

Mother Nature's artistry



Mother Nature left this swirling design pattern in the layer of frost on the roof and trunk of a car that had been parked out at the Mid-America trailer park on Thursday. People got up Friday to frost on the windshields and a skiff of ice on the grass after a cold front came through overnight. Friday turned out to be a

great day, and the weekend was nice with some gusty winds. The National Weather Service forecast is for cooler temperatures today, and a chance of showers on Wednesday and Thursday.

Photo by Tom Bet/The Goodland Star-News

At-large voting bill in limbo in Topeka

BILL, from Page 1

vote for each candidate for the position of county commissioner."

Commissioners would no longer represent districts, but the entire county at large.

The Senate amendment added a section setting out procedures and calls for the commissioners to pass a resolution to allow citizens to vote on the issue in November.

Demand for a change was sparked by a heated race two years ago involving Thomas, an Edson area farmer. Darin Neufeld, an engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, ran as a write-in candidate both in the Republican primary and the general election. Thomas narrowly survived both challenges.

In public forums during that campaign, candidates were asked if they would support having commissioners voted on at large.

Most — including Thomas — said they would support an election on the issue. Thomas voted in favor of the at-large language in March last year, but on March 18 this year he voted against supporting the bill.

Getting the bill passed out of the Senate this year was complicated when Sen. Tim Huelskamp (R-

Fowler), chair of the Elections and Local Government Committee, said that Commissioner Mitch Tiede had told him the bill should read that the commissioners would come from the existing districts, but be voted on countywide.

Rumpel said she sent Huelskamp and Ostmeyer the meeting minutes showing exactly what the commissioners had voted in favor of both last March 12 and again on March 18 this year. The minutes from March 12 last year showed the commissioners voting 3-0 to support letting voters decide on electing commissioners at-large without any districts.

Members of the conference committee from the House are Rep. Burgess (e-mail burgess@house.state.ks.us), Rep. Ted Powers (R-Mulvane, powers@house.state.ks.us) and Rep. Tom Sawyer (D-Wichita, sawyer@house.state.ks.us).

From the Senate, the members are Sen. Huelskamp (thuelska@ink.org), Sen. Roger Reitz (R-Manhattan, reitz@senate.state.ks.us) and Sen. Anthony Hensley (D-Topeka, hensley@senate.state.ks.us). The addresses for Sen. Ostmeyer is ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us and for Rep. Jim Morrison is jmorriso@ink.org.

Kansas' earliest CSI story

Fingerprint ends nationwide '20s manhunt



True crime from the roaring 20s, **The Fleagle Gang, Betrayed by a fingerprint**, begins with a brazen daylight bank robbery of the First National Bank in Lamar, Colo. on May 23, 1928. Four men died, and the robbers escaped — until forensic science caught up with them through a fingerprint.

The bank robbery and national manhunt story was big news more than 75 years ago. We recently found that an old time radio program "Gangbusters" aired a program on Jake and Ralph Fleagle in 1937. There are many old stories about the crime, but none cover the events like this book. Book reviewers say this is great for true crime history buffs.

The book includes over 100 photos taken from court files and maps of places where the gang robbed banks and scenes where the murders of the doctor and cashier took place.

Signed copies are available from the author at The Goodland Star-News, 1205 Main.

Search inside the book on Google.com and Amazon.com

Author Tom (N.T.) Betz, editor of The Goodland Star-News, has spent more than 45 years in journalism and living on the Great Plains.

"The Fleagle Gang" details the robbery/murder case which hinged on a single fingerprint found on a murdered Dighton, Kan., doctor's car. The fledgling FBI plays a crucial role in turning the fingerprint into solid forensic evidence used to find, arrest and convict members of the Fleagle Gang. The FBI credits the Fleagle case as the first time a single fingerprint was used to identify and convict criminals. The Fleagle Gang robbed banks in Larned, Kinsley, Marysville, Ottawa and McPherson Kan., Lamar, Colo., Eugene, Ore., and countless others of over \$1 million in the 10 years they operated.

"The Fleagle Gang" is available at the **Big Timbers Museum** in Lamar, Colo., the **Holly Library**, Holly, Colo.; the **Fick Fossil and History Museum** in Oakley, Kan., the **Finney County Museum and Hastings** in Garden City, Kan., the **High Plains Museum** in Goodland, Kan., the **El Quartejo Museum** in Scott City, and the **Colorado Prison Museum** in Canon City, Colo. It is available on-line from the publisher **Authorhouse.com**, Linda Knott's web bookstore **knottjustbooks@spreadtheword.com**; **Amazon.com**; **Barnes and Noble**; **The Tattered Cover** and other major book stores.

Check out "The Fleagle Gang" web site at: nwkansas.com/home/fleaglegang.

