48 gallons of water which means the 300 cubic feet is about 2,200 gallons. “We raised the water \$2 last year,” Billinger said. “We did not have a lot of complaints, but we are faced with raising it again this year. I think there will be more complaints.” Dechant asked how many customers the water department has. Volk said there are 2,140. Asked about transfers, Volk said the general fund gets \$66,000 for administration costs and electric

receives \$50,000 for billing. In addition the water department has been paying one-third of the total pool payment, or \$95,000. Dechant said the city would have to raise the monthly base by \$7.17 to \$14.73 a month to break even, but that would nearly double the charge. Or, he said, a raise of 50 cents per cubic foot on the volume charge would make up the difference. “I don’t like that,” Billinger said. “Maybe we ought to get the pool payment back to the general fund. That is a high-dollar deal.” Dechant said with the pool payment of \$95,000 taken out, the city could raise the base to about \$11 a month and the water fund would break even. That would be nearly a 50 percent increase in the water base. “Take the pool out and go to \$11.25 on base,” Billinger said. “Do we need to go to \$12 to give us a cushion?” The commissioners agreed the \$11.25 should be enough, and agreed to move the pool payment to the general fund, “That takes care of water,” Billinger said. Before turning to the general fund, the commission discussed the sewer fund. Sewer fees have been raised the past two years after a new rate structure was approved to build a fund for improvements. Volk said the formula in the ordinance called for an increase of 1 cent on the monthly base residential rate and a dime on the water consumption rate. Billinger argued that with people facing increases in electric, water and property tax rates, it seemed wrong to raise the sewer rates. “Seems silly to raise one penny and a dime,” Commissioner Dave Daniels said. “It is not worth the complaints,” Fairbanks said, “and probably not worth the effort or make it larger until we decide what direction we

are going.” “So you are going to leave sewer the same?” Volk asked. “I don’t see a reason to catch hell over a 10-cent raise,” Billinger said. “All we are doing is budget now, and we are all guessing. “All OK with leaving sewer as it is?” The commissioners agreed to leave sewer alone, but Dechant said the commission should make a decision in the next year about the direction it wants to go for a new waste treatment plant while interest rates remain low. On the general fund, Volk said she took \$95,000 from water and moved it to the general fund for the pool payment. She took out \$1,000 for grass in recreation, and then adjusted mosquito spray up by \$1,040. That made a net change of \$95,040 for the general fund. She said with the extra pool payment, the property tax levy would have to go up 6.84 mills over last year. Taking a \$50,000 home as an example, Volk said the property taxes would increase \$32.83 a year, or about \$2.75 a month. Volk said the budget includes a 5 percent merit pay raise for city employees. She said it is rare if any of the employees get the full 5 percent after their annual review. “We have got good people and they work hard,” Billinger said. “I think we need to tell them that we appreciate the work they do.” “We have a good work force,” Lutters agreed. “The employees have taken the initiative and the people have noticed,” Commissioner John Garcia said. “It has been small things like Gulick Park, but people see things happening in the city.” After Volk finishes putting the budget together, a public hearing will be held at the city commission meeting on Monday, Aug. 1.

# Brick repairs OK’d for Sherman County courthouse

COUNTY, from Page 1

appraiser for four years at the rate of \$40,000 per year plus full health benefits. • Heard from Daniel Crotinger of the Thomas County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, who reported on the number of people they have served from Sherman County, and asked the county continue their funding from the Special Alcohol Fund for next year. • Kent Williams, an area farmer, asked the county to help control

musk thistles on a list of properties from around the county. Tiede said he would talk to Daryl West of the county noxious weed department about the thistle problem. • Asked County Attorney Bonnie Selby to help come up with a property tax incentive package to encourage more development in the county. • Heard the audit report from Mark Bauer, auditor with VonFeldt, Bauer and VonFeldt, of Larned. He said there were no violations found in the 2004 audit, and that the

county finances are in good shape. He said it was good to see that the county reserves were increasing rather than decreasing as they had been for several years. • Asked Bauer about reviewing Convention and Visitors Bureau records. He said the commissioners should visit with the bureau’s board about doing an audit and get permission for him to look at their records. He suggested he could do a full-fledged audit or just look at areas where the commissioners want more information. Rasure said he

would talk to Dale Neill, chair of the bureau board, and get back with Bauer. • Adopted the holiday schedule for next year. Martin Luther King Day and Columbus Day will be replaced with two eight-hour personal holidays that can be taken at the employee’s discretion. The commissioners will meet again at 8 a.m. today in the commission room at the courthouse, 813 Broadway.

