

Thursday marks 75th Kansas Day

The 75th annual Kansas Day on Thursday will celebrate the Sodbusters, working with the theme "Sodbusters To Satellites." Activities will begin at 9 a.m. with the set up of displays. Registration opens at 10 a.m. Those attending the Bird City Kansas Day activities will also be celebrating the 143rd year of Kansas' statehood.

Individuals, clubs and other organizations are encouraged to provide displays of farming, household, small appliances, photographs and other items of choice which reflect changes over the past 100 years.

The annual potluck dinner begins at 11:30 a.m. with dinner music provided by the Swinging Seniors. At 12:30 p.m., the Kansas Day program, featuring the St. Francis third grade, the Cheylin fourth grade and students of the St. Francis Community High School speech class will



begin.

Ann Zimmerman, composer and professional performer from Salina, will present some special entertainment during the program. Ms. Zimmerman is the wife of former Bird City resident Dexter Eggers and the Kansas Day officers are delighted to welcome such a talented performer to the annual celebration.

During a short business meeting, the 2005 Kansas Day officers will be elected. The 2004 officers in-

clude: J.D. Eggers, president; Darla Dible, vice president; Marsha Magley, secretary; and Manette Keeler, treasurer.

Following display and special recognitions, the program will conclude with a memorial tribute honoring residents or former residents of Cheyenne County who have deceased since the last Kansas Day.

"Come one! Come all! You won't want to miss this year's Kansas Day!" Mrs. s said.

"We hope to see you there!"

Record of past Kansas Days

Editor's note: The following article is taken from articles which appeared in the Bird City Times starting in 1930. Compiled by Marsha Magley, St. Francis and Kansas Day officer, the article tells about the first Kansas Day held in Bird City and it is amazing how many of the original traditions are still a part of today's Kansas Day activities.

Kansas became a state on Jan. 29 and so in order to fittingly observe the day, the ladies of the Mothers Circle are going to hold a "Kansas Day Picnic" on

Wednesday, Jan. 29, in the basement of the Methodist Church. It will be an all day affair starting at 10 o'clock in the morning.

A potluck dinner will be served at noon with Rev. Hoyer of the Lutheran Church asking the blessing.

The ladies of the Mothers Circle cordially invite everybody to attend this Kansas Day Picnic. A good program will be given and everybody will have a very enjoyable social time. Don't forget the date and place.

Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Rogers, who came to Kansas in 1907, were the

first two people to sign the registration book. Then 123 names following theirs, along with C.S. Payne, who recorded that he had come to Atchison in 1857.

Cynthia Annie Maxon Trickett, president of the Mothers Circle, who had conceived the idea of the Kansas Day Picnic and served as Kansas Day president for several years, had herself lived in both Wano and St. Francis prior to her marriage to Charles Wesley Trickett, a resident of Bird City. (The Maxon house, moved from

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Business begins manufacturing gardening mats

By Karen Krien

A new manufacturing and retail business is up and running in St. Francis.

Carefree Gardener with two facilities and employing nine people, is producing the "Watering Weedless Wonder™," which makes gardening easier or, takes the "ing" out of gardening leaving only a "garden." The product is basically a mat made out of a sturdy woven weed barrier with finished edges to insure the mat lays flat (even in northwest Kansas winds), heat-cut planting openings which vary with the kinds of mats, and a sturdy type of soaker hose is enclosed next to the planting openings.

Most people love having a garden but dislike constantly nurturing plants from seedlings to healthy, full-sized plants. Gardening generally requires bending and stooping, and watering and weeding before the garden begins to produce. The Watering Weedless Wonder™ reduces weed growth while providