# Star-news lland Goodland Star-News / Tuesday, August 23, 2005 3a

## Moran to be onTV

Congressman to answer questions on Smoky Hills Television Aug 30.

Viewers of Smoky Hills Public Television, Channel 2, have a chance to talk with Congressman Jerry Moran at 8 p.m. next Tuesday when the station presents "A Conversation with Jerry Moran."

The live call-in program will be hosted by Dr. Richard Heil, chairman of the political science department at Fort Hays State University, with John Montgomery, editor and publisher of the Hays Daily News, as the press representative.

Moran, who recently finished his annual "Listening Tour" of Kansas' 1st Congressional District, expects to discuss issues raised over the course of that tour. These include high energy prices, difficulties in the agricultural sector and health care costs, said a spokesperson from the congressman's Washington office.

Moran is a senior member of the House Agriculture Committee and chairman of the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management. He also is a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure and the Veterans' Affairs committees.

Moran helps is involved with congressional caucuses and coalitions, including the Rural Health Care Coalition, the Congressional Caucus to Fight and Control Methamphetamine and the National Guard-Reserve Components Cau-

Through his work with the rural health coalition, Moran has led the fight to save rural hospitals and sponsored legislation to bring more doctors to rural areas. His efforts to boost Medicare payments for small, rural hospitals earned him recognition from the National Rural Health Association.

Moran's "Big First" district covers 69 of Kansas' 105 counties.

Smoky Hills Public Television serves 70 counties in Kansas and one in Nebraska. For information,



### Kanorado Days

Kids stepped from box to box (above) while music played Saturday during the cake walk at Kanorado Day. When the music stopped, the kids hoped they were standing on the right number to win a baked prize. This was the first year for the Kanorado Classic Car and Bike Show (right) and there were over 30 entries with antique cars, pickups and a few motorcycles.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



### Prairie dog popultaion on the decline

#### By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News Sherman County seems to be winning the war against prairie dogs—numbers are down after two weed department director, has from October to March?" Tiede years of control efforts — and enough money in his prairie dog county commissioners want to keep it that way.

Last Tuesday, commissioners decided to continue helping landowners control the pesky ground squirrels, but with a slightly lower subsidy.

missioners decided to reduce the cent next year. amount the county pays for bait from 50 percent to 25 percent for the the first year, the commissioners the project in the spring. He added dog fund to \$8,000 and in the genupcoming season, from Oct. 15 to allowed the landowners 75 percent the special bait price would subject eral fund to \$10,000. March 15.

I think we should put a cap on the total," said Commissioner Chuck Thomas said.

Tiede said Daryl West, noxious fund to buy three flats of bait this fall.

There are 48 30-pound buckets in a flat West said. Each pallet is about \$2,500 he said.

Tiede said he thought the 50 percent might be in effect until January, Reviewing the program, the com- and they could go with the 25 per-

25 percent," Rasure said.

"You mean for the prairie dog season?" Thomas said. Start now and go for the season asked.

'Yes, go with 25 percent and review after the season next year," Rasure said.

"You need to make a motion and decide what you are going to do," Rumpel said.

Rasure made a motion to allow the 25 percent discount on prairie dog bait for Sherman County land-County Clerk Janet Rumpel said owners through March and review cut the total in the special prairie mill will raise about \$67,000. The

#### taining control."

Looking at the budget for next year, Rasure said the figure in the general fund for the bait was too high

"Especially with our cutting back to 25 percent," he said. "We show \$40,000 for this year. There is \$20,000 for next year plus \$8,000 out of general for this year.

"We are cutting our cost by reducing it to 25 percent. That would be \$160,000 for bait at the 25 percent level. That is too high."

## County rental reduced

Sherman County commissioners agreed last Tuesday to waive part of the rental fee on the 4-H building at the fairgrounds for a preschool fund raiser, but wondered whether they were opening the county up to more such requests.

The commissioners had a request from for Cris Riebel to hold a garage sale to raise money for her Creation Kids Preschool scholarship fund Aug. 26-27.

She agreed to pay \$75 to rent the building, but ask for a waiver of the \$50 utility fee.

She said she has applied for a nonprofit exemption for the school, but has not received any official notice from the Internal Revenue Service.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked if the waiver for Riebel would be setting a precedent for other groups.

"That is a thought," Commissioner Chuck Thomas said. "What about every other nonprofit?"

"There are a lot of nonprofits," Commissioner Mitch Tiede said. "I guess we will have to make a decision when they ask."

"We sort of have done it already," Rasure said. "We waive the fees on the junior high dances."

"It is like Project Graduation," Thomas said. "It would be like a \$50 donation."

"I'm not saying it is wrong," Rasure said, "just that it will open the door for others."

"I think it will help them out," Tiede said, making a motion to waive the \$50 utility fee. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioners also approved a revised agreement on dividing the county cemetery fund. The commissioners had some changes in the draft, which County Attorney Bonnie Selby marked and had the document retyped.

The agreement will include the Brewster Cemetery along with the Kanorado and Goodland cemeteries

The agreement sets a cap on the fund at one mill, and County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the levy is about The commissioners decided to two-thirds of a mill at present. One agreement gives 10 percent each to Kanorado and Brewster, and the remaining 80 percent to Goodland. The agreement will have to be approved by each of the cemetery boards also.

go to <u>www.shptv.o</u>1

#### corrections

In the story "Chamber asks for ideas, help" in the Friday, Aug. 19 Goodland Star-News it said the next joint meeting would be 7 a.m. on Wednesday. The meeting will be held at 7 a.m. today. This was a reporting error.

ት ት ት ት ት The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call (785)899-2338.

"We gave 50 percent last year," Commissioner Mitch Tiede said. We need to wean ourselves off this."

He said last season, the county agreed to pay 50 percent with a cap of \$30,000.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure suggested the county drop back to 25 percent, letting landowners pick up the rest.

"I agree we should drop back to 25 percent," Tiede said.



'Unless we have something in writing that says the 50 percent is

to the availability of money in the budget.

"The trouble is the bordering areas," Thomas said. "The interior of for the full year, I plan to go with the the county is doing OK and is main-

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"We're thinning them down," West said. "We are controlling them and several counties are getting into controlling the dogs."



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