

Propane fire levels home

By Vera Kacirek

Ryan and Evie Swanton and two boys, 2 1/2 years and 14 months had just moved into what was to be their new home. They were moving to a farm home owned by Glenn Haller just south of St. John's Church.

On Wednesday evening, Ryan smelled propane and took a flashlight to check behind the gas dryer. Apparently sparks from the flashlight triggered the explosion. Ryan was severely burned also injured from a fall.

Evie has several burns, but has coaxed the doctors at University Hospital to let her go to the Children's Hospital to see the boys. The oldest boy is burned the worst as he ran back into the burning house.

This family will be without a home, furniture and clothes. They have nothing. Hopeful the community can come together and provide help.

The Ace Foundation in Atwood has set up a collection point for the family. Clothing sizes are women's medium (8-10), men's medium (29-36 pants), and boys 2-T and 3-T. For further information please contact Kathy Domsch at 785-626-3548.



FIRE DESTROYED the farm home northeast of McDonald last Wednesday as the family was moving in. The Swanton family are in Denver with numerous burns. The home and belongings are a complete loss.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

Stuffed animals needed

By Karen Krien

Amber Havel, member of Plum Creek 4-H Club, wanted to do something special to complete her Leadership Project. After investigation the different options, she and her mother Sharon had called Children's Hospital in Denver to see what might meet the children's needs and would serve as a Leadership Project. The hospital officials said that stuffed animals were needed as "comfort" toys while children were in the hospital.

Amber enlisted the help of three of the Plum Creek 4-H members, Grant Keller, Casey Williams and Jodi Hilt. They recently met and wrapped four boxes to hold stuffed toys. The hospital staff had said that small-to-medium-sized stuffed toys were need so the boxes were appropriately selected.

"The stuffed toys must be new and still have the tags on them," Amber said.

One of the boxes will be placed in the Home Town Market in Bird City. In St. Francis, a box will be placed in First National Bank, Bankwest and the Cheyenne County Clinic.

"We will deliver the stuffed toys to Denver on Nov. 24 and we are hoping we have four boxes full," Amber said.



South of McDonald

By Sandy Binning

Dan, Pam and Alex Thomas traveled to Golden, Colo., Saturday where Alex competed in the Colorado School of Mines Halloween wrestling tournament. Alex placed second in the high school heavy-weight division.

George and Kathy Banister attended the Regional volleyball tournament in Brewster Tuesday.

George and Kathy Banister and family attended the Cheylin football game in Bird City Friday.

Bethel and Lavern Goldt spent Monday through Thursday with Matt and Marty Goldt and twins in Wichita and Amy and Mike Waters and family in Haviland. They kept doctors appointments.

Farmers hauling for hire must have proper license

The Kansas Corporation Commission has had investigators in north-west Kansas checking into complaints that farmers are hauling for hire which is against the law unless they have the proper licensed trucks.

Mike Hoeme, transportation director for the Kansas Corporation Commission, said the Commission has seven investigators following up on complaints from commercial carriers because they cannot compete with these farmers using their trucks to haul for hire — that it is unfair.

And, Director Hoeme says that it is against the law and farmers as well as the business hiring the farmer can be fined up to \$5,000 per load.

Commercial truckers are required to purchase the correct tags

which cost approximately \$1,900. Commercial truck insurance runs around \$450 per month because they are required to carry cargo and liability insurance. Then, permits to run in other states are around \$1,000. With these expenses added to the cost of the truck, gas and maintenance, the commercial truck owner has to average his charges to come out even.

However, the farmer can run his semi truck on a farm tag which costs about \$600 a year and insurance, because it is to be used only in the farm's operation, is \$600 to \$700 a year. Also, most farmers can write their farm truck off as an operation depreciation.

With less expenses, the farmer can haul for hire at a considerably

lower price per load, thus cutting out the commercial trucker.

Semi-tractor trailers with farm tags are exempt from the safety inspections required of commercial haulers. Also farmers are not required to take drug and alcohol tests, don't need driving-hour requirements, medical qualifications and only a minimum equipment standards.

Director Hoeme reports that letters have been sent to feedlots and

farm cooperatives detailing state law on hauling for hire.

An article in The Salina Journal reported that Steve Baccus, a Minneapolis farmer and president of the Kansas Farm Bureau, said the law often is not understood.

"With the advent of larger trucks owned by individual farmers, we're probably seeing more of this problem," he said. "But a lot of it probably comes from misunderstanding what the law is."

