

## Hanging around



Kindergartners at North Elementary School in Goodland played on equipment during recess Thursday afternoon. David Rascon slid down the curly slide backwards, while Brianna Salinas did a flip on the jungle gym.  
Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

## Two men help woman from fire

Both people injured in car wreck will recover

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something.  
"I just thought it was something I better do," said Knitig.  
He said he pulled Thompson from the car, though her foot was caught behind the gas pedal, and carried her to the side of the road.  
After Thompson was safely out of the car, Gutsch's daughter, Leah Gutsch, drove by and Knitig asked her to call for help.  
"Larry tried to help," he said. "I kept telling him to go lay down, because he was still kind of out of it from the accident."

Gutsch kept insisting that the emergency workers go take care of Thompson, said Cynthia Gutsch.  
At one point during the fire, she said, her husband went back to the burning car and retrieved Thompson's purse for her.  
Knitig said he could tell Thompson's leg was broken when he pulled her from the car by the angle the leg was at and the fact she was in a lot of pain.  
"The whole situation was very weird," said Knitig, who stayed with Thompson until the firemen and an ambulance arrived.  
Thompson was flown to the Denver Health Medical Center, where she was

admitted to the intensive care unit, a spokesperson said. On Thursday morning, she was moved into a regular room, and by Thursday afternoon was listed in fair condition.  
Sheriff Doug Whitson said Wednesday he believed Knitig had saved Thompson's life because the car was engulfed in flames by the time the fire department got to the scene.  
Gutsch said the first thing he wants to do when he gets out of the hospital is thank Knitig because while he did what he could to help Thompson, he couldn't have lifted her out of the car after the injuries he had sustained.

## Expert to answer questions

SEEDING, from Page 1

says he's become somewhat of a cloud seeding expert after 30 years of studying storms, said he and a panel of scientists will answer questions after an hour-long, computer-aided presentation.  
Sherry Barrett, a Thomas County farmer and member of Citizens for Natural Weather, said the group wants Thomas County voters to make an informed decision on Nov. 7.  
She said the public meeting was originally planned as a forum, with

experts from the Colby-based Northwest Kansas Weather Modification program invited to participate.  
Wayne Bossert, manager of Northwest Kansas Groundwater District No. 4, which runs the program, said their technical staff didn't have enough time to prepare.  
But Bossert, a strong advocate of cloud seeding who says insurance figures show the four-year program has had economic benefits here, said he will attend and may ask questions.  
Dr. Doswell is a well-respected, credible scientist, said Bossert, who

could sway people to vote against the cloud seeding program.  
Though the election has been labeled "non-binding and advisory," he said, if a majority say "no" to seeding, he will ask the board to end the 4-year-old program.  
"I will recommend to the board that they stop the seeding program," he said, "but, of course, I don't run the show."  
The board already decided this summer to end the program after the 2001 season, he said, but members could change their minds later.

## Group wants to stop cloud seeding

Meeting to be held in Colby to inform voters

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what caused it," she said.  
Members of Citizens for Natural Weather, formed in 1998 to oppose cloud seeding in northwest Kansas, have gone to county and city officials and the state to get the practice stopped.  
They've realized their goal in Rawlins, Decatur and Cheyenne counties, and are sponsoring a public meeting on Sunday in Colby, where in two weeks voters will be asked if cloud seeding should be allowed to continue. Fliers say a research scientist from Oklahoma will talk at the meeting about why scientists don't have enough evidence to prove cloud seeding works or doesn't work.  
Representatives of the regional agency that runs the Colby-based cloud seeding program in northwest Kansas say results of the Thomas County "advisory" election could decide the fate of the program.

The way Barrett sees it, there are four types of people involved in the cloud seeding debate. The farmers, who stand to gain or lose the most; those in the weather modification program, who say they can prove it works; naturalists, who feel weather patterns should not be altered; and the scientific community, which has been conducting experiments for decades but has not come to any conclusions.

She's part of the first group, she said, and though other farmers have nothing but good things to say about cloud seeding, she's had too many bad experiences and wants it to stop. But, Barrett said, no matter what side a person is on, they should become informed before voting.  
"We'd like for people to find out both sides," she said. That way, no matter how people vote, it'll be a clear victory on either side.

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Kenny Davis

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