

# River basin advisory board proposes changes

**By Karen Krien**  
*The Saint Francis Herald*

Meeting Monday in St. Francis, members of the Upper Republican River Basin Advisory Board proposed policy changes to be submitted to the state board and decided to stay out of issues dealing with private wells within city limits.

The meeting, chaired by Norman Nelson of Norton, involved considerable discussion on these matters and board members decided to stick with the original "Basin Priority Issues" which included: 1) Management of the Ogallala-High Plains Aquifer; 2) management of the Kansas River System, Upper Republican Basin; and 3) acquisition of storage rights in Keith Sebelius Reservoir in Norton County. The water storage for the Sebelius was considered a future priority compared to the other two.

State officials say the Basin Advisory Committees plays a key role in identifying

water issues across the state. The priority issues identified by the basin committees are researched by the Kansas Water Office policy and basin planning staff and are then presented to the Kansas Water Authority to be considered as part of the State Water Plan.

An issue which had been discussed by some of the members was private wells within the city limits, which may be used to irrigate laws even if the city has watering restrictions. City officials not happy about the wells, going so far as to say that some were unsafe and contaminated.

Who would set the guidelines for these wells? Would cities need to require permits? Should the advisory board have a special meeting inviting people to talk about the matter?

The members agreed that the bottom (unspoken) line was cities had no control over these wells and, furthermore, could not charge the owners for water use.

"It's a 'hot potato' and I don't think we want any part of it!" Mr. Nelson said, noting that he thought it was a local problem.

**Priorities**

The Kansas Water Plan Objectives (priorities) which dealt with the three issues above were reviewed. The board agreed that the line, "Ensure that there are minimum releases to meet water quality and aquatic life needs in the stream," in the Basin Objectives needed to be removed.

Most thought this objective was ridiculous in this part of the state as most streams were dry.

There were several other objectives which the board approved. Mr. Nelson thought that the "Kansas Water Plan - Upper Republican Basin Section" was too long (15 pages) and suggested that it be shortened and be more to the point.

**Policy section**

On a preliminary draft of the policy section, Anne Marie Worley, a board member

from Atwood, said she had closely read those six pages. She was irritated that 10 times in those pages, it had talked about authorizing the state to purchase groundwater rights and overlying land rights for municipal, industrial, and fish, wildlife and recreational purposes. This had also concerned several other members.

John Keller, a board member from St. Francis, asked just how many water rights are for sale now and how many wells would be for sale in the future?

"If the cities need water, they'll get it," Mr. Keller said, adding that he thought laws will be written to make it happen.

Wayne Bossert, a board member from Colby and manager of the groundwater district there, countered that it was better to establish a market system now. When wells are purchased, they would then be returned to the domain system (or the people).

Following much discussion and several suggestions, the board agreed to add "for

public benefit."

**In other business**

In other business, the board:

- Noted that in the near future, every well will probably be required to have meters. However, Mr. Bossert pointed out that meters will require staff to monitor the wells and make sure the owners are in compliance and take care of meters when they break down.
- Named Craig Ingram of Long Island as a board member, replacing Elmer Zodrow of Oberlin.
- Noted that the purchase of the Circle K Ranch in Edwards County would provide water for the city of Hays. Part of the 7,000-acre ranch would be converted to a wildlife habitat and some water now used for irrigation would be used to help with stream recovery on the Arkansas River.
- Agreed to meet in the first part of March with no meeting place designated.

# County buying more bait

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

The prairie dog control program seems to be working, Daryl West, head of the county noxious weed department, told the Sherman County commissioners at their meeting Tuesday morning.

He said the supply of bait has run out, and asked to buy an additional 12 pallets for the next few months.

"We have to keep the ball rolling," Commissioner Mitch Tiede said.

"We can't stop now," Commissioner Chuck Thomas agreed.

West said that most of the landowners who have prairie dogs are treating them, but a few that have not. Under the program, the landowners have until the end of No-

vember to voluntarily treat prairie dogs on their land and take advantage of the county's special program to purchase the bait at a reduced price.

West said the cost of each pallet at the price the county has been getting is \$2,202. He said there was \$2,100 left from the \$55,000 the commissioners committed to the project, and that \$5,500 has come back from landowners who have purchased the bait. A total of \$13,000 has been billed, representing about a quarter of the county's cost.

The commissioners talked about taking additional money from the general fund to cover the cost of the 12 pallets. They told West to go ahead and order the bait. There is

\$13,000 in the existing prairie dog fund, and they suggested that at least a couple of the pallets could be purchased with that money and the rest would come from the general fund.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked if the people who are not treating their prairie dogs have been contacted. West said he had not personally contacted them at this time, but that members of the prairie dog committee had talked to them.

