

ROY SHRADERIS PUTTING together the final fittings on the Bird City grocery store which will be opening the first part of March. Timesstaff photo by Casey McCormick

The other side of the dog story

By Karen Krien

Last week's issue of *The St*. Francis Herald and Bird City *Times* told about legislation that is being proposed to the House Committee concerning the control of prairie dogs. Senator Stan Clark had made the statement that in House Bill 2027, farmers and ranchers could loose the ability to control prairie dogs on their land. He had also listed several supporters of the bill including the Kansas Farm Bureau.

Steve Swaffer, director of Natural Resources for the Kansas Farm Bureau reported that what the organization supports is that landowners be allowed to control prairie dogs but, if the prairie dogs are placed on the endangered list, that ability for landowners to control the dogs would be taken away.

"The bill 'softens' the language,

keep prairie dogs keep them," he than imposing land-use restrictions

Instead of the word "destroyed" used in the bill, the words "manage" ranchers and farmers because of the and control" is proposed. The bill destruction to the grasslands. Senaalso talks about the landowner tor Clark called them a rodent that working with counties to maintain is a carrier of fleas that can and has the prairie dogs if they so chose.

The Farm Bureau supports develthe population and, thus, making House Bill 2027 the endangered list unnecessary.

"Conservation management plans should be the result of cooperative efforts by landowners, agricultural producers, wildlife managers, conservation technicians and the appropriate state and federal agencies," Mr. Swaffer said.

'We believe threatened and endangered species protection can be more effectively achieved by providing incentives to private land-

letting those who want to raise and owners and public land users rather Over 15 piano students perform at state capital

Garret Wilson, 12-year-old son was selected of Loren and Malinda Wilson of rural Pottawatomie County performed at the Kansas State Capital building on Thursday, Jan. 23 at the annual Christian Home congratulated af-Educators Confederation of Kansas (CHECK) "Day Under the Dome" in Topeka.

Wilson, a sixth grader at Monarch Academcy of Truth and Kansas Repre-Knowledge, performed Sonatina in G by Beethoven on the piano. He, along with over 15 other home-educated students from across Kansas, and Kay Bunjes of St. Francis.

through audition to play for the event.

Wilson was terward by Representative Verlyn Osborn, 61st District



sentative, for his excellent perfor-

Wilson is the grandson of O.A.

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and penalties." Prairie dogs are a concern to carried bubonic plague.

Representative John Faber was unoping conservation management available when this issue went to press plans that will increase or maintain but it is rumored that he is in favor of

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Northwest Kansas residents gatherfora 'pray for rain rally'

By Tom (TD) Dreiling

"Northwest Kansas Pray for Rain Rally.

The brainchild of Brewster area farmer Leonard Kinkade, and his wife Zelma, the rally is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 22 at the 4-H Building on the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

We hope to see people from all over northwest Kansas, from Trego County west to the Colorado line and north to Nebraska." Kinkade said. "Farmers, ranchers, ag and machinery people, clergy, townsfolk — this first-ever Northwest Kansas Rally for Rain is for everyone," he said.

"The purpose of this event is to pray to the Lord to break this drought, which affects everyone," he said. "We need to get back to our normal rainfall. We need to speak directly to the Lord." The rally, said Kinkade, will be-

gin at 3 p.m. and conclude at 6

p.m. "People can come and go as they need. We hope to have clergy say a few words, read scripture and lead us in prayer," he said. A large map will be posted in the building and each person on hand will be asked to take a pin

and stick it in their particular location on the map, Kinkade explained. "We will probably ask people to come down front, state their name and offer a prayer for rain," he said. He said prayers will be offered for political leaders who have the influence to assist with the prob-

lems associated with the drought. "We need to ask God to point them in the right direction.'

The title of the event says it all, everyone...If I get 2-3 inches of in our churches, or we pray indirain at my place (3 miles south- vidually, but we need to bring all west of Brewster on the Thomas- of us together in a common plea to Sherman County line) and nobody our Lord." else gets any rain, only I benefit. The drought continues."

He stressed the need to ask the Lord to break the drought, which, he says, has forced a number of our own farmers and ranchers to be driven from their farms.

"The drought is not just a rural problem, it is also felt in all our towns in northwest Kansas, too,"

Kinkade said he has no idea as to the reception his prayer rally will receive. "This is the first time show of unity" in Colby on Feb. for such an event in such a wide 22.

drought...It affects area," he said. "We pray for rain

Kinkade said he got the idea for the prayer rally some months ago while traveling and listening to the radio. "They (the people on the radio) were talking about doing this and that sparked my interest,"

"I guess I am the person the Lord selected to carry out the project in northwest Kansas," he

He asks the clergy to ask their congregations to take part "in this

Volunteer honored

At its annual recognitions banquet Jan. 30, the Topeka Regional Office of the Alzheimer's Association, Heart of America Chapter ral Kansans understand how to honored eight special people with awards and issued certificates of appreciation to several others. The banquet this year was held at the Topeka and Shawnee County Pub-

A special award was presented to Lois Johnson Morelock of McDonald in northwest Kansas, for her long service (more than 15 years) to the Alzheimer's cause. During her first husband's illness, she spent many hours lobbying the Kansas Legislature to enact a Division of Assets law that would recognize the financial distress of couples trying to cope with this merly of Bird City. disease and enable them to qualify Kinkade said "we need to break for Medicaid assistance early in

the disease process. Since her first husband's death, she has maintained her interest in helping rucope by organizing support groups in northwest Kansas and utilizing videos and written materials obtained from the Topeka

Bird City News

Dean and Joan Smith spent three weeks with their daughter Dee and Jim Riebel at Lubbock, Texas. They also spent time with their greatgranddaughters, Brookly and Kiersten and Marylin Jensen, for-

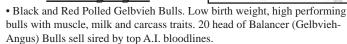


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ansas, and Bird City Time, Bird City, Kansa nursday, February 13, 2003. (7) TREASURER'S QUARTERLY STATEMENT

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