However, if caught, their lack of knowledge may not be enough to keep them from getting a fine.

The state's trucking lobby has warned that if the problem is not addressed, farmers could lose their special exemption.

It is hard to nab an illegal carrier but the investigators are looking and the Kansas Corporation Commission will most likely be handing out fines in the near future.

Pastor recognized for efforts

By Casey McCormick

Bird City is graced with several good churches which are each led by exceptional clergy. One was recognized for his efforts by his congregation this month. Pastor Doug Mason of the Immanuel United Methodist Church was acknowledged for Clergy Appreciation Month.

"(This) is an annual effort that seeks to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of, and pressures facing, religious leaders around the world," said a news release from Immanuel United Methodist Church.

And Pastor Mason is appreciated for his efforts outside the church as well as he takes his energy to the community.

Three years ago, when he and his family moved to Bird City from Russell, he organized the local Teens For Christ branch.

"The goal for Teens For Christ is to get teens to learn how to live a Christian lifestyle," said Pastor Mason.

It is a non-denominational group which brings kids together for fun and food, (Lots of food, Pastor Mason said.) music and introducing the teenagers to how Christianity can be a daily lifestyle.

They meet on Saturdays for regular meetings and on the fifth Saturday they have a Game Night. The next Game Night the teens will play Mission Impossible where they hide from each other in the dark and try not to get "tagged" by the flashlight.

"The first year we started Teens For Christ we had only four to five kids," said Pastor Mason. "We have



RECENTLY the Teens For Christ built a trebuchet and was recently used at the bonfire pep rally and other competitions.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

a little over 30 this year."

In addition to their regular activities, the group has built a functioning trebuchet (a sort of catapult) which hurls pumpkins and was used at the recent bonfire pep rally and other Teens For Christ competitions.

"The kids from the five churches (of Bird City) come together not to look at differences but what we have in common," said Pastor Mason, "We deal with issues the kids deal with everyday."

Obituary

Carolyn Sue Davidson

Oct. 19, 1951 - Oct. 20, 2003

Carolyn Sue Davidson, of Olathe, Colo., died Monday morning, Oct. 20, 2003, at her mother's home in Olathe, the day after her 52nd birthday. Carolyn Sue was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Oct. 19, 1951, the daughter of Daniel and Vicy (Hudson) Davidson. When she was 10 years old, Carolyn moved with her family from Ohio to Olathe, where she graduated from the Olathe High School in 1969. She continued her education at Adams State College in Alamosa, Colo.; receiving a bachelor of arts degree in English literature and a minor in music in 1976.

After teaching two years at the Foothills Christian Academy in Montrose, Colo., Carolyn moved to Bird City, Kan., where she taught at Cheylin High School from 1977 to 1989. She taught English and speech and sponsored the drama program and the yearbook. From 1989-2000, Carolyn lived in Riley and taught at Riley County High School. She taught English, speech, drama and forensics while in Riley.

She completed her master's degree in English literature at Fort Hays State University. Since 2000, Carolyn lived in Manhattan where she was a graduate student at Kansas State University, working on her doctor of philosophy (Ph.D) degree in secondary English education. She was a graduate teaching assistant, teaching various classes and supervising education students completing their student teaching requirement. In April of 2003,

shortly before achieving her doctor of philosophy degree, she fell ill and returned home.

Carolyn was a devoted teacher in education. She was a member of the International Reading Association, the National Association of Teachers of English and belonged to Phi Delta Kappa.

Carolyn loved music, books and reading and was politically active with educational issues. Carolyn touched many lives with her music. Her beautiful voice has been enjoyed at numerous weddings and church services. Her passion for education has inspired countless students and adults to seek more knowledge. Her contagious laughter will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Surviving family members who were privileged to share Carolyn's life include her mother Vicy Davidson of Olathe; one sister, Connie Davidson of Edgewater, Colo.; one nephew, Eric C. George and his wife Jennifer of Denver, Colo.; and one niece, Nicole George of Fort Collins, Colo.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her father, Daniel Davidson.

A funeral service in loving remembrance and to celebrate Carolyn life was officiated by Pastor Jim Welch on Saturday, Oct. 25, at 10 a.m. in the Victory Baptist Church in Montrose.

Interment followed in the Olathe Cemetery at Olathe.

Gifts in memory of Carolyn may be made to Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Colorado at P.O. 1804, Montrose, CO 81402.

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