

# Farmer wants chance to vote on cloud seeding

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he was not on the commission at that time, and Frankenfeld said he did not remember ever seeing the letter.

"We are asking for a chance to vote on this," Enfield said. "The long-term environmental effects are not known, and I have serious questions about what dumping the lead and sulfates in silver iodide are doing to our land."

"I met with Wayne Bossert, director of the Groundwater Management District in Colby, and he said the plan was approved unanimously for the 2001 budget, but I said I had talked to the Sherman County board members Doug Irvin and Robin Deeds and they both said they had voted against the pro-

gram," Enfield said. "Bossert said the program would continue even if the state money was taken away by increasing the assessment on the water rights."

"So far Cheyenne, Rawlins and Decatur counties have opted out of the program," Enfield said, "and Kit Carson and Yuma Counties in Colorado have also opted out."

Enfield said that Thomas County commissioners were going to hold an election in November on the cloud seeding question, and that there would be a public hearing held in October with the retired head meteorologist of the Oklahoma Weather Service, who is coming to talk about the problems with the weather modification program.

Thomas County Commissioners

discussed drafting a resolution for an advisory and non-binding election on whether cloud seeding shall be allowed over Thomas County.

Janet Rumpel, Sherman County Clerk, said if such an election were held it would have to be separate in a similar manner as that proposed for Thomas County, and that there would have to be separate people to handle the voting and counting. Also the election would have to be at a separate location.

Tracey Perkins, Thomas county clerk, said she had been in touch with the legal council for Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh who said the election could be held in the same building as the general election, but at a separate table. She was told the people who sit at that table do not have to be registered voters.

The commissioners asked Perkins to obtain a separate board to count those ballots, made up of interested persons from both sides of the issue. The election is Nov. 7.

Enfield said he had circulated a petition on the issue last year, and wanted to know how many signatures would be required to have the commissioners hold the advisory election.

"I want the people to have a chance to vote on this, and will abide by whatever the majority decision is," Enfield said. "If the majority oppose the program we would ask the commissioner to pass a resolution to stop the cloud seeding over Sherman County. The action has to be taken before March 1, 2001."

"We need to have more input on this," Frankenfeld said.

"Is this the same program as being done in Southwest Kansas?" Rasure asked.

Enfield said it was the same program, but that he had talked to several farmers from that area who wanted to see the program end.

When asked why there has not been any organized opposition to the program in Southwest Kansas in the past 20 years, Enfield said it was because of the people who are running the water district.

It was estimated holding such an election would cost about \$4,000 and Enfield said he felt the commissioners had spent that much on other "foolish" projects, but that his supporters would be willing to help with the costs.

Accompanying Enfield were David and Lori Leonard, who farm north of Goodland and are also opposed to the cloud seeding. They say the claim of hail suppression is doubtful, and that it certainly has not had a favorable effect on their land.

Enfield said a relative from Colorado Springs said he did not believe any crops from a county under the weather modification program could claim to be raising "organic" crops because of the chemicals dropped into the clouds.

"That could be a real problem for me," Enfield said, "because I am trying to raise organic crops."

The commissioners said they would put the question on a future agenda and would ask County Attorney Bonnie Selby to review the election question along with the Clerk Rumpel.

## Scraping tar



Pat Colsom, with Trafcon, a construction firm from Lincoln, Neb., scraped tar off the westbound lanes of I-70 near Edson Wednesday afternoon. The tar once held tubes and reflectors in place while another company repaved the highway with concrete. Trafcon is removing barriers and temporary paint as the final stage of the repaving project.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

# Economic development will bring jobs to city

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invitation was presented at the commissioner's meeting Monday. "It would be nice to see us working more and more with the county commission who will be there also."

The county commission was also invited to attend, with commissioners Kenny Davis and Kevin Rasure planning to come.

The economic development committee is working on many projects right now, said Harding, including getting air service back to Goodland, boosting the sunflower industry and the possibility of opening a new grocery store. They are in the final stages of opening a new agriculturally-related processing plant, he said, which has been a two-year project.

The committee is also supporting Cameron Cross, a Canadian artist that is going to build a 24-by-32-foot replica of a Vincent Van Gogh painting,

and is working with clients to fill the deserted Gibson's discount store building east of Wal-Mart.

One client is already lined up, Harding said, but they only want half of the building, so the committee is looking for someone else.

Through the economic development plan, he said, the committee hopes to create more jobs in the community.

"We want to get more jobs for the people already living here," Harding said, "as well as creating jobs to get people to move here."

He said part of that is allowing people who have more skills than they are using in their current job to move up.

One of the important parts of bringing people into the community, said Harding, is to increase school enrollment. He said enrollment has been declining in Goodland schools because people are having smaller families and families are moving out of the area.

## matters of record

**Goodland Police Report**  
**Sept. 11** — Western Kansas Grain reported criminal damage to a screen door, walls and carpet at 1011 Cherry between Aug. 29 and Sept. 10, \$1,000.  
 At 10:51 a.m., the Goodland Regional Medical Center, 220 W. Second, reported a pager was stolen between Aug. 20 and Sept. 11, \$20.  
 At 11:15 a.m., Josh King, 16, re-

ported that the back window on his Blazer was damaged at 12th and Walnut, \$200.  
**Sept. 12** — KC's Video, 1018 Main, reported that some movies were rented and not returned between Aug. 16 and Aug. 24, \$186.  
**Saturday** — At 11 a.m., Cara A. Erhart reported that her '97 Pontiac was "keyed" at 522 Sherman, \$400.

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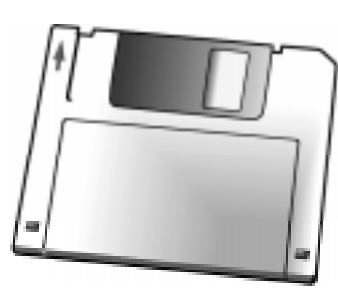
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