

Atwood meteorologist provides service

By Ron Wilson

**Director
Huck Boyd National Institute for
Rural Development
at Kansas State University**

"Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it," said Mark Twain. Yes, we all feel the impact of the weather. Today we'll meet an innovative private meteorologist who is providing weather-related services to rural Kansas.

Chris Sramek is owner and meteorologist at Decision Weather in Atwood. Chris grew up on the family farm near Atwood. He was studying computer science at Fort Hays State when he visited Boulder, Colo. While there he visited the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and one might say he was "blown away" by what he saw there. The cutting edge technology and weather analysis was very impressive.

"I knew this was what I wanted

to do," Chris said. On the same trip, he took a personality test which suggested that he was not cut out to be a computer programmer. So Chris decided to make a change and transferred to the University of Nebraska where he graduated in Meteorology.

He took a position with a private meteorology firm in Kansas City and worked there seven years, but he really wanted to get back closer to the farm and family in Rawlins County. In spring 2001, Chris made the move back to Atwood where he established his own meteorology firm called Decision Weather and got involved with his hometown.

"The folks in Kansas City told me, 'You're the first radio-TV weather personality that we've had that's gone the other way,'" Chris said. "Most of them are coming from small towns and trying to move into larger markets." After all, Atwood is a community of 1,258 people. Now, that's rural.

But Chris could see how the technology was changing to enable electronic communication, and he wanted to use the technology to benefit agriculture. He set up Decision Weather to provide personalized weather forecasts and weather consulting to individuals and all types of businesses, such as agriculture, construction, radio, transportation, public works and roads, education, aviation, recreation, and public utilities.

For the first two years, Chris operated from an office in his home. Then he rented space downtown, and in 2006 Decision Weather purchased the building where they operate today. Decision Weather utilizes a fully staffed state-of-the-art weather lab equipped with a broadcast studio, high-speed Internet, and multiple PC weather stations. He's done weather reports for communities from Salina to Fort Morgan, Colo, but now focuses on his core region.

Chris does the weather forecast on the radio stations in Colby and Goodland and provides private weather consulting services for his various clients. At first, most of his clients were businesses like construction companies and golf courses, but the ag side of his business has grown so much that farmers make up most of his clients today.

For example, his clients might receive a daily email or text with the weather report. Then when they get into a busy farming or construction season, they might consult with Chris about weather conditions - such as if they are preparing to pour concrete or spray a field.

The name "Decision Weather" is fitting, because his weather reports and analyses help his clients decide on how to plan their outdoor work. If a farmer needs to spray for weeds or pests, for example, Decision Weather provides key information on wind speed and direction so as to make sure that nearby fields are not affected.

"I'm not necessarily just delivering the weather anymore," Chris said. "My job is more consulting with people and helping them interpret what they see."

For more information, go to www.decisionweather.com.

"Everybody talks about the

weather, but nobody does anything about it." Yes, weather affects all of us, but this entrepreneurial Kansan has found a way to build a business of serving agriculture and consulting on the weather. We commend Chris Sramek for making a difference by bringing his expertise back to rural Kansas. His work can help rural Kansas weather the proverbial storm.

And there's more. Remember that Chris got involved when he moved back to his hometown? He ended up leading an initiative which is transforming his community. We'll learn about that in next week's Kansas Profile.

Earthquake insurance not in regular policy

Sandy Praeger, commissioner of insurance, reminds Kansans that earthquake insurance is not part of a regular homeowners, renters or condominium insurance policy.

"If your insurance company offers it, coverage can be added by include an endorsement to your policy or by purchasing a separate earthquake policy," Commissioner Praeger said. "In either case, you will pay an extra premium, just as you do for flood insurance, which is also not part of a regular policy."

Earthquakes in Oklahoma this past weekend were felt in parts of eastern Kansas, Commissioner Praeger said, and prompted the need to remind Kansans about their property insurance options. She also offers these considerations.

- Coverage can protect your dwelling, other structures like a garage and your personal property. It may cover increased costs to meeting current building codes and costs to stabilize the land under your dwelling.
- Coverage doesn't include damage to your vehicles. That may be covered under your current automobile policy. Check with your local insurance agent or company to verify the vehicle coverage.
- Insuring a swelling for its appraisal or loan value likely means you will only have enough coverage to repay your lender. You should review your dwelling coverage from time to time to be sure it doesn't drop below the cost to replace your home.
- Questions to ask yourself: How much would it cost to repair or rebuild your home? How much would it cost to replace your household items? How much would it cost to find a temporary place to live because you couldn't live in your home after an earthquake?
- The deductible for earthquake insurance usually is 10-20 percent of the coverage limit. This is different from a homeowners policy, which is usually one flat amount deductible, like \$500 or \$1,000.
- The time to buy the coverage is before an earthquake. Most insurers won't sell any new earthquake insurance for 30 to 60 days after a recent earthquake.
- As with any household coverage, make a household inventory. Go through each room to write down and video everything in the room. Store the inventory in a secure place at another location, such as a safe deposit box. (For a download of a personal home inventory, go to www.ksinsurance.org and click on "Publications" at the bottom of the home page).
- Put your agent's or company's toll-free number into your cell phone directory.
- As always, your best source for



sandy praeger

insurance comm.

determining your need and coverage levels is your local insurance agent

or agency," Commissioner Praeger said.

For additional assistance, contact the Kansas Insurance Department's Consumer Assistance hotline at (800) 432-2484.

LIQUIDATION AUCTION

FOR BUBBA'S MEAT BLOCK

Saturday, November 19, 2011

Time: 1 p.m. MT
(doors open at 11 a.m. day of sale)

**Auction Location: Bubba's Meat Block,
1901 Cherry Ave, Goodland, KS**

REAL ESTATE WILL BE SOLD BY
HOMELAND REALTY & AUCTION

Manner of Sale: The property and equipment will be sold in the manner that produces the highest aggregate bid. The property and equipment will be offered as a turn key operation. The building will be sold separately and the equipment sold individually. Selling subject to owner confirmation.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE: 1901 CHERRY AVENUE, GOODLAND, KS.

- LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** Beginning 715'E of W. Section line & on S R/W 19th Street. TH E ALG R/W 250 (S) 556 W30 (S) SWLY 107/ (S) N30 W104.
- TERMS:** The successful bidder will pay a 10% earnest money deposit immediately following the auction on the real estate with the balance due upon approval of title. Contract closing will be on or before December 19, 2011. Personal and corporate checks are acceptable for the down payment with the final payment to be made in certified funds. Funds will be held by Northwest Kansas Title as escrow agent. Bidding is not contingent upon financing.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE DAY OF SALE TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ALL PRINTED MATERIAL OR ANY ORAL STATEMENTS PREVIOUSLY MADE.**
- ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS:** The successful bidder will be required to enter into a HomeLand Realty & Auction Purchase Contract immediately following the auction.
- EVIDENCE OF TITLE:** Seller will provide title insurance to the Buyer. Closing costs will be paid one-half by the Seller and one-half by the Buyer.
- AGENCY:** HomeLand Realty & Auction, it's agents and representatives, are the Exclusive Agents of the Seller.

PROCESSING EQUIPMENT: All meat processing equipment is in clean, excellent condition. 2100 Patty-O-Matic HB patty maker (like new); Cash register; Cutting table, nylon top; 2 Stainless steel tables; 1 Refrigerator unit to be removed from cooler, 3 phase; 1 Refrigerator unit, new in box, slightly damaged (these refrigeration units will do large coolers); 20"x20", 34" - 42" temp, 3 phase; 1 8x8 walk in freezer, 20" F, 3 phase; 1 good used oven; Plastic wrap machine; Electronic hanging scale, 2,000# capacity; 2 countertop meat scales, price and weight; 2,000# electric winch, heavy duty; Pro Smoker, 150# capacity, stainless steel, 110 volt; Pro Smoker, 300# capacity, stainless steel, 110 volt; Heavy duty Hobart meat saw; Heavy duty Hobart slicer; Heavy duty Hobart meat grinder; Heavy duty Hobart meat tenderizer w/extra jerky slicer; These meat cases are self contained & are in excellent shape (8 ft stainless steel True meat case and 6 ft True deli meat case); Blue Bunny ice cream freezer, good shape; 3 chest type freezers (large); 1 up right freezer.

VEHICLES: 1987 Chevrolet Suburban 4x4 (Ole Blue) Runs good; 1987 Chevrolet Short Box 4x4, 8.1 Liter V8, Good engine and transmission; 540 Yamaha V Max Snow mobile, runs great, Always shedded.

GUNS: Gun buyers will need to pass the #4473 background check. A \$25.00 fee will be charged per gun for paperwork. • Note: All guns are in good to excellent shape. • Browning Invector BPS 10 ga 28# Field model. • Mossberg 935 12 ga 3 1/2" semi auto. • Rough Rider 17 HMR 6.5" pistol 6 shooter. • Winchester Mod 12 16 ga Serial #1136061. • Jimenez Arms semi auto 22 pistol extra clip. • Remington Speed Master semi auto 22 deluxe. • Henry 22 - New in box. • 2 - Dale Earnhardt 22 (1 Red, 1 Black) New in box, never opened. • Remington Mod 700, 300 WSM, Leupold Scope 3x9. • Ruger M77 Mark II stainless, .204 cal Tasco 2.5x10 scope. • Marlin bolt action 22 mag tube magazine. • CZ 452 - 2E17 Mach II, Bolt action, .22 3x9 Tasco Mil Dot Scope. • Thompson Center 17 Mach II Semi auto 3x9 Tasco Mil Dot, Laminated Stock - Nice.

MUCH MORE DAY OF SALE! Lunch will be served!

Tom Harrison-Auctioneer-Broker: (785) 443-0136
Tom Simpson-Auctioneer: (785) 443-1153
Bob Jones-Auctioneer: (785) 443-0138

TNT AUCTION

For complete sale bill, visit: www.tntjonesauction.com

SHERMAN COUNTY KANSAS TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT

October 31, 2011

Total Cash in the Treasury as at the above date **\$6,773,313.81**

FUND	FUND BALANCE
APPRAISER'S COST	\$38,513.76
MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATING FUND	\$43,987.15
BOND & INTEREST	\$55,859.10
NO FUND WARRANTS	\$5.65
CITY-CO RECREATION	\$27.31
COUNTY HEALTH	\$29,377.49
DIRECT ELECTION	\$51,874.57
TRASH HAULING	\$153,300.94
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$317,778.93
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS HEALTH RESERVE	\$42,598.39
EXTENSION	-\$182.70
GENERAL FUND	\$763,434.11
HOME MAINTENANCE	\$41,414.80
POST CLOSURE ACCT-LANDFILL	\$225,000.00
LOGAN CO FIRE #1	\$2.60
LANDFILL EXCAVATION	\$275,434.00
NOXIOUS WEED	\$84,777.48
REGISTER OF DEEDS TECHNOLOGY	\$18,789.08
OUT-DISTRICT TUITION	-\$113.05
OVER & UNDER	-\$20.46
PROGRAM FOR ELDERLY	\$565.64
PROS ATTY (TRAINING FUND)	\$447.31
PROS ATTY (DIVERSION)	\$6,409.12
ROAD AND BRIDGE	\$667,813.28
SALES TAX	\$31,172.85
SC RURAL FIRE DIST #1	\$44,347.57
SOLDIERS MEMORIAL PARK	\$16,976.66
SOLID WASTE FUND	\$783,916.54
CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$231,314.20
EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND	\$22,393.60
SPECIAL PARKS & RECREATION	\$2,390.07
SPECIAL MACHINERY FUND	\$101,536.86
TORT LIABILITY	\$1,340.31
CONCEALED WEAPONS	\$3,800.83
JAIL COMMISSARY	\$10,658.42
NOXIOUS WEED CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$3,437.47
SC RFD #1 EQUIP RESERVE	\$42,274.30
HERITAGE TRUST FUND	\$293.26
SHERIFF DRUG SEIZURE FUND	\$16,047.42
COUNTY HEALTH CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$50,467.65
ADVANCE TAX	\$1,081.47
AUTO MOTOR STATE	\$5,431.00
HEALTH CARE SERVICES	\$330,731.17
COUNTY REDEMPTION	\$1,909.65
CURRENT TAX	-\$43.27
RECREATIONAL VEHICLE TAX	\$1,484.12
MOTOR VEHICLE TAX	\$101,677.05
MICRO LOANS	\$30,133.55
SHERIFF REWARD DONATION FUND	\$143.63
911 WIRELESS	\$87,688.53
SCRFD #1 SPECIAL FUND	\$5,455.47
911 TELEPHONE SERVICE	\$39,922.74
SUSPENSE FUND	\$19,928.61

TOWNSHIPS

IOWA/GENERAL	\$2.90
LLANOS/GNERAL	\$41.00
LOGAN/GENERAL	\$3.66
MCPHERSON/GENERAL	\$2.40
SHERMANVILLE/GENERAL	\$91.05
PROJECT FUND-GO ROAD PROJECT	\$1,900.71
ROAD SEALANT BOND	\$42,654.06
LOCAL 1% SALES TAX FOR ROAD PROJECT	\$1,923,611.80

TOTAL ALL FUNDS **\$6,773,313.81**

STATE OF KANSAS
SHERMAN COUNTY ss.
I do solemnly swear that the above statement is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge

Signature on original

County Treasurer, Sherman County, Kansas

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ___4th___ day of ___November___, 2011___

Signature on Original

County Clerk - Notary Public

My commission expires January 12, 2013

Published in The Goodland Star-News, Friday, November 11, 2011.

**Classifieds
work!
899-2338**