

Offlike a herd of turtles



Children gathered around a circle in front of the grandstand for the turtles races at Family Fun Night on Monday night at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair. They entered their turtles, put them in the center and watched them race. With the kids yelling encouragement, some of the turtles ran to the edge, while others just ran any which way.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Controlling Bermuda grass requires lawn renovation

In a past column I wrote about controlling Bermuda grass that has taken over a cool season grass.

The recommendation I provided was for removing the Bermuda grass as part of a complete lawn renovation program.

After rereading the column I thought I had better clarify the use of glyphosate products (Round-up, Kleen-up, Killzall, Kleeraway). They are to kill the Bermuda grass and any remaining cool season grasses in that area.

These products will not just remove the Bermuda grass. As part of a renovation program, you will have to either reseed cool season grasses or sod in a new grass.



dana belshe

• ag notebook

The reasoning behind using two applications, several weeks apart, is to ensure that no grass is missed and restarts from the roots are picked up with the second application. Once you are sure the grass is completely dead, you are ready to proceed with renovation.

When reseeding, I prefer the fall, starting in about mid-September. You will fight fewer weeds in the

weed and feeds to catch most of the spring broadleaf weeds.

I think it is best to roto-till the area, raking to remove the dead crowns and surface roots. Once that is completed, you are ready to level and prepare the seed bed.

Remember that seed-to-soil contact is important, and using a flat faced packer to press the seed into the surface works well. If no

fall, and you will be able to get three mowings on it early enough in the spring to be able to use

packer is available, you can use a light raking to mix the seed into the bed.

Grass seed does not want to be planted very deep. Be sure to keep the area moist, or at least avoid letting it dry out very long, until you cover the area well with new growth and have good root development. Watering during a warm dry spell in the winter will help ensure that the grass does not winter kill.

Dana Belshe is agricultural agent for Kansas State University Research and Extension and the Sunflower Extension District, covering Sherman and Wallace counties.

matters of record

Goodland Police

The following crimes have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:

July 23 — 1:26 a.m., 524 W. 15th, arrested Alvaro Sandoval for

domestic battery against Veronica Sandoval and criminal damage to property. Case referred to city attorney.

July 24 — 5:02, 1622 Arcade, Gloria Medrano reported theft of a

bicycle.

5:41 p.m., 1622, Arcade, Timothy Fugleburg reported theft of a bicycle.

5:46 p.m., 1530 Texas, Donald Williams reported criminal damage

to property.

(RESOLUTION)

BE RESOLVED THAT

In compliance with the Executive Order 11245; Title II of the Education Amendments of 1976; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972; Title IX Regulation Implementing Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and all other Federal, State School Rules, Laws, Regulations and policies, the NORTHWEST KANSAS TECHNICAL COLLEGE, GOODLAND, KANSAS, shall not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, national origin or handicap in the educational programs or activities which it operates.

It is the intent of the NORTHWEST KANSAS TECHNICAL COLLEGE, GOODLAND, KANSAS, to comply with both the letter and spirit of the law in making certain discrimination does not exist in its policies, regulations and operations. Grievance procedures for Title IX and Section 504 have been established for students, their parents and employees who feel discrimination has been shown by the said college.

Specific complaints of alleged discrimination under Title IX (gender) and Section 504 (handicap) should be referred to the following authorized individuals:

Kenneth A. Clouse, President
Title IX Coordinator
P.O. Box 668
Goodland, KS 67735
Phone: (785) 899-3641

Paul Chaffin, Counselor
Section 504 Coordinator
P.O. Box 668
Goodland, KS 67735
Phone: (785) 899-3641

Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504 complaints can also be filed with the Regional Office for Civil Rights. Address correspondence to:

U.S. Department of Education, Region VII
Office for Civil Rights
10220 N. Executive Hills Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64153

All students attending NORTHWEST KANSAS TECHNICAL COLLEGE, GOODLAND, KANSAS, may participate in educational programs and activities, including but not limited to health, physical education, music and vocational and technical education, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, age, handicap or gender.

Published in The Goodland Star-News Friday August 4, 2006.

Reporting insurance fraud is law

I am giving a summary of the outcome of several insurance-related bills that have gone before the legislature this spring.

Efforts to protect Kansans and Kansas insurance companies from insurance fraud have been strengthened. Initially, this legislation stalled in the 2005 session. Last summer and fall, I worked with the interested groups to find a compromise that could win approval.

