

# Groundwater levels in western Kansas continue decline

Southwestern Kansas sustained accelerated declines in groundwater levels in 2008, while levels rose slightly in south-central counties, according to preliminary data compiled by the Kansas Geological Survey, based at the University of Kansas.

The Kansas Geological Survey and the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources measured levels in

approximately 1,400 water wells in 47 western and central Kansas counties in January as part of their annual assessment program.

As was the case in 2007, precipitation played an important role in the rise or fall of water levels.

"Southwest Kansas started off the 2008 growing season very dry, with most of the area receiving less than 25 percent of their normal precipitation levels,"

said Brownie Wilson, the Kansas Geological Survey's water-data manager. "Normal precipitation didn't return until around August through October when it was much too late. Unfortunately, we have seen the same dry pattern so far this year."

In 2008, water levels in southwest Kansas fell an average of 2.85 feet, with many areas seeing declines of more than 5 feet. This

followed drops of 1.72 feet in 2007 and 2.09 feet in 2006.

Since 1996, when annual measurements were first taken by the KGS, levels in the region have risen only one time — 0.10 feet in 1998.

About 80 percent of the state's 39,000 wells are located in the region underlain by the High Plains aquifer, the main source of water in western Kansas.

Declines in the Ogallala portion of the High Plains aquifer were greatest in the southwestern counties, particularly the counties centered around Grant and Haskell counties where dry conditions have been most severe.

With less precipitation, more groundwater is withdrawn for irrigation, which in the short run, affects the water level more than the lack of recharge to the aquifer, Wilson said.

Farther north in western Kansas, where precipitation was closer to normal, 2008 declines were smaller. In northwest — Cheyenne to Trego counties — and west-central Kansas — Wallace to Lane counties — the water level average dropped 0.10 and 0.21 feet, respectively.

In south-central Kansas, average groundwater levels rose in 2008, although at a slower pace than in 2007 when some areas received record precipitation as much as 200 percent above normal.

"In 2008, south-central Kansas experienced normal to well above normal precipitation patterns over the growing season, particularly in May," Wilson said.

Water levels in the Great Bend Prairie aquifer — covering Pratt and Stafford counties and parts of several surrounding counties

— rose an average of 0.55 feet in 2008. In the Equus Beds aquifer that extend north and west of Wichita, levels rose an average of 1.79 feet with some areas rising more than 3 feet.

In 2007, water levels had risen 3.1 feet in the Great Bend Prairie aquifer and 2.04 feet in the Equus Beds. In 2006, both had declined.

Overall in the 47-county network the average level fell 0.80 feet, with gains in the eastern section of the network being offset by losses in the west.

Groundwater levels are not monitored in eastern Kansas, which receives greater precipitation and is supplied mainly by surface water from rivers and reservoirs.

Results of the measurements are provisional and subject to revision based on additional analysis.

## Fire chief

(Continued from Page 1)

safe before leaving. A front-end loader was brought in by Steve Reedy to bring the structure down as it posed a hazard, if left standing.

At 10:15 p.m., the fire department was recalled to the scene. Some of the debris had re-ignited, which, the chief said, is the case in some structural fires. The fire was immediately extinguished.

The garage, van and camper were declared a total loss.

Chief Jones said he wanted to thank Norton County EMS personnel, the Sheriff's Department and Norton City Police officers for the way they handled the crowds and traffic control.

## Logan graduation

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thy Eloice Fessler, Marcy Lynn Gaines, Brandon James Kats, Coy Rylee Leggett, Gage Christopher LeRoux, Whitney Nicole Mulder and Dalton James Schneider.

Katie Babcock and Kyle Pakkeber are the class attendants. The class motto is, "Life brings tears, smiles and memories. The tears dry, the smiles fade, but the memories last forever."

The class flower is the white carnation. The class colors are red, black and white. Shannon Kats and Vesta Jo Still are the class sponsors.

The processional will be played by Vesta Jo Still, Marcy Gaines will give the invocation, and Carri Brobst and Levi Kiser will give the address.

The class song, "Why We Sing", will be directed by Vesta Jo Still.

Robin Van Laeys will introduce the speakers; Robert Jackson will give the presentation of honor awards and present the class; and Jim Kats will present the diplomas.

Closing will be given by Katie Becker and recessional will be played by Vesta Jo Still.

## School board

(Continued from Page 1)

Board members agreed to rehire all other classified and certified staff, who have not resigned or retired with salaries and benefits to be determined later.

At the beginning of the meeting, just before the decision to not rehire Ms. Fuentes, the board went two 10-minute closed sessions to discuss non-elected personnel.

Near the end of the meeting, after agreeing to re-employ the rest of the staff, the board went into two 10-minute closed sessions to discuss employer-employee negotiations.

In between, it accepted the resignation of Eisenhower Elementary second-grade teacher Sally Clydesdale, who is retiring after teaching for 18 years in this district and for 32 years all together. The board thanked her for her service.

The board also accepted the resignation from extra-curricular duties from Julie Scheetz, high school cheerleading sponsor; Todd Fulton, high school assistant boys basketball coach; and Mirla Coleman, National Honor Society sponsor.

In other business, the board: Passed a motion to adopt the budget as it was republished in The Norton Telegram.

Telegram  
877-3361

## •PUBLIC NOTICE• IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GILBERT M. COURTAINE, II, DECEASED

Published in The Norton Telegram on Tuesday, April 21, 28, May 5, 2009. (3T)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS PROBATE DIVISION  
In the Matter of the Estate of GILBERT M. COURTAINE, II, deceased Case No. 2009-PR-15

NOTICE OF HEARING  
The State of Kansas to all Persons Concerned:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Cynthia J. Linner, as a surviving sibling of Gilbert M. Courtaine, II, deceased, praying for the determination of descent regarding said Gilbert M. Courtaine, II, deceased. You are hereby required to file your

written defenses thereto on or before the 12th day of May, 2009, at 2:00 o'clock p.m. of said day, in said Court, in the City of Norton, in Norton County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Cynthia J. Linner  
Petitioner

John F. McClymont, #09379  
RYAN, WALTER & McClymont, Chtd.  
120 S. State - PO Box 364  
Norton, Kansas 67654  
785-877-5183  
Attorney for Petitioner

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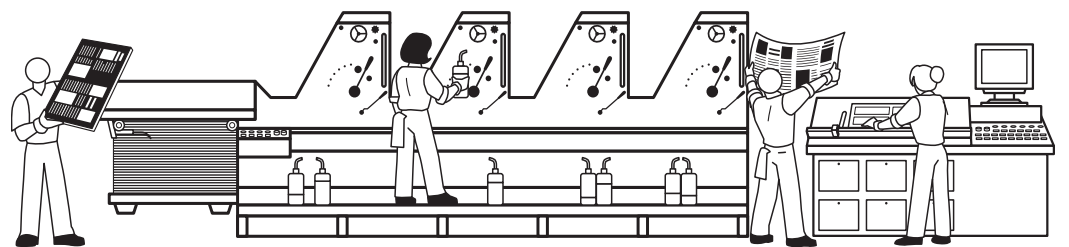
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RCC reminds customers that, after Feb. 17, 2009, a television receiver with only an analog broadcast tuner will require a converter box to receive full power over-the-air broadcasts with an antenna because of the Nation's transition to digital broadcasting. Analog-only TVs should continue to work as before to receive low power, Class A or translator television stations and with cable and satellite TV services, gaming consoles, VCRs, DVD players, and similar products. Information about the DTV transition is available at www.DTV.gov. Information about subsidized coupons for digital-to-analog converter boxes is available at www.dtv2009.gov or by calling 1-888-DTV-2009.

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