



Daryl West loaded up three pallets of prairie dog poison to take to the northeast corner of the county Wednesday afternoon.  
Photo by Shannon Davidson/The Goodland Star-News

# Dog program off to good start

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The effort to control the prairie dog population is getting countywide support, Daryl West, head of the noxious weed department, told the Sherman County commissioners at their meeting Tuesday.

The commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. today for a special meeting to review and adopt a confined space policy and to continue work on the budget.

There will be a commission meeting on Tuesday because the commissioners are going to attend a special economic summit in Colby from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Eight members of the county's special prairie dog committee were at the meeting this week to talk about how the program is going and what remains to be done.

West said he had ordered 12 pallets of prairie-dog poison at a cost of \$26,000, and all of those had been picked up.

He said he had another 12 pallets on order for Wednesday. This will come close to the \$55,000 the com-

missioners had approved to buy bait for the special program.

"I already have at least two of those pallets spoken for," West said. "I have had lots of people coming in to my office. I am meeting some people I did not know, and some do not have many prairie dogs, but want to treat what they have."

"There are many areas around the county which are being treated."

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked if the areas with the worst concentration were responding, and West said he had received responses from many of the farmers in the northeast part of the county where the most prairie dogs are found.

One member of the committee asked if the county could produce a letter that could be sent to absentee owners to tell them about the program. The commissioners agreed that a letter could be available at the county clerk's office.

Harlan House of Itasca Township said he did not feel it was proper for the county to collect

any money from the townships to pay for part of the prairie dog program. He said that in the Itasca Township, they had decided to pay the costs that the county program would not cover to treat prairie dogs in that area.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said it was not the intention of the county to take money from the townships, but to have the landowners pay at least part of the cost.

The commissioners agreed to modify their original motion to say that the township money could be spent at their discretion. Other townships that have prairie dog programs were planning to hold their money until next year, or had already spent their money for the year.

Someone asked if West could do a demonstration on how to properly apply the poison grain, and he said it is supposed to be about one to two tablespoons per hole. The grain is to be scattered near the hole and not put in a pile, he said.

"I have a button on the handle of the four-wheeler I use," he said, "and when I come to a hole, I push

the button and count to two. It does a great job of scattering the bait around the holes."

West said both Cheyenne and Thomas counties have prairie dog programs, and they have been contacted to help work on this in a coordinated effort.

A farmer suggested it might be good to contact the commissioners in Kit Carson County, Colorado, to see if they have an options for controlling the prairie dogs along the eastern part of their county.

The committee said they were talking to people in each township, and agreed to meet again in September or October to see how it was going. The program is to last until the end of the year, and the county will notify in December any landowners who have not taken action to control their prairie dogs.

"What if they refuse because they are afraid it will kill their cows," was one question.

"The resolution is authority to have the county go in and do it," Rasure replied.

West said the poison is not that harmful to cows if applied properly.

# Subregional summit being held Tuesday

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needs to be looked at, especially in light of the continued outmigration of people. We are in a situation where we do not have either the people or tax base to continue as we know it today.

"Technology today has changed the circumstances from when the county and state were settled. We need to review how we do things today. Historically you could drive from anywhere in the county to the county seat by horse in one day, and that is part of the basis for how the counties were laid out.

"Today we drive by car or even by mouse, and one question is how many county seats do we need. I doubt we will see any county consolidation, but we need to look for ways for the counties to work together and for school districts to cooperate.

"We need to look at where we are, where we came from, where we are going and how to get there."

The priorities identified at the seven regional mini-summits will be reviewed at the statewide Prosperity Summit on Oct. 1. The goal is to identify steps the state can take to stimulate the Kansas economy by

capitalizing on regional opportunities and eliminating barriers to growth.

"I think in some respects, we are looking a lot like we did in the '50s before we developed irrigation and the crops that needed more labor," McCants said. "Today, no one wants to hire more people.

"Today we use a lot less water than in the '50s and '60s — technology has helped. People used to say we were going to run out of water in 50 years. Now 50 years later, they are saying we will run out of water in 50 years. I believe we are learning how to save water and make it

last longer. We will run out of money before we run out of water.

"I am impressed with the new administration and Lt. Gov. Moore. He is going to want more than just ideas; he wants to know what the return on investment is — where is the money.

"We do not have money to waste, but there is money for good ideas that have a good return on investment. That has to be there before things get funded. There are plenty of nice projects, but we are more interested in those that bring in money.

"In Sherman County, we need to

take the ideas from the summit and bring it back down to the county level. We had a good strategic plan 12 years ago. We need a new one, because most of that plan has been completed.

"We want Sherman County to be a nice place to live, and that was the goal when we did the strategic plan. We need to look ahead again and do it for the next 10 years."

Anyone interested in attending one of the mini-summits or the regional summit may call Carolyn Applegate of the Sherman County Economic Development Council at 785-899-3743.

