

# Two St. Francis men arrested in four tractor thefts

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...belonging to Sam Goodale of St. Francis.

Goodale's truck and tractors were stored in a building south of Wheeler and hadn't been missed until his son went to get something out of the shed March 16. Goodale said the tractors were evidently taken before the snows in December because there were no tracks on the ground, but he hadn't been out to check them over the winter.

In Wallace County, the men were charged with theft of a 1973 International 1066 tractor owned by Orin Ritter of Sharon Springs. Stephens said in his plea he stole the tractor March 10.

Callicrate appeared before Judge John Cahoj Tuesday in the Sherman County District Court and waived his right to a preliminary hearing. His arraignment is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 10. In the meantime, his attorney, Michael Day, and Sherman County Attorney Bonnie Selby are trying to work out a plea agreement.

"I'm not terribly concerned," Selby said. "Our cases are solid."

Selby said the cases caught law enforcement off guard, though.

"Usually, we are looking for a needle in a haystack," she said, "but this time it was a John Deere."

The tractors were sold as scrap for \$1,000 each, said Wallace County Sheriff Larry Townsend.

Stephens appeared in Wallace County District Court on Monday, April 30, to face one count of felony theft, a level 9 nonperson felony.



These tractors are similar to the four that were allegedly stolen including a 1973 International 1066 (top left), a 1984 Allis-Chalmers 8070 (top right), a 1976 John Deere 4630 (above left) and a 1963 Case propane tractor (above right).

The sentence in such a case could be up to 17 months in jail and a fine not to exceed \$100,000 under state law.

"I'm happy we were able to conclude this," Townsend said in the May 3 edition of *The Western Times*

of Sharon Springs. "Further investigation will bring one more arrest in this case. I hope that this sends a message out: Don't steal in Wallace County... because I'll turn the hounds loose!"

Stephens and Callicrate were

charged in the Sherman County District Court with conspiracy to commit felony theft of the 1976 Deere owned by Brent Cook. Court documents say that sometime between Nov. 1 and March 29, they agreed to use a truck and trailer belonging to

Callicrate Feed Yard to take the tractor to Denver, where it also was sold as scrap to Western Metals.

Cook's tractor had been taken to the college for repairs in the diesel technology department. A fax from Dan and Rita Stephens to Scott Showalter of Goodland, John Stephens' court-appointed attorney, in the Sherman County Court file contains a copy of a bill from the department to Cook for repairs on the tractor.

The bill for \$1,020 is dated April 23, 14 days after Stephens and Callicrate were arrested, and lists repairs done.

A document in the fax lists the total value of the tractor as \$18,510, including \$12,500 for the tractor, \$4,000 for loader brackets, \$850 for an extra valve he had mounted on the tractor, \$150 for a two-way radio and \$1,020 for the repairs performed at the college.

Stephens' first appearance in Sherman County was Thursday, May 3, Selby said. He pleaded guilty Friday, May 18, and was sentenced Monday, June 4.

Stephens was free on \$50,000 bond in Wallace County, court documents said. If the Cheyenne and Wallace cases were resolved first, his release on recognizance in Sherman County would change to release supervised by Court Services Officer Deborah Farland.

In a plea bargain between Wallace County Attorney Charles

Mosier and Stephens' court-appointed attorney, Stephens agreed to plead guilty to the theft charge.

In return, Mosier agreed not to oppose probation or release prior to sentencing. The county attorney also agreed to turn \$863 taken from Stephens' bank account over to the court services officer to help pay restitution in Cheyenne and Sherman counties.

Stephens agreed to cooperate and testify against others involved in similar thefts in all three counties.

Judge Glenn E. Schiffner reminded Stephens that the court is not bound by plea agreements and he could still impose the maximum fines and penalties. Schiffner asked Stephens if he did what he was accused of.

"On March 10th, I stole a tractor in Wallace County," he said, describing the 1973 International.

Judge Schiffner accepted Stephens' guilty plea and ordered a presentence investigation, which takes about 60 days to complete. Schiffner set sentencing for 1:30 p.m. Thursday, June 7.

As part of the plea agreement, Stephens must live with his parents and find a job so he can pay his victims. Sherman County requires that Stephens wear an ankle bracelet as part of his agreement here, and everyone agreed that he would be taken to Sherman County until his case is resolved. Parties also agreed on restitution in the amount of \$6,500, which will be paid to Ritter.

# Fire department to get new pumper truck

CITY, from Page 1

One was that the demo has a 2006 diesel engine and there has been some emission control improvements in the 2007 engines.

"We have demos that would meet the specifications," Steffan said. "It is highly unusual to find one that meets all specifications."

"Are we getting too specific on our specifications?" Billinger asked.

"There are thousands of different options on a fire truck," Steffan said. "All departments have their needs and preferences. There is no such thing as a standard fire truck."

James said the city's newest fire truck, a 1999 model called Engine 1, meets most of the town's needs, but the Engine 2 is not good for fighting structure fires. This is the one the new truck would replace.

"Is our new truck a good one?" Billinger asked. "Did we miss something?"

James said Engine 1 has a gasoline engine and a standard transmission. The truck he was proposing has a diesel engine and automatic transmission. James said in the city, having an automatic transmission is better, and the diesel will outper-

form the gas engine.

"I am getting an education," Billinger said. "We bought the last one in 1999. I am interested in why this is a better way to go."

Commissioner Josh Dechant asked if the new truck would replace Engine 2.

James said the new truck would become Engine 1 and the 1999 truck would become Engine 2. He said the truck that is now Engine 2 would become Engine 3 and the old Engine 3 would be sold.

"What else are we getting?" Billinger asked.

James said the new truck would have a larger bed to hold more or larger hose, and the compartment spaces are larger.

City Manager Wayne Hill said the new engine would carry more fire fighters.

James said the current Engine 1 can carry four fire fighters but there is barely room to sit. He said the new truck would carry six and the fire fighters would have room to put on their personal bunker gear while traveling to the fire.

"This gives us a bunch of upgrades from what we had in the last truck," Billinger said.

Steffan said the truck has a larger

pump, 1,500 gallons per minute compared to 1,250 gallons with the old one.

"This was a good, simple set of specifications," he said, "and I feel this is one of the best I have ever seen."

"I have 14 years experience as a fire chief in Johnson County. The new trucks have many good improvements over what we saw in the past 10 years."

Dechant asked about the warranty. Steffan said the warranty is lifetime on the tank, five years on the engine and a one-year complete warranty.

Billinger asked about the engine and transmission. Steffan said the engine was a Cummins 330 and an automatic Allison transmission.

"A month ago, our goal was to protect the people of Goodland to the best of our ability," Fairbanks said. "Brian has done his homework, and I think we need to go with it."

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked James if the truck includes all the things he had asked for in the budget meeting? James said the equipment on the truck was different than the ISO wish list he had talked about in the budget work session.

Fairbanks asked where the truck would be built.

Steffan said the trucks are built in Ocala, Fla. He said the delivery has improved because the factory has trucks on the ground being built all the time.

"I can only say I will personally be involved and make sure your purchase is a pleasant experience," Steffan said. "It is not just my job, but it is my career."

"Is there anybody not sold?" Billinger asked.

The vote was unanimous to buy the E-One truck. Commissioner John Garcia was absent.

## SENIOR CITIZEN ALERT Don't Get Scammed



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The files of state securities agencies are filled with tragic examples of seniors who have been convinced to give their savings, windfall insurance payments and even equity in their homes to con artists for fraudulent investments. BEFORE giving money, or if you believe you have been the victim of a scam, contact the Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner: 1-888-40-SCAMS

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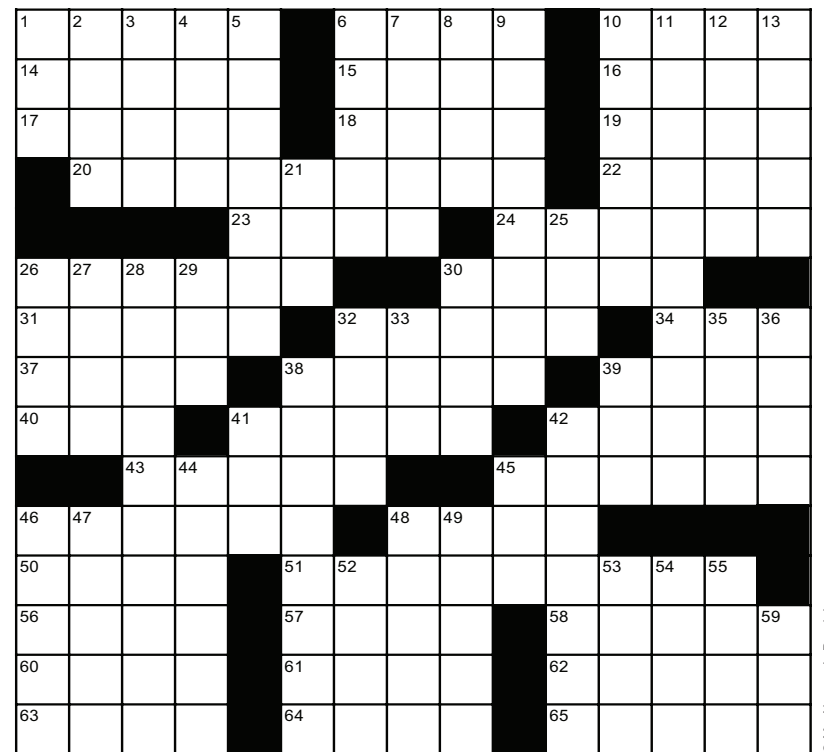
Clip and save with your financial records for future reference.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Kick Me!

ACROSS

1. Usher's offerings
6. Large earring
10. E-garbage
14. Facing the hurler
15. Jessica of TV's "Dark Angel"
16. "Would \_\_\_ to you?"
17. Tuscany city
18. "New Look" designer
19. Bit of verbal fanfare
20. Return to square one
22. Baseball's Musial
23. Ancient alphabetic character
24. Set straight
26. Get a move on
30. Jellyfish attack
31. Trod the boards
32. \_\_\_ away (drew back)
34. Chem room
37. Dr. Seuss's "If \_\_\_ the Zoo"
38. 18 holes, typically
39. Plexiglas sheet
40. Cariou of stage
41. Gets frothy
42. Dreadlocked one
43. Go limp
45. Knowledgeable
46. State with authority
48. Burn cause
50. After the buzzer
51. Bic product
56. "How sweet \_\_\_!"
57. Inner: Prefix
58. 1860s war side
60. Awful-tasting
61. Peacock tail features
62. Old TV sidekick
63. Fish caught in pots



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21. Winery vessel
25. Purge
26. It may be "golf ball-sized"
27. Plot unit
28. Negotiations hangup
29. Royal flush part
30. Confession recitals
32. Daytime TV offering
33. Play a kazoo
35. Initial stake
36. Wampum unit
38. Float ingredient
39. Hole goal
41. Part of FWIW
42. Astronauts' vision problems
44. Big name in candy

45. Bigwig, for short
46. Still in the game
47. Abstract composer Erik
48. Catkin-bearing tree
49. Unworthy of a cigar?
52. "Dragonwyck" author Seton
53. Privy to
54. Punching-in time, for many
55. Handy bag
59. "Neither fish \_\_\_ fowl"

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:

## SPORTS TELEVISION SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

11 a.m. 99/39 WGN MLB Baseball Chicago Cubs at Arizona Diamondbacks from Chase Field  
 12:30 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 U.S. Open Series Tennis Countrywide Classic: Semifinal from Los Angeles, Calif.  
 3/9 NBC AST Dew Tour Right Guard Open  
 1 p.m. 7/11 CBS Women's Golf HSBC World Match Play Championship  
 2 p.m. 22/28 ESPN NTRA Horse Racing Coaching Club American Oaks from Belmont, N.Y.  
 2:30 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Busch Qualifying Madison, Ill.  
 3/9 NBC Women's Volleyball AVP Long Beach Open  
 3 p.m. 7/11 CBS Horse Racing Virginia Derby  
 6 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Countdown Madison, Ill.  
 6:30 p.m. 22/28 ESPN MLS Soccer Special Edition Chelsea Blues vs Los Angeles Galaxy from Carson, Calif.  
 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Busch Series NASCAR Busch Series 250 from Gateway International Raceway  
 8 p.m. 30/27 FXSP MLS Soccer Everton Toffees at Real Salt Lake City from Rice-Eccles Stadium  
 6 a.m. 4/6 ABC British Open

Final-round play

SUNDAY

11:30 a.m. 4/6 ABC IRL Racing IndyCar Series in Lexington, Ohio  
 12 p.m. 99/39 WGN MLB Baseball Chicago White Sox at Boston Red Sox from Fenway Park  
 12:30 p.m. 3/9 NBC AST Dew Tour Right Guard Open  
 1 p.m. 22/28 ESPN Champ Car World Series Grand Prix of Edmonton from Jagflo Speedway  
 2 p.m. 7/11 CBS Women's Golf HSBC World Match Play Championship  
 2:30 p.m. 8/8 NBC Volleyball AVP Long Beach Open  
 3 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 U.S. Open Series Tennis Countrywide Classic: Championship from Los Angeles, Calif.  
 6 p.m. 22/28 ESPN MLB Baseball St. Louis Cardinals vs Atlanta Braves from Turner Field  
 7 p.m. 30/27 FXSP USA Basketball State Farm Challenge from Las Vegas  
 5 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 MLB Baseball Boston Red Sox at Cleveland Indians from Jacobs Field  
 7 p.m. 20/37 USA WWE Monday Night RAW WWE Monday Night Raw  
 6 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 WNBA Basketball Detroit Shock at Connecticut Sun from Mohegan Sun Arena  
 7 p.m. 30/27 FXSP MLB

Baseball San Diego Padres at Colorado Rockies from Coors Field

8 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 WNBA Basketball Los Angeles Sparks at Sacramento Monarchs from ARCO Arena  
 25/38 IND MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at San Francisco Giants from AT&T Park  
 11 p.m. 22/28 ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn.

WEDNESDAY

6 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 MLB Baseball Teams TBA  
 99/39 WGN MLB Baseball Chicago Cubs at St. Louis Cardinals from Busch Stadium

THURSDAY

10 a.m. 28/40 TNT Champions Tour Senior British Open: First Round from Muirfield, Scotland  
 5 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 MLS Soccer CD Chivas USA at New York Red Bulls from Giants Stadium  
 25/38 IND MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at San Francisco Giants from AT&T Park  
 10 a.m. 28/40 TNT Champions Tour Senior British Open: Second Round from Muirfield, Scotland  
 7 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 Friday Night Fights Andre Berto vs Cosme Rivera from Saratoga Springs, N.Y.  
 30/27 FXSP MLB Baseball Los Angeles Dodgers at Colorado Rockies from Coors Field