# kansas classifieds

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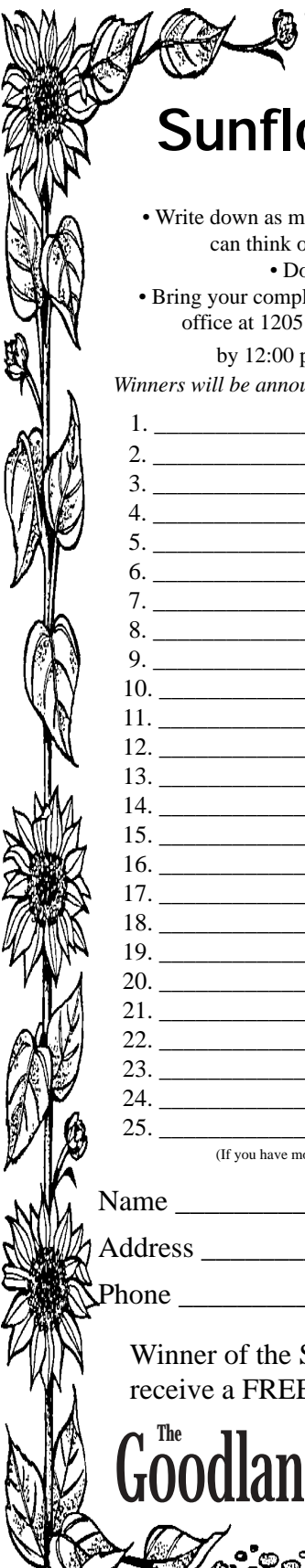
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## Sunflower Contest

### RULES

- Write down as many words (at least 3 letters) that you can think of using the word “Sunshine”
  - Do not use proper names
- Bring your completed list to The Goodland Star- News office at 1205 Main or at our booth at the Fair by 12:00 p.m. by Monday, August 8th

Winners will be announced in the Friday, August 12th edition

1. _____	26. _____
2. _____	27. _____
3. _____	28. _____
4. _____	29. _____
5. _____	30. _____
6. _____	31. _____
7. _____	32. _____
8. _____	33. _____
9. _____	34. _____
10. _____	35. _____
11. _____	36. _____
12. _____	37. _____
13. _____	38. _____
14. _____	39. _____
15. _____	40. _____
16. _____	41. _____
17. _____	42. _____
18. _____	43. _____
19. _____	44. _____
20. _____	45. _____
21. _____	46. _____
22. _____	47. _____
23. _____	48. _____
24. _____	49. _____
25. _____	50. _____

(If you have more than 50, please attach an additional sheet)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Winner of the Sunflower Contest will receive a FREE 1 year subscription to:

## The Goodland Star-News

## Crossword Puzzle


1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14					15			
16					17					18			
19				20					21				
			22					23					
24	25	26					27	28			29	30	
31					32	33				34			35
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39			40		41			42		43			
	44			45				46	47				
			48					49					
50	51	52				53	54				55	56	57
58					59					60			
61					62					63			
64					65					66			

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Lose attraction
5. Scorch
9. Nimble
13. Triad
14. Message
15. S.A. Native American
16. Killed
17. Group of wives
18. \_\_\_\_ “The Man”
19. Gamblers’ odds
22. Up and down man
23. Truck
24. Waters between cliffs
27. Audio systems
31. Destroy
32. Mansion
34. Gather
36. Annex
37. Constellation
38. Thai
39. Title
41. Domain
43. Cut
44. Go forward
46. Exaggerate
48. Delivery service
49. Stern
50. Suit
58. Direction (Scottish)
59. Rustic
60. Monetary unit of Oman
61. German woman’s name
62. Cut of beef
63. Stake
64. A condition requiring relief
65. Fall month, abbr.
66. Guide

### CLUES DOWN

1. Disorder, abbr.
2. \_\_\_\_ Guthrie, singer
3. In \_\_\_\_ of
4. Common
5. Turmoil
6. Frau’s husband
7. Prayer ending
8. Taker
9. Trawling device
10. Opposed to
11. Look over
12. Zest
14. Belief in a god
20. Type of partnership
21. Pave
24. \_\_\_\_ Flintstone
25. Southern cocktail
26. Tanker
27. Slammin’ Sammy
28. Pliers; for one
29. Not inner
30. Burn
33. Away from the wind
35. Metric weight unit
40. Distrusted
41. Vacation spots
42. Team spirit
43. Refers to thigh
45. Hz., abbr.
47. Vigor
49. Huge
50. Abel’s brother
51. Base or goal
52. Press
53. Hayseed
54. Fall
55. IX
56. Input
57. Luge, for one



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## AUCTION

**Property of Mr. Leo Stephens**  
**Saturday, July 16 • 10:00 a.m. MT**  
Location: 1690 Old Hwy. 40, Sharon Springs, KS - Signs will be posted

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