

# City tax levy to drop

CITY, from Page 1

several other groups. The commission agreed to put \$15,000 in the budget to replace the handicap lift at the Carnegie Arts Center to make it more accessible. The budget includes \$2,000 to help the Goodland Arts Council operate the Arts Center, which is the same amount as this year.

The Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Shelter had asked for \$900, and the city approved \$850, which is the same as last year. Leadership Sherman County asked for \$1,500 to help fund the program, which has been going for 10 years. The commission agreed on the \$1,500.

A request from Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Northwest Kansas for \$6,000 was cut to \$500. This is the first year the Big Brother, Big Sisters will receive money from the city.

The Sherman County Historical Society (\$600), Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter (\$2,000), Economic Development Council (\$50,000) and fireworks (\$500) are funded at the same level as this year City Clerk Mary Volk said. The commission turned down a request from the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce for \$10,000.

Volk said the anticipated property tax mill levy would be 56.291, which is down .084 mills from this year's 56.375. This would mean a drop of about \$1.06 on the city property taxes for a home with an appraised value of \$50,000. Volk said the total property taxes will not be known until after the school district and county have set their mill levies.

Wayne Hill, city manager, told the commissioners the overall budget includes a 5 percent salary increase for city employees, which will be awarded on a merit basis with reviews by department supervisors and the city manager.

City Commissioner Dave Daniels asked if money that is not spent for salary increases in carried over to the next year.

City Clerk Mary Volk said the salary percentage is a part of the carry-over each year, and is recalculated with each budget cycle.

Most city department budgets did not change much Hill said.

On the electric department the commission discussed the effects of the rate increase that went into effect in January, and the new Sunflower Electric contract.

Mayor Rick Billinger said he felt the city was billing too much on the operating cost adjustment for the electrical utility.

"It looks like about 40 percent extra to me," Billinger said.

Hill said the city was catching up from the costs of the prior year.

"I did not think we were that far behind," Billinger said.

"At what point will we catch up?" Daniels asked.

Volk said it was looking good, but there was a need to continue at this rate for at least a few more months.

"Are we in the black or are we trying to build a large reserve?" Daniels asked.

"Yes, we are getting caught up and need to increase our reserves, which were depleted over the past years," Hill said.

"We are at a point where we can cut the operating cost adjustment by 40 percent to bring it into balance," Billinger said. "That would cover what we need. We don't need to collect \$800,000 if we need \$400,000."

City Commissioner Josh Dechant said it looked like the money should be about in balance by the end of the year.

Volk said the city is in the middle of the first year with the new Sunflower contract, and that they are the key. She said with the new Sunflower power contract and not generating from the city plant it would be good to see how that goes for the rest of the year.

Most of the city departments were in good shape Hill said, but the water fund was showing an anticipated deficit of \$27,000.

Dechant suggested taking some of the money the city had from the self-insurance fund and using it to balance the water fund.

After some discussion Volk agreed that could be done. She said the city would have about \$450,000 left in the self-insurance fund, and felt it was good to leave it there for a year or two in case Blue Cross and Blue Shield decided to go back to the self-funded plan. She said that money can be transferred into the employee benefits fund, and would be a bit of a cushion for a short time.

The commission heard from Chris Thompson, director of the Goodland Activity Center, about the operation of the city-county recreation program, and asked the city to increase the funding from \$30,000 to \$45,000.

He said the cost of running the

recreation program is running about \$40,000, and the city is paying \$30,000 under the contract.

Thompson said the big surprise has been the cost of the off site insurance, and that it is costing \$8,500 over what they pay for the GAC. He said the contract runs out in December, but they would like to do the negotiations in October, and ask the city to kick the money up to \$45,000.

Hill said he thought the \$45,000 was a pretty good deal.

"I don't want to have to hire another recreation director," he said.

City Commissioner John Garcia said it has been a learning experience for the city and the GAC. He said it might not be a bad idea to sit down with the schools to clear up the shady areas so everyone knows who is responsible for what.

