

Governor tours Northwest Tech campus

GOVERNOR, from Page 1

"We've gone too fast on the use of it and we're not keeping it for our kids and our grandkids," he said, "and we've got to do better."

Brownback said this law gives Kansas the tools to maintain its rural economy, continue economic activity and still reduce its use of the aquifer.

He said that he believes sustainability had both environmental and economic value because the aquifer affects farmers that use the water to grow crops and make money.

"This is an incredible resource," Brownback said. "It's one of the most incredible resources in America ... some of the purest water that Coors ever dreamed of."

However, he said, it's a limited resource and the water table has been falling too fast, even though it's not down in all areas and not uniform.

He said the effort to conserve and extend the aquifer was started years ago, but it's being harvested now with this bill.

Brownback then talked about another recent effort toward this goal, his signing of a bill about a month ago easing the "Use It or Lose It" water policy in areas closed to new water right appropriations. He said it give landowners incentive to conserve water when they don't need to use it. Otherwise, he said, under "use it or lose it," they might have to pump just so they don't lose their water rights.

He said those with water rights no longer have to use all their water to maintain ownership, he said.

He said getting rid of this law brought the state a step closer in conservation efforts, but it's not enough. He said some people



Brownback spoke with cosmetology instructor Christa Bergsma, who explained that the cosmetology students do practical work on the public as well as classroom instruction and tests.

Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

may be helping by not using their water, but what about their neighbors?

The new bill will involve local man-

agement of critical areas and provides landowners the opportunity to decide on conservation methods as a community

rather than individually.

Brownback said that this idea was started in this area by Wayne Bossert and the board

of Groundwater Management District No. 4 based in Colby, which Bossert is the manager of, and that the district has been working on it for about five years.

Brownback recognized the Ogallala Aquifer Advisory Committee, Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and the farmers of Sheridan County High Priority Area No. 6 for helping with the effort.

"Now you don't have to use it or lose it," Brownback said, "Now go talk to your neighbors about how all of us can work together to still produce an economic crop, net income the same or near ... but reduce our demand on the aquifer so we got more water for a longer period of time. That's sustainability."

Also speaking about the importance of the bill were Dave Barfield, chief engineer for the state Division of Water Resources; Tracy Streeter, Kansas Water Office director; Bossert and Ostmeyer.

Barfield said one of the districts is already in the process of using the bill.

"The Local Enhanced Management Areas is an option that Kansans asked for and we already have a Groundwater Management District moving forward with a LEMA proposal," Barfield said.

Overall, Brownback and his fellow speakers agreed that this bill is a step in the right direction to conserve and extend the Ogallala.

"We think this is a new approach and a change in the paradigm in water management in Kansas," Bossert said, "but we're just gonna have to wait and see and see how the locals pick up this tool and use it in the future."

Sherman County to get mass-notification phone system

SYSTEM, from Page 1

fee, and the commissioners had agreed to purchase 10,000 minutes of phone use for \$500.

Koontz said some of the counties using the system have exceeded the 10,000 minutes, but not usually in the first year of operation. He said the notification system can send out up to 20,000 messages an hour.

He said Nex-Tech will be working with Crissy Livengood, central dispatch director and Sherman County emergency manager, and Murray to get the county mapping underway with the approval of the commissioners.

Koontz demonstrated the program that allows mass notification of events such as a tornado warning

that he sent a text message to his smart phone and a voice message to his cell phone. He said messages can be sent to e-mail accounts as well.

The calls can be set up to require a live response from the person called. The live response can be pushing a button on the phone to allow the system to continue with the message. In other cases, he said, if the message was of a confidential nature a special personal identification number would be required before the message was delivered.

Once the calls go out the system tracks them and generates a report about the delivery and if the message was received or the phone was answered by a machine. He said all the text messages and e-mails are considered to be delivered once

sent. The voice calls are charged against the county's minutes, but Koontz said the average call is about 30 seconds and with the basic cost the county groups should be able to cover 20,000 calls for the basic price. He said the text messages and e-mail are unlimited and will not cost the county anything.

Using the system any of the city and county agencies can set up special lists to alert people about upcoming events, emergencies or other special messages. Koontz said the TotalNotify program would allow department managers to create, target and send out instant emergency and informational messages.

He showed how the departments could create special lists of people

and target who would get specific messages.

He said the database can be used in as many ways as the users want, and Nex-Tech is always looking for ways to improve the program. He said weather alert messages are an addition expected to be available soon.

Livengood said it will be important for the people in the community with cell phones to sign up so they

can get the messages. She asked if Nex-Tech can help get the word out for people to sign up for the program.

Koontz said Nex-Tech has some brochures Livengood could hand out, and can work on some other possible promotion materials.

The TotalNotify system is different from the phone notification system being used by Goodland School District. The schools have

had a phone notification system in place for several years, and is used for storm information and has been used several times this school year.

Another notification system is the missing child and elderly person that can be activated by the Sherman County Sheriff, and has been used to look for missing children and to look for elderly people who may be lost.

Business booming for regional broker

BROKER, from Page 1

asking Cabela's about good real estate brokers, that they decided to launch their landowner services division.

"We were the first brokerage to join outside of Nebraska," Hayden said. "Being a part of Cabela's Trophy Properties lets us offer the benefits of a national brand, with the versatility of a local business."

Hayden originally had a staff of three, but now has grown to include over 30 broker associates and salespersons across the six states. Most of the team is in Colorado and Kansas and they are expanding every month. Hayden sees great results from their online presence at www.HaydenOutdoors.com.

"With over 90 percent of real estate searches starting online, Hayden knows the importance of a state of the art website and efficient property marketing plan," he said.


The company also creates a detailed website for every property listing. The sites contain location information, property details, mapping, photos and slide shows. Important marketing goals also include making sure their website ranks high in search engine results.

John Leo Hayden was born and raised in Sherman County, and

started his real estate and appraisal business in Goodland in 1980. He travels often to meet with farmers and ranchers, but still does as much local sales and appraisals as he can. Dax and Seth both became Kansas

salespersons in Goodland prior to 2001. They then moved became broker and broker associate when they moved Colorado. Hayden Outdoors will open three to four more regional offices in 2012.

IN CONCERT



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May Consultant Schedule

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 Saturday Clinic 9-11 a.m.
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 Dr. Travis Daise (Out of office on Wednesday)
 Dr. David Younger (Out of office on Thursday)
 Dr. Lisa M. Unruh - Pediatrician (Out of office on Tuesday)
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