If any landowners have not treated prairie dogs by the end of November, the county could go on the property and treat the problem and charge the cost to the landowner. West said it appears there may be less than a handful of these cases to be handled.

# Hazardous waste drop off Saturday

**WASTE, from Page 1**

costs over the past year, and felt that it would be about \$50 a month for electricity. The commissioners agreed to pay \$50 a month for the city utilities.

Arnold and building owner Kendall Cooper are to fence the back half of the building off, and open a side entrance to maintain the security of the county part.

At Tuesday's meeting, Mary Messamore, head of the county dispatch and emergency management office, asked the commissioners for help in completing a special state plan which is part of the Homeland Security program.

She said the plan has to be submitted to the state by March, and that there is some grant money to help pay for the work.

Actually it includes three plans, she said. There need to be separate plans for Kanorado and Goodland plus a countywide plan that incorporates the other two.

She said the plan calls for some-

one to organize public meetings with the cities and for the county and that there are computer programs to help develop the plans.

The basic purpose is to have each group look at the worst that could happen in a disaster or terrorist attack and plan for actions that can be taken to mitigate the damage.

Rasure suggested Messamore might contact the DECA group at the high school or the business department at the technical college to see if they would like to handle the project.

The commissioners held a 14-minute closed session with Register of Deeds Carol Armstrong on a personnel matter. No action was taken.

Rasure made a motion to dissolve the Northern Sun sewer district, and to set a hearing date. Tiede seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The sewer system is being turned over to Northern Sun Industries and the parent corporation ADM. Dissolving the district is the main step,

and a hearing on the question will be held on Oct. 7.

Dr. Robert McCullough, who has been the assistant district coroner, submitted his resignation effective immediately.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said she is talking to Police Chief Ray Smee and Sheriff Doug Whitson about what might be done to replace him.

Tiede reported that the county applications for the Conservation Reserve Program have been accepted for the property south of Smoky Gardens, near the new landfill and out by the transfer station. The U.S. Department of Agriculture pays landowners to take land subject to erosion out of use and plant grass or trees.

The commissioners held a 10-minute executive session with Mary Ann Snethen, deputy clerk, and County Clerk Janet Rumpel on a personnel matter. No action was taken.

The next meeting will be 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 23. The commissioners will meet with Penny Nemcehek about adding the hospital to her grant writer program. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.



Jace Mosbarger showed his crossbred market steer "Hoss" at the Kansas State Fair Saturday. "Hoss," in addition to winning his category, was named Overall Grand Champion.

# Steer wins big at Kansas State Fair

Jace Mosbarger of Goodland was named the Overall Grand Champion for his crossbred market steer "Hoss" by the Grand Drive Selection of Champions at the Kansas State Fair last Saturday.

So far this year, said Darla Mosbarger, Jace's mother, "Hoss" has won every show he appeared at, including the Alpha Gamma Rho/Block and Bridle Kickoff Show in Topeka, both days of the Sunflower Showdown in Hutchinson, the Kansas

Classic in Hutchinson, the Washington Spring Show, the Northern Exposure Spring Show in Belleville and the Sherman County Spring Show. Hoss is on display for the entire week of the state fair.

This was the second straight year the Mosbarger family won Overall Grand Champion. Last year John, Jace's brother, won the honor with his steer "Player".

Jace also won at the Sherman County Fair with his steer "Johnnie."

## corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

## student of the week



**Name:** Lauren Gray  
**Parents:** Eric and Marianne Gray  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Age:** 17  
**We've nominated this student because:** of her effort and performance in the classroom. Lauren is a hard working, dedicated and an academically successful student at Goodland High School. Her attitude is positive and she shows respect to her peers, the faculty and staff. Lauren is a proven leader within her family and Consumer Science classes, as well as, in her participation of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of

America Chapter. (FCCLA)  
**Student Comment:** I like coming to school to see all my friends. I'll never forget all the good times I've had with them and other classmates.  
**Activities involved in at school:** Student Council, FCCLA, Girl's Athletic Association, Peer Counseling, cheerleading, dance team, softball, National Honor Society.  
**My choice of movies, books, and games:** My favorite movies are comedies. Rock is my favorite kind of music. I love reading any book by John Grisham. My favorite game is Monopoly.  
**After I leave Goodland High School I intend to:** Attend either K-State or KU and major in a science related field.  
**And 10 years from now, I think I'll be:** a pediatrician and paying off all of my student loans.  
**Favorite Quote:** "Live like there's no tomorrow, love like you've never been hurt, and dance like no one is watching." Unknown

# Shirley Gray

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