# National quilt display comes to Arts Center

QUILTS, from Page 1

will join the show in Goodland. Jarvis' quilt, "Ground Zero," is the largest in the display at 89 inches square, Tupper said. It is done in a Lone Star Pattern with pictures of people who perished in the terrorist attacks in an explosion moving outward from the center. Jarvis downloaded over 1,000 pictures from CNN and used just over 700 of them for her quilt. Though it's a monument to those who died, Tupper said, it is not at all creepy. "It's tastefully done," she said.

It is, nonetheless, a monument. Tupper said Jarvis told her she may donate the quilt to New York City when the tour is over.

Jarvis said she would never be able to sleep under it, Tupper added.

Tupper was excited to receive all the quilts.

"I'm like a kid in a candy store," she said.

# Arts Council's lease up for review and renewal

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland Arts Council will go before the City Commission at 5 p.m. on Monday to ask for a new lease on the Carnegie Arts Center.

Goodland leased the old Carnegie Library building to the council 20 years ago, and the lease is up in October.

Director Tina Goodwin wrote to the council members asking them to attend the meeting and write letters to be sure the city renews the lease.

In her letter to the members Goodwin said, "In meetings with City Manager Ron Pickman, the arts council has learned that the city is not interested in renewing another 20 years lease on the building, and may ask the arts council to pay for the building's utilities, which cost approximately \$6,000 annually.

"This is an expense the arts council cannot afford. Additionally, the building is facing costly handicapped accessibility issues, which has had a negative impact on the city

commissioners.

"The council's board of directors will present a proposed lease to the city commission, and will need a great deal of support at this meeting. The board of directors believe the only way the proposed lease will be renewed is if the city commissioners can see first hand how important the Carnegie Arts Center is to the people of our community."

Pickman said he told the council the city has a policy of not granting 20 year leases on anything, but suggested they ask for a five-year lease with options for three renewals of five years each.

"The city does not have any leases now longer than three to five years," Pickman said. "I told them the commission would not likely grant a full 20-year lease, but might consider doing it at five years with options to renew.

"It is better for the city and the arts council not to get tied into a long-term lease when neither group knows what will happen in the next 10 to 20 years.

"I have been receiving lots of letters from people supporting the arts, and many have been very thoughtful.

"It is not that the city commission is against the arts, but that there are many tough decisions that need to be made."

Pickman said there may be some good news on the handicap accessibility issue when Goodwin showed him a plan from 1991 which would build a ramp on the east side of the building and develop a courtyard in that area.

"This is a plan that was drawn up years ago, but we did not know it was an option," Pickman said. "This is a wonderful plan and would really be a part of the downtown revitalization effort. We hope to get the state Historical Society to send one of their architects out to review the plan and see if we can apply for a grant to help build this ramp and develop the courtyard.

"This plan does not change the front of the building, and appears to meet all the requirements of the fed-

eral law.

"Without some way to comply with the accessibility laws, it would be a problem for the city to continue the public use of the building, but with this plan there may be a workable solution."

Pickman said the other major item on the agenda will be an ordinance changing nuisance notice provisions because of a change in state law. He said the new law sets up a procedure so that the city does not have to send letters by certified mail and can place notices on the door of the location in question.

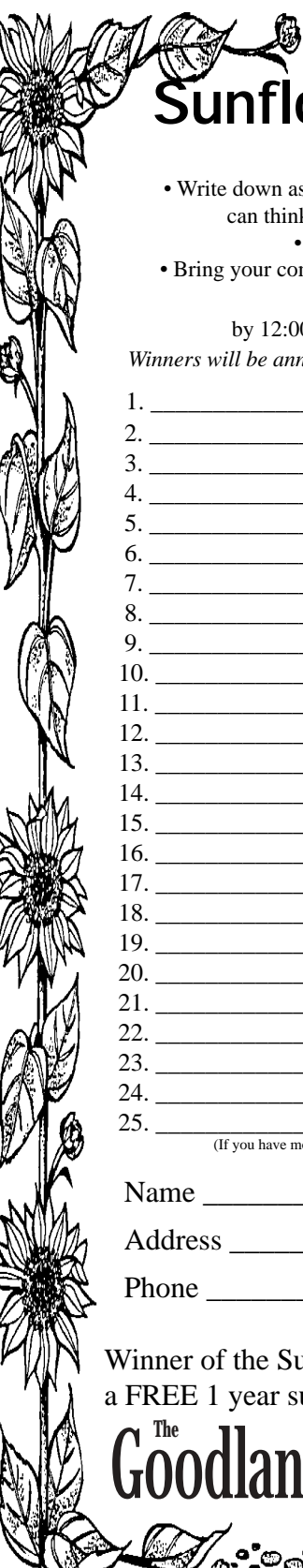
The city commission meets in the

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commission room on the second floor of the city administration building, 204 W. 11th St.

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# Sunflower Contest

## RULES

- Write down as many words (at least 3 letters) that you can think of using the word "Germinate"
  - Do not use proper names
- Bring your completed list to The Goodland Star-News office at 1205 Main

by 12:00 p.m. by Saturday, August 16th

Winners will be announced in the Tuesday, August 19th edition

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