"I think it is good for us to handle all the sports," Thompson, "except not the swimming pool, but all the other sports activities."

The commission agreed to increase the money in the budget to the \$45,000.

On the parks the city commission talked about finding some money to help the Shine On Sherman County Youth Committee with the skate park project.

Kim Bohme and Connie Liven-good said the kids were working hard to help raise money, and have raised about \$3,000 so far.

Bohme said the group has a plan for the first phase and had talked to Hill about it. She said the group is looking at a 40 x 95 cement slab and it would cost about \$6,600 to extend what is there now. She said the kids can put a half pipe on what is there now.

"We are looking at grants and will be talking to the civic clubs this fall," she said. "The kids would be delighted with anything you can find in the budget."

Billinger said the group ought to talk to people about helping by buying a yard of concrete which would be about \$110 a yard.

Bohme said that would be an idea, and they don't expect to do anything until next spring.

Later the commission talked about taking money from the special parks fund to do the sprinklers at Steever Park and improve the playground at Chambers park. The commissioners said there should be some money left to help with the skate park that could be used to help match what they can raise through grants.

## Big catch



Elke Kernal, 7, daughter of Sylvio Juergen Kernal who works for Sherman County, caught a large catfish at the Fishing Hole on Tuesday. The Fishing Hole was sponsored by Bankwest of Kansas. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

# LAND AUCTION

## 160 Acres Sherman County Kan. Tuesday, August 21 at 1 p.m.

Location: Holiday Inn Express, Goodland, Kan.

**Property Location:** 2 miles east of Kanorado to Rd 5; North 6 miles to Rd 70, 1 mile west and 1/2 mile north

**Legal Description:** The Northwest 1/4 of Section 22; Township 7 South. Range 42 Sherman County Kansas

## Farmers National Company

Gary Joseph, Associate Broker, Auctioneer, (308) 697-4550 Cambridge, Nebraska

## SPORTS TELEVISION SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY**  
 9 a.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Nextel Cup Pennsylvania 500 Happy Hour  
 10 a.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Busch Qualifying Montreal, Canada  
 11 a.m. 7/11 CBS Golf WGC-Bridgestone Invitational  
 22/28 ESPN Amateur Baseball Big League Baseball Championship from Easley, S.C.  
 12:30 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Countdown Montreal  
 1 p.m. 4/6 ABC X Games Bicycle stunts, surfing, Moto X  
 1:30 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Busch Series NAPA Auto Parts 200 from Circuit Gilles Villeneuve  
 8/8 NBC Harness Racing The Hambletonian  
 2:30 p.m. 3/9 NBC Volleyball AVP Chicago Open  
 3 p.m. 22/28 ESPN NTRA Horse Racing Darley Test Stakes/W.V. Derby from Saratoga Springs, N.Y.  
 4 p.m. 22/28 ESPN Pro Football Hall of Fame Induction from Canton, Ohio  
 5 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 X Games 13 Moto X Elimination, BMX Vert, Moto X Racing from Carson, Calif.  
 30/27 FXSP MLB Baseball Colorado Rockies at Atlanta Braves from Turner Field  
 7 p.m. 22/28 ESPN X Games 13 Moto X Racing, Women's Surfing, Moto X Freestyle from Carson, Calif.  
 9 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 U.S. Open Series Tennis Acura Classic: Semifinal from Carlsbad, Calif.