An insurer or any other person that has knowledge or good reason to believe that a fraudulent insurance act is being or has been committed is now required to report that information.

Additionally, each insurer will now be required to have anti-fraud initiatives in place to detect fraudulent insurance acts. This may include a fraud investigator who may be an employee of an insurer or an independent contractor.

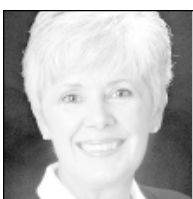
Additionally, an antifraud plan must be submitted to the Commissioner by insurers no later than July 1, 2007.

With insurance fraud on the rise in every line of insurance, I am pleased that the law has been strengthened. The message in Kansas needs to be that insurance fraud is wrong and that we will take action against those that take advantage of others.

I am continuing to promote the modernization of insurance laws for Kansas businesses. Regulatory bureaucracy should not stand in the way of Kansas businesses in their efforts to get the best insurance rates and policies to meet their needs.

With my endorsement, the Kansas Legislature enacted SB 539, which will allow insurance carriers to more quickly develop and offer new commercial insurance products for large and medium-sized Kansas businesses.

While this new legislation does not apply to workers' compensation and a few other specialized lines of insurance, it is another step toward a freer marketplace with more price and product competition. Kansas



sandy praeger

• insurance comm.

businesses will clearly benefit.

SB 539 was supported by various insurance carriers, trade groups and the Kansas Chamber of Commerce.

As of July 1, patients have additional appeal rights for adverse health care decisions made through a utilization review process. Passage of this legislation establishes a "Consumer Bill of Rights," enhancing the rights and protections of Kansans who must go through a health insurance company's internal review or appeals process due to an adverse health care coverage decision. I provided technical assistance to the legislature in drafting the bill and then provided testimony in support of its passage.

"Most people, at some point in their lives, will face a denial of benefits from a health insurance provider," said Senator Barbara Allen, primary sponsor of the legislation.

"Our new law provides significant safeguards for consumers facing denial of health care coverage. Individuals now are assured of the right to personally appear and be heard in the internal review process, to ask and receive answers to questions, to be represented at the hearing by an attorney or a physician, and to require members of the review committee to be present — physically or electronically — to hear the insured's individual case."

Thirty-nine other states have enacted similar or related legislation

or regulations. Parts of the bill are based on the National Association of Insurance Commissioners Health Carrier Grievance Procedure Model Act.

Disappointment came with HB 2553, which was an attempt to overturn a controversial decision by the Kansas Department of Revenue to allow private business offices to renew driver's licenses.

Passage of the legislation would have prohibited these offices, which also sell insurance, from contracting for drivers' license renewal services.

This is an issue that will not go away. It clearly gives those locations an unfair advantage over agencies and independent agents to sell automobile and other lines of insurance at the time an individual comes in to renew a driver's license. It is important that insurance products in Kansas are sold on a level playing field. I will make it a priority to bring the issue up again next year.

Sandy Praeger, Kansas Insurance Commissioner, oversees the activities of the Kansas Insurance Department, which is headquartered in Topeka. Her objective is to protect consumers and help maintain the financial stability of the insurance industry.

The department regulates and monitors the activities of 23,000 resident agents, 48,000 non-resident agents and 1,684 insurance companies licensed to do business in the state. It offers financial, actuarial, legal, computer, research, market conduct and economic expertise. Visit www.ksinsurance.org for more information.



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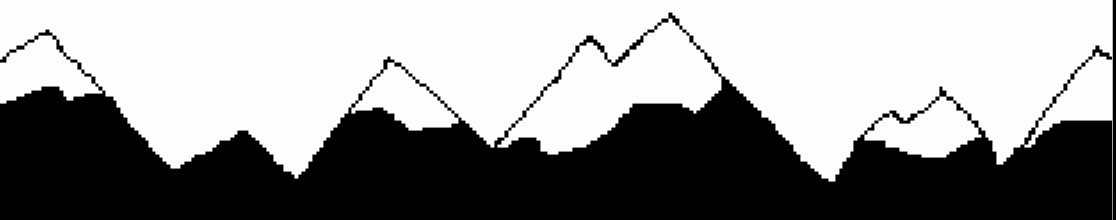
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