Taylor Motors

Annual Spring Tent Sale

April 7th - April 19th

\$200 fuel card with every vehicle purchase	Open Till Late	Parts and Service Agreement Specials
Saturday, April 19th drawing for Cabela's and Walmart Gift Cards.	Brandon Booi Jim McDaniel	Financing Available with approved credit
April 11th, 12th, 18th, and 19th we will be serving lunch	Darin Snyder Sarah Laubscher	90 day deferrals with approved credit
7th, 8th, 14th, and 15th drawing for special prizes.		Taylor Motors Lifetime warranty on any vehicle

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Off of exit 53 in Colby, KS, In the Southwind Plaza, along the red rooftops



Most want people to vote on at-large issue

PEOPLE, from Page 1

voter stomped out of the polling place.

County Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he was probably the most accessible commissioner, and that people who talk to him would like to have a chance to vote at-large.

"People feel like they have three commissioners," he said. "This would be an opportunity for the people to say Yes or No. All this does is give the people a chance to vote on it."

"We have all said we don't represent a district. We are sworn in

to represent the county and not districts."

"We might as well stay where we are if we keep districts," said Josh Dechant of Frontier Ag who is a city commissioner. "With the at-large, we would enlarge the pool of people who vote, but without the districts, we would enlarge the pool of candidates and allow neighbors to run."

Dechant asked Sherman County Commissioner Chuck Thomas last year what he testified about concerning the bill in front of the House committee.

Thomas said he had talked about

electing the commissioners at-large without districts.

At that meeting last year it was agreed by the commissioners 3-0 to ask Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer to move the bill forward without districts.

This year the commissioners revisited the issue in March and voted 2-1 to support the bill.

Thomas said people are concerned that with this their votes won't count.

"I am not in favor of it," Commissioner Mitch Tiede said, "but will leave it up to the voters."

"I am not in favor," Thomas said.

200 ACRES RAWLINS CO & 320 ACRES SHERMAN CO

AUCTION

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

RAWLINS CO - Auction Location: ST. Mary's Hall, Herndon, KS - SELLING AT 9:30 AM, CDT
SHERMAN CO - Auction Location: Holiday Inn Express, Goodland, KS - SELLING AT 2:00 PM, MDT

RAWLINS COUNTY
TRACT 1: SW/4 & W/2W/2SE/4 of 23-1-31

SELLER: CLARENCE WAHRMAN ESTATE

SHERMAN COUNTY
TRACT 2: SW/4 of 22-7-39
TRACT 3: NW/4 of 22-7-39
TRACT 4: Mineral Rights & Royalty Production under the W/2 of 22-7-39

RAWLINS COUNTY

TRACT 1: SW/4 & W/2W/2SE/4 of 23-1-31

HERNDON

MANNER OF SALE: Tract 1 will sell individually only. Tracts 2, 3 and 4 will be offered as a "MULTI-PARCEL" auction in 3 individual tracts and in combinations of tracts. Auction procedure & increments of bidding are at the discretion of the auction company.

TERMS: 10% down day of sale, balance to be paid on or before May 12, 2008.

CLOSING: Closing will be on or before May 12, 2008.

POSSESSION: Date of closing, subject to the tenant's rights on the 2008 growing wheat crop, with Buyer(s) having the right to enter on the open acres upon full execution of the purchase contract.

REAL ESTATE TAXES: Seller to pay taxes for all of 2007 and prior years. Taxes for 2008 to be prorated to the date of closing.

CROPS & CROP INSURANCE: Buyer(s) will receive the landlord's 1/3rd share of the 2008 wheat crop. There is CRC crop insurance in effect at the 70% level on Tracts 2 and 3 through Farm Bureau Insurance. Buyer(s) will pay the landlord's 1/3rd share of the premium in the amount of \$1,636 and receive any benefits therefrom. There is no crop insurance on Tract 1.

FSA INFORMATION: Buyer(s) will receive the landlord's 1/3rd share of all FSA wheat payments and 100% of all feed grain payments associated with the 2008 crop year.

MINERAL RIGHTS:

TRACT 1: All of the Seller's interest will transfer to the Buyer at closing.
TRACTS 2 & 3: Seller is transferring surface rights only on these tracts, unless purchased with Tract 4.
TRACT 4: Buyer is purchasing 100% of the mineral rights and royalty production.

TRACT	TOTAL ACRES	CROP LAND ACRES	GRASS LAND ACRES	PLANTED WHEAT ACRES	WHEAT BASE/DCP YLD	GRAIN SORG BASE/DCP YLD	SUNFLOWER BASE/DCP YLD	BARLEY BASE/DCP YLD
1	200.0	146.9	53.1	75.0	66.0/37	35.9/46	6.3/718	
2	160.0	158.0	2.0	80.0	87.3/48			9.7/36
3	160.0	57.8	102.2	37.0	32.3/48			3.6/36
4	Minerals & Production			N/A				

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Mineral Rights & Gas Production on W/2 of 22-7-39

- Tract 4 includes 2 producing gas wells under 2 current oil & gas leases.
- WAHRM1422 went on-line 11/16/06. Buyer will receive the Seller's .125 royalty interest at closing.
- WAHRM13-22H went on-line 4/13/07. Buyer will receive the Seller's .1375 interest at closing.