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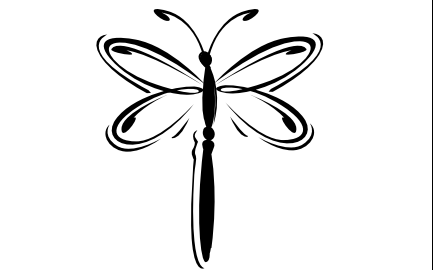
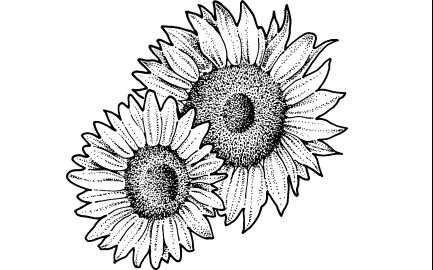
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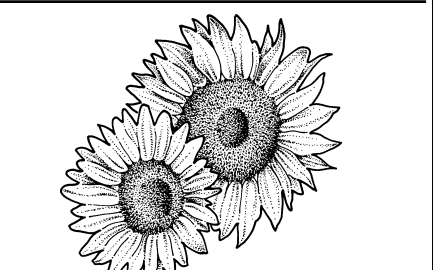
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Goodland High School Senior Jason Krayca (left) in his Boy Scout uniform. Jason (above right) and his father, Dan, unloaded part of the cement bench that went into his Eagle project in front of the home owned carnival building at the Sherman County Fairgrounds. Krayca finished the project before the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair from Saturday, July 28, to Friday, Aug. 3.
Photos by Pat Schiefen

Senior works to earn Scouts' highest rank

By Pat Schiefen
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A Goodland High School Senior, Jason Krayca, will cap his scouting career with the rank of Eagle.

Krayca has achieved the Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star and Life ranks so far. He had to finish a project that would benefit the community and not need much maintenance when he finished the Life rank last year.

"I realized I didn't have that much more to do to get my Eagle," he said.

Krayca's project was an awning for the new building for the home-owned carnival. The Lyle Smith Memorial Fund, named for a man who was involved with Boy Scouting in Goodland for many years, paid for two cement benches.

"You can't believe how much paperwork there is involved in the project," said Krayca. "The project cost between \$2,200 to \$2,300. Dennis Malson helped with the

awning and cement. Schlosser Concrete donated the concrete."

He said all that remains to be finished is three of his six letters of recommendation. A scouting board in Salina will go over his application, project book and letters of recommendation. He believes the ceremony would be this fall. A Scout has until his 18th birthday to complete his Eagle, and Krayca's birthday is in October.

For an Eagle rank, a candidate must earn 21 of the 120 merit badges available. Twelve are required: First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Environmental Science, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, Camping, Family Life, Emergency Preparedness or Livesaving and either cycling, hiking or swimming.

Krayca said he started in Tiger Cubs at the age of 5 with the help of his parents, and has been in Boy Scouts for 13 years, earn-

ing 30 merit badges.

He said he enjoyed going to Bellamy's camping and going to Camp Alexander, 45 miles west of Colorado Springs, where you could go do individual games.

"We camped at the Air Force Academy one year and they got 30 inches of snow," he said. "They let us go eat with the cadets only if dressed in full uniform."

Krayca said he enjoyed going to different classes with his friends for badges. He enjoyed the Klondike Derbies and also went to Camp Hansen at Kirwin Reservoir. Klondike Derbies are camping that is done in cold weather.

Gary McClung is Jason's Scout Master. His parents are Dan and Diane Krayca. Dan works for the City of Goodland and Diane sells Mary Kay and does the bookkeeping for their farm.

Jason has an older brother, Kris, who works at the parts department at Herl Chevrolet-Buick Co. Kris attend the Northwest Kansas Technical College after he graduated from Goodland High School in 2004. Their grandparents are Jim and Eileen Krayca and the late Darral and Connie Craft.

Krayca said his favorite classes at the high school are production or wood working and weight lifting. He said he did the summer weight program this year. If you make the attendance requirement, he said, the reward is having to do less conditioning for football.

He plays a defensive end in football, adding that he got to play a little last year and lettered in football.

"We are picking up a lot of plays," Krayca said of the high school football team. "There are more younger kids coming in."

"I think we'll do good."

He said he is planning on going to college after high school. He wants to go into something "hands on," maybe engineering.



Marsha Smith (left) and Jason Krayca stood next to one of the completed benches of Krayca's Eagle project. The Lyle Smith Memorial gave money for the project. Marsha was Lyle Smith's wife.

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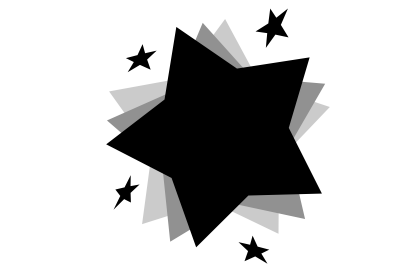
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