**SUNDAY**  
 10 a.m. 23/29 ESPN2 IndyCar Series Firestone IndyCar 400 from Brooklyn, Mich.  
 11 a.m. 7/11 CBS Golf WGC-Bridgestone Invitational  
 22/28 ESPN NASCAR Countdown Long Pond, Pa.  
 25/38 IND MLB Baseball Colorado Rockies at Atlanta Braves from Turner Field  
 60/79 UNIV F'bol Liga Mexicana Guadalajara Chivas vs UNAM Pumas from Ciudad de Mexico  
 12 p.m. 22/28 ESPN NASCAR Nextel Cup Pennsylvania

500 from Pocono Raceway  
 1 p.m. 4/6 ABC X Games Skateboarding, rally-car racing  
 23/29 ESPN2 U.S. Open Series Tennis Legg Mason Classic: Final from Washington, D.C.  
 2:30 p.m. 8/8 NBC Women's Volleyball AVP Chicago Open  
 3 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 U.S. Open Series Tennis Acura Classic: Final from Carlsbad, Calif.  
 6 p.m. 22/28 ESPN MLB Baseball New York Mets at Chicago Cubs from Wrigley Field

**MONDAY**  
 5 p.m. 22/28 ESPN MLB Baseball Teams TBA  
 7 p.m. 30/27 FXSP MLB Baseball Milwaukee Brewers at Colorado Rockies from Coors Field  
 20/37 USA WWE Monday Night RAW WWE Monday Night RAW

**TUESDAY**  
 30/27 FXSP MLB Baseball Milwaukee Brewers at Colorado Rockies from Coors Field  
 8 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 WNBA Basketball Phoenix Mercury at Los Angeles Sparks from Staples Center  
 11 p.m. 22/28 ESPN Sports Center from Bristol, Conn.

**WEDNESDAY**  
 11 a.m. 23/29 ESPN2 U.S. Open Series Tennis Rogers Masters: Early Round Coverage Day #3 from Montreal, Canada  
 5 p.m. 22/28 ESPN MLB Baseball Teams TBA  
 5:30 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 U.S. Open Series Tennis Rogers Masters: Early Round Coverage Day #3 from Montreal, Canada  
 6 p.m. 99/39 WGN MLB Baseball Chicago Cubs at Houston Astros from Minute Maid Park  
 7:30 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 Wednesday Night Fights O'Neil Bell vs Louis Azille from Hollywood, Calif.

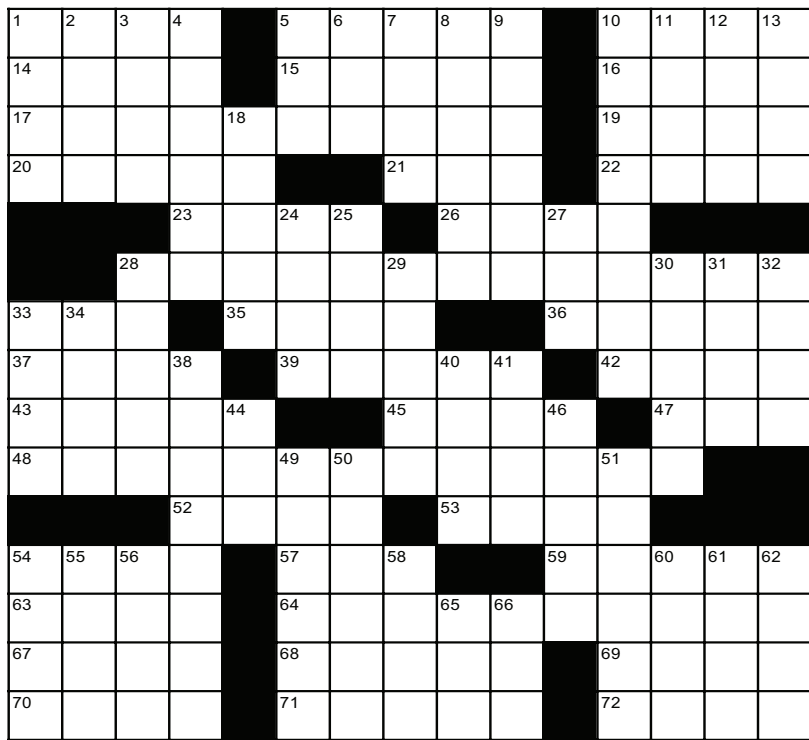
**THURSDAY**  
 10 a.m. 25/38 IND MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at New York Mets from Shea Stadium  
 11 a.m. 23/29 ESPN2 U.S. Open Series Tennis Rogers Masters: Round of 16 from Montreal, Canada  
 12 p.m. 28/40 TNT PGA Tournament PGA Championship:

First Round from Southern Hills Country Club, Tulsa, Okla.  
 5 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 MLS Soccer Los Angeles Galaxy at D.C. United from RFK Stadium  
 6 p.m. 22/28 ESPN Little League World Series Southeast Regional Final from St. Petersburg, Fla.  
 7 p.m. 30/27 FXSP MLB Baseball Chicago Cubs at Colorado Rockies from Coors Field

**FRIDAY**  
 11 a.m. 23/29 ESPN2 U.S. Open Series Tennis Rogers Masters: Quarterfinal from Montreal, Canada  
 12 p.m. 28/40 TNT PGA Tournament PGA Championship: Second Round from Southern Hills Country Club, Tulsa, Okla.  
 1 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Nextel Cup Qualifying Watkins Glen  
 2 p.m. 28/40 TNT PGA Tournament PGA Championship: Second Round from Southern Hills Country Club, Tulsa, Okla.  
 3:30 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Busch Practice Watkins Glen Final Practice  
 4 p.m. 28/40 TNT PGA Tournament PGA Championship: Second Round from Southern Hills Country Club, Tulsa, Okla.  
 5:30 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 U.S. Open Series Tennis Rogers Masters: Quarterfinal from Montreal, Canada  
 25/38 IND MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves vs Philadelphia Phillies from Citizens Bank Park  
 6 p.m. 7/11 CBS NFL Football Exhibition: Bills at Saints  
 22/28 ESPN Little League World Series Southwest Regional Final from Waco, Texas  
 7 p.m. 30/27 FXSP MLB Baseball Chicago Cubs at Colorado Rockies from Coors Field  
 7:30 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 Friday Night Fights Terry Smith vs Rob Calloway  
 9:30 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 U.S. Open Series Tennis LA Open: Quarterfinal from Carson, Calif.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Mane Attractions



American Profile Hometown Content 077029

- ACROSS**
- Complex dwellings: Abbr.
  - "Marat/Sade" author Peter
  - Nine inches, commonly
  - Ill-bred fellow
  - "... ready \_\_\_!"
  - "Later!"
  - Organization for young baseballers
  - Major flare-up
  - Advertising suffix
  - Blow it
  - Dagwood's young neighbor
  - Mosque leader
  - Slaughter in Cooperstown
  - Striped walkway
  - Kind of cross
  - Storage structure
  - Passover event
  - Affixes one's John Hancock to
  - "Alice in Wonderland" cat
  - Hero purveyor
  - One end of a pig
  - Swashbuckler's quaff
  - Yodeler's perch
  - Marx Brothers classic
  - Machu Picchu site
  - Ticked off
  - Make mockery of
  - E-file org.
  - \_\_\_ blitz
  - Plow team
  - Classic arcade game
  - Nixonian gestures
  - Bee-related
  - Warhol pal \_\_\_ Sedgwick
  - Fashionista's mag
  - Himalayan hulks

**DOWN**

- Bowler's bowlful
- Holey-pocketed
- Melt need
- One of the Little Rascals
- Doomsayer's cry
- Former NOW cause
- "Little Sheba" playwright
- More vinegary
- Caterer's supply
- Ready for a vacation
- Mop's mate
- Quark's place
- Gp. headquartered in Brussels
- Innocent ones
- Like the Negev

- Neighbor of Niger
- CIA forerunner
- Adolph, who was president of Paramount Pictures
- Line dance
- Think tank output
- Jodie Foster title role
- Golf club part
- Mrs. Addams, to Gomez
- Cornerstone word
- Hitchcock's genre
- Some are fine
- Guffaw syllables
- Informal top
- Far from sterile
- "Just the facts, ma'am" cop
- Benelux locale

The crossword puzzle brought to you by: