

# Changing time zones suggested in Sherman County

By Tom Betz

A group wanting to move Sherman County into the Central Time Zone wants the Sherman County Economic Development Council to consider spearheading the effort, saying it would save money and confusion.

Larry Keirns, retired president of the Northwest Kansas Technical College, and J.D. McClure, owner of McClure Plumbing and Heating, told the council at its meeting Monday that it was "Time for a Change."

"We are here to request your support to change the time zone for Sherman County from mountain time to central time," Mr. Keirns said. "With only four of the 105 counties in Kansas on mountain time, it is time to join the vast majority of Kansas and change to central time. The economic impact will be positive for our county."

"The fact that we are not in central time has things confused. Are we in Kansas, or do we want to be annexed by Colorado?"

"There is confusion of where we are, and even the tourists get confused. It is a hardship for our school system with all the traveling and time confusion. It is nice to come home an hour earlier, but it's not worth that much."

"We've included ourselves," Mr. McClure said. "All the offices in the state operate in central time. I have a conflict every day with my store in Colby. I think if Sherman County makes the change, the other counties (Wallace, Greeley and Hamilton) will go along."

Mr. Keirns said there is no need for a public vote. He laid out the process for requesting the change

from the federal Department of Transportation.

He said the development council would appoint a committee or ask for volunteers to handle the effort.

They would ask county, city, business, school, hospital, motel, bank, church and others community leaders for letters of support. The letters would explain the problems people have encountered doing business on a daily basis in the mountain time zone, and point to the negative impact on economic development from being in a different time zone.

A petition would be circulated for residents to sign in support of moving to central time, and they would obtain as many signatures as possible, but there is no requirement for a set number.

Once these steps have been accomplished, they would ask the Sherman County Commissioners to okay the change.

With the approval by the commissioners, a request would be sent to the general counsel for the federal agency for review. If the general counsel feels the time change would benefit Sherman County, he would set a public hearing in Goodland. After the hearing, a decision would come from the feds in 30 to 60 days.

The time change likely would become official the next time was changed to or from Daylight Saving Time.

The council indicated they would take this idea under discussion.

"We want it to be more than Larry and J.B.," Keirns said. "We feel we need to appoint up to seven or nine on a committee."



SHERIFF EDDIE DANKENBRING fingerprinted school children in both St. Francis and Bird City in an effort to keep children in the county safe. Here Jamie Pevler, sixth grade, not quite sure she appreciates the mess of the black ink.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Comments requested on security program

United State Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Bruce Knight recently announced that the advance notice of proposed rule making and request for comments on the Conservation Security Program (CSP) will be released for publication to the Federal Register. This is a new program authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill.

The advance notice gives the public the opportunity to comment on key issues that have been raised regarding implementation of the program. The issues are presented in the advance notice.

"Comments gathered during the 30-day comment period will help us develop a proposed rule," Chief Knight said. "Then, the public will have another opportunity to provide input during the comment period for the proposed rule before a final rule is published. We want this to be the best program possible."

Conservation Security Program is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to conserve and improve soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life on tribal and private working lands-cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture and rangeland, as well as certain forested land that is an incidental part of an agriculture operation.

"The intent of Conservation Security Program is to support ongoing conservation stewardship of agricultural lands by providing assistance to producers to maintain and enhance natural resources," Chief Knight said.

Conservation Security Program has a unique role among department of agriculture conservation programs. It identifies and rewards those farmers and ranchers who meet the highest standards of conservation and environmental management on their operations, creates powerful incentives for other pro-

ducers to meet those same standards of conservation performance on their operations, and provides public benefits for generations to come.

The advance notice of proposed rule making and request for comments on the Conservation Security Program were published in the Federal Register on February 18. Comments must be received by March 20. The advance notice and additional information on Conservation Security Program can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002/products.html>; mail to: FarmBillRules@usda.gov "FarmBillRules@usda.gov"; by fax to 202-720-4265; by mail to Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Operations Division, P.O. Box 2890, Washington DC 20013

Additional information about the Farm Bill can be found at <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill/index.html>

# Groundwater levels decline two feet

Groundwater levels measured in wells in central and western Kansas declined an average of slightly less than two feet from January 2002 to January 2003, according to preliminary analyses by scientists at the Kansas Geological Survey, based at the University of Kansas.

That decline compares with an average drop of about one foot during the previous year.

Those numbers are based on 1,070 wells in central and western Kansas that have been measured every year since 1996 by the Survey and the Division of Water Resources of the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Crews attempt to measure about 1,400 wells under this cooperative program, but not every well can be measured every year.

The results are considered provisional and are still being analyzed by Survey scientists.

Most of the wells that were measured are used for irrigation, and this year's larger decline likely is related to extended dry weather. When less rain falls, irrigators pump additional water from their wells, affecting water levels. In addition, warmer and drier weather this winter resulted in the continued operation of a number of wells in the areas where measurements were taken, which also had an impact on water levels.

Water level changes varied across the state.

In southwestern Kansas, covered by Groundwater Management District No. 3, the decline was the greatest, averaging 3 feet in 2002-03, compared with 1.6 feet in 2001-02.

In northwestern Kansas, Groundwater Management District No. 4, the decline averaged about 1.5 feet in 2002-03, compared with 0.2 feet the previous year. On average, wells measured in west-central Kansas, Groundwater Management District No. 1, dropped about 1.2 feet last year, compared with 0.7 feet of decline the previous year.

In south-central Kansas, water levels declined a little less than the statewide average: about 1.3 feet in the Big Bend Groundwater Management District south of Great Bend, compared with a decline of about 0.6 feet in 2001-02.

The decline was about 0.4 feet last year in the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District north of Wichita, compared with 1.1 in 2001-02. The Equus Beds district is the only groundwater management

district in the state whose average decline in 2003 was less than the previous year.

The results of the 2003 measurements for individual wells are available from the Survey's refurbished Web site, <http://www.kgs.ku.edu/MageLLan/WaterLevels/index.html>. Selecting wells by legal description, latitude and longitude, county or groundwater management district, users can retrieve water well records, map the selected wells and view a simple graph of water-level changes.

"This newly enhanced Web site does more than provide data," said Survey water-data manager Blake "Brownie" Wilson. "The site turns that data into information that can help guide decisions."

## Project to appear at Goodland

Formed in the fall of 1999, the Denver A Cappella Project started as a group of musical friends getting together to see what kinds of sounds they could make. Within months, the group had performed in numerous shows up and down the Front Range and received an invitation to the Mixed Harmony Jamboree at the International Barbershop Convention in 2000. Continuing to perform throughout the Colorado Front Range and the United States, the Denver A Cappella Project has wowed a variety of audiences, from a few to a few thousand. Featuring three sets of spouses, two sets of siblings and two sets of in-laws, Denver A Cappella project remains true to each style. Each entertaining performance is designed to provide that little something for everyone.

Denver A Cappella Project will appear at 3 p.m. central time Sunday, March 2 at the Goodland High School auditorium. There is an admission fee at the door.

The performance is made possible by the Western Plains Arts Association. The program is presented in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



## Scout weekend cut short due to cold

It was cold — almost too cold for the Klondike Camp held at Sawson Reservoir near Trenton, Neb., over the weekend and, before the last day, the scout leader had made the decision to come home a day early.

Twelve scouts along with Jerry Whitmore, scout leader and Pat Lamb, assistant leader, packed up their camping gear and headed out Friday afternoon after school.

Scouts are required to pitch their tents and cook their meals along with enjoying the many activities. Breakfast consisted of breakfast burritos, eggs with sausage or ham rolled in a tortilla — filling meal with not so many dishes.

Lunch was prepared for leaders from another pack. The St. Francis scouts prepared a taco bake in a

dutch oven which was warm and hardy for scouts as well as the leaders.

The day was spent working on lashings and knots, BB gun shooting and a compass course.

The camp was to last until Sunday but when the forecast was for snow, wind and cold temperatures, Leader Whitmore decided it was time to go home.

"With a snow pending, it just didn't make a whole lot of sense to stay there," he said.

Scouts attending the Klondike Camp were: Trevor Hilt, Chase Barnhart, Matt Whitmore, David and Jeremy Meyer, Tyler and Jon Finley, Arden Schneider, Terrence Lamb, Jacob Riedel, Jeff Meyer and Scott Ford.

## — What America represents —

The seventh graders of Marti Schlittenhart were asked to write about "What best symbolizes what America stands for" and Mrs. Schlittenhart felt that the Herald readers would enjoy what these young students had to say. Keep in mind that the students had only five minutes to write their ideas down. The students' work will be appearing in different sections so be sure and look for them.

**What Best Symbolizes What America Stands For**  
I think that Plymouth Rock really

symbolizes America. That is where we all began. That shows a lot of the beginning.

Mount Rushmore really symbolizes America also, the smiling faces of some of our best presidents. That is a really neat sight in America.

Also, the Statue of Liberty symbolizes America. It holds its golden lamp to liberty and freedom. It welcomes all, poor or rich. It truly symbolizes America. This probably the most.

There are lots. Too many to choose!

Heather Hnizdil

## Horse Liniment Eases Arthritis Pain

OCALA, FL -- An ingredient derived from hot peppers that decreases inflammation in racehorse's legs, is now recognized as safe and effective for human use. The ingredient has been formulated into a product called ARTH-Rx™ and comes in a strength designed for humans. Researchers are excited and say the formula can relieve arthritis pain for millions.

Developed by the Phillips Gulf Corporation, ARTH-Rx is a breakthrough in the treatment of painful disorders ranging from minor aches and pains to more serious conditions such as arthritis, bursitis, rheumatism, tendonitis, backache and more. Although the mechanism by which ARTH-Rx works to relieve pain is not totally clear, scientists suggest that pain is relieved because ARTH-Rx intercepts the messenger substance that sends pain signals to the brain.

ARTH-Rx is available in a convenient roll-on applicator without a prescription. According to a spokesperson for the company, due to the overwhelming demand for ARTH-Rx, supplies are sometimes limited. ARTH-Rx can also be ordered by calling 1-800-729-8446. © 2003 HCD www.hcdsales.com

ARTH-Rx is available at:  
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Back row, l to r: Lee Zimelman, Kevin Brown, Steven Morris; middle row: Erica Douthit - secretary, Amanda Jones, Christina Zweggardt, Emily Walz, Kali Rueb, John Stephens, Dusty Hayes; front row: Advisor Lyn Wiley, Travis Hilt - sentinel, Margo Douthit, Kandee Raile - reporter, Michael Hanson - president, Chelsey Weeden - treasurer and Darin Wiley - vice president.

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