





Matt Rohr took over the south lot of his father's shop, Dependable Glass, to complete his Eagle Scout project.

Scout earns 'Eagle' wings

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community ser-

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By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News From cub to boy to arrow to eagle, Matt Rohr has finished a commitment to scouting that he started way back in the first grade.

"If you start, you might as well finish," he said adding that only 2 percent of boy scouts reach the level of Eagle Scout.

Rohr, a 17-year-old incoming senior, erected a 60 foot tall flagpole last week for his Eagle Scout project.

He said to achieve Eagle Scout rank, scouts have earn 24 required merit badges, complete a certain number of community service hours, have held a leadership position in the troop, have

status. Eagles are named at a special ceremony each year. Rohr's project started with an idea to build a flag pole. He said while the project was his father's idea, he liked

it and the chance to make a large statement.

"I just wanted something big," he said. He started with raw material, 10 inch, 8 inch and 6 inch

around steel pipe with a one-fourth inch thick wall. He said the first step was to wash the pipe to make it

ready for welding.

The pieces were then welded together. He said each thickness was in 20 foot lengths to be welded.

While Rohr got a chance to wield the welder, he said Chuck Lutters, public works director who represented the city helping with the project, did most of the welding.

After welding, Rohr started work painting the flag pole white.

All of the work was done in the south lot of his father, Tom Rohr's shop, Dependable Glass.

Monday, city workers and Rohr's crew dug a hole, set The project up the pole and filled it in with cement.

The hole is 4 feet by 4 feet wide and 8 feet deep.

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proved before upon completion, scouts are given Eagle

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After setting the pole up, ties were attached to keep it it is started and in place. Rohr said the cement would dry about 72 hours later.

The top of the pole will be decorated by an 18 inch eagle, to symbolize the Eagle Scout honor he will receive.

Rohr said the pole is specially designed by Lutters to keep the flag from twisting. He said a wheel bearing was set up to allow that flag to turn in the direction of the wind.

The American flag set to fly on the pole is a 10 foot by 15 foot piece of material, he said.

The flag pole is now standing at the intersection of U.S. 24 and Cherry on the east side of Cherry. Rohr said the city chose the location.

Rohr said work on the project began on the last week in June. He had to hurry and get the work done in less than a month because he celebrates his 18th birthday in just two weeks. To earn the Eagle, scout projects must be completed before their 18th birthday.

The entire project has cost him about \$1,500, money that he has been working to raise. He has gotten help from Short and Son, Inc.; Jim Bowker; Chuck Lutters; city crew workers including Lucas Wolak, Charlie Bandel and Dustin Bedore; Tom, his father; Rhodes Construction; Schlosser Concrete and fellow boy scouts Jonathan McClung and Zach Breininger.



Matt Rohr (top left) stands proudly next to the new flag pole at the intersection of U.S. 24 and Cherry Ave. Rohr (left) spray painted the entire pole. The pole was welded together (above) at each section.



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