

Store to be like new

By Peggy Horinek

Somebody will be taking over the grocery store - but who?? That question has still not been finalized but there is progress in that direction. The remodeling is progressing at a fast pace. The condenser has been installed on the roof as shown in the above picture. There is a new meat case and dairy case already installed and the office is framed and the electrical is in.

There will not only be a new business owner but almost a new store. The windows are covered and there is a sign asking people to please stay out for safety concerns. So - we will just have to keep guessing for the present time!



A CONDENSER was placed on the roof of the grocery store as the remodeling is progressing at a steady pace.

Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek

Keeping trees and shrub seedlings cool and moist

As many are well aware, the Kansas Forest Service offers low-cost tree and shrub seedlings for conservation plantings. Many of you have purchased seedlings and are expecting to receive them this spring. Most are aware that proper handling of the seedlings, once they arrive, will make or break the success of the planting; however, some of the landowners are not quite sure what "proper handling" actually consists of. Let's look at some suggestions.

Once the landowner receives their order, the first thing that they should do is open the box and inspect the quality of the stock. Look for obvious signs of problems: mold on the plants, extremely dry roots, opened or torn boxes, etc. If these problems are noticed, call Kansas Forest Service as soon as possible to report the problem. The boxes should have been well sealed, the plants should have a well moistened mulch over the roots, and be wrapped in plastic to keep the plants from drying out.

Containerized stock should be inspected as well. Carefully removed the seedling from the tube and check the water content of the soil plug. It should be moist to the touch as well. If not, remove the seedlings from the box and water them adequately enough to moisten the soil plug. It is not necessary to remove the seedlings from the tubes, however. Simply water from the top as you would a house plant. If everything looks satisfactory, rewrap the plants like you found them and place the box in the coolest, moistest place you can find. The plants should not be kept where they will freeze, however.

When its time to go to the field with your plants, don't forget to baby the seedlings at the planting site as well. Keep the plants wrapped in a plastic and in the box until its time to actually put them into the ground. Keep the box out of the sun and wind as much as possible. Both of these recommendations are made with the intent being to discourage the plants from drying out. Desiccation of the plant will kill the plant before it even has a chance to begin

growing.

When planting the trees, take the minimum number required to complete a given part of the planting and leave the rest in the box until needed. In other words, take only enough out of the box to complete the row. Keep the plants covered as much as possible, even when planting them, by putting the plants in a planting bag, or a bucket, and continue to keep the roots moist as possible by keeping them covered in the mulch that came with the plants or keeping a wet rag over the roots. Do not keep the plants in a bucket of water, however. This can suffocate the roots and do as much damage as having them dry out. The roots only need to be moist, not wet.

Once the seedlings have been planted, the final step is to "water-in" the seedlings by applying a gallon or so of water immediately around, and on, the seedling. This does several things. For one, it gives the roots a drink in its new surroundings; but it also does more than this. Often times, when a seedling is planted, a small air pocket is created in the bottom of the hole. By soaking the area around the plant, the air pocket is sealed up and the roots remain in constant contact with the soil. When roots hit an air space, they die. Therefore, by removing the airspace in the bottom of the hole, the plant can continue to send roots deeper into the ground where moisture is more likely to be found throughout the year.

If the ground seems to have enough moisture in it, is it still necessary to "water-in" the plants? I say yes. Of that air pocket is in the bottom of the hole, soil moisture alone will not seal it up. The seedling may still grow just fine without being watered in, but it will take longer to establish itself. Many mistakes are made by well intended people as they plant simply from a little lack of care of the seedlings. Often times, it is possible to neglect these tips and everything is okay, but when times are tough and every little advantage the plant gets makes a difference, these tips can save your planting.



Congressman Jerry Moran visited with people in Bird City on Wednesday.

Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek

Congressman visits Bird City residents

By Peggy Horinek

The day was cold and snowy and the highways slick but Congressman Jerry Moran started his meeting at the posted time of 11 a.m. at The First National Bank in Bird City. The weather also did not keep the area residents from attending as there were 26 people represented.

The Congressman spoke on several interesting subjects and answered many questions ranging

from various farming questions to the possible forthcoming attack on Iraq. He was very knowledgeable and up-to-date and on a couple of questions he was quick to say that he did not know the answers.

The Bird City Times editor went to take pictures but became interested and stayed to listen. After leaving, she said she felt more informed and now wants to stay on top of several of the subjects discussed.

Growers push for disaster assistance

The Kansas Corn Growers Association is encouraging quick passage of the Omnibus Appropriations Bill by the House of Representatives to ensure timely disaster assistance for growers.

The U.S. Senate passed Thursday the omnibus appropriations bill that included a disaster assistance amendment. The assistance package would provide emergency relief funding to farmers in designated disaster counties or those who had a 35 percent crop loss. All Kansas counties were designated disaster counties in 2002 and would be eligible for the assistance. Payments would be equal to 42 percent of a farmer's fixed payments under the 2002 Farm Bill. Producers could use their historical base and yield for direct payments under either the 1996 or 2002 Farm Bills.

"This isn't a perfect solution to our problems, but it does offer relief to growers who were hurt by the drought," Kansas Corn Growers Association President Alan Peter of Tribune said. "One of the best things about this disaster assistance program is that it could be enacted and implemented quickly."

The House is expected to consider the appropriations bill next week. If it passes quickly, some leaders have estimated assistance could come in four to six weeks.

The Kansas Corn Growers Association is encouraging producers to contact their Congressmen and encourage them to work toward quick passage of the appropriations bill with the disaster assistance amendment. Peter and Kansas Corn Growers Association Executive Director Jere White were in Washington, D.C., last week, and visited the offices of the Kansas Congressional delegation shortly before the Senate disaster assistance package was unveiled.

"We know from our meetings that our Kansas Congressmen are working for disaster assistance for our growers," Peter said. "By passing the appropriations bill quickly, assistance can be in the hands of our Kansas growers who have truly been hurt by the drought. At the same time, we need to look at long-range solutions that would do a better job in addressing these problems in the future."

Senator Pat Roberts and Senator Sam Brownback both voted in favor of the disaster assistance amendment and the appropriations bill.

"Our Senators' leadership was important in shaping this disaster assistance amendment to make it more focused toward the needs of growers who suffered losses due to drought and other disasters," Peter said.

Years Ago

15 years ago - 1988

"Return to Liveliness" a style revue sponsored by McDonald Centennial will feature vintage clothing from 1820 to 1950. Some of the clothing is from a collection which belonged to Anna Dove Wolfram, a teacher in Kansas City, who later moved to Estes Park to homestead. This was a fund raiser for the Centennial fund.

St. John Lutheran Church is holding a farewell potluck supper for Pastor Larry and Nancy May, Stacy, Stephanie and Sarah on Jan. 18.

The Cheylin Lady Cougars moved their record to 8-0 for the season with victories over two state-ranked teams, the Atwood Buffs and Wheatland. In the Atwood game Sheila Elijah led the scoring with 21 points.

Denise Nelsen led the scoring in the Wheatland game with 11 points.

Cheyenne County will soon be able to use 911 for emergency calls. With some upgrading of the equipment in the Bird City and St. Francis phone offices residents will be able to pick up the phone and dial 911.

The theme for the Kansas Day Celebration in Bird City this year is "Look to the Future." Larry Steckline will be speaking on "Agriculture - The Next 10 Years." Kansas Day activities at Bird City will be honoring May Trickett Clark, daughter of Annie Clark, the originator of Kansas Day festivities in Bird City in 1930.

An estimated 15 inches of snow fell last week.

5 years ago - 1998

At the school board meeting it was decided to keep the old high school in McDonald. The City of

McDonald is interested in the McDonald Elementary building. They are thinking of placing their city library in the two west rooms. The board also is planning on an evaluation form on the four-day school week to be sent to parents, students and teachers. The two year trial period will be ending and input is needed for a decision as to continue with the present four-day school week or return to a five-day week.

25 years ago - 1978

A 40-x-40-foot metal building with blanket insulation is nearing completion at the antique show site in Bird City. The building erection, as all others on the ground, was done with volunteer labor. This building will be used to repair and paint antique equipment, and will be available for use to anyone wanting to repair antiques to be displayed at the show.

Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Waters drove to the Denver airport to meet L. Fernando Zevallos, a 16-year old, from Arequipa, Peru, South America. Fernando plans to make his home with the Waters family until April 16. He studied English for a year at a British Institute.

The Bird City City Council held a special meeting to discuss the library. It was decided to remodel the old library and extend it further back in the city hall building as the cost of fixing the old hospital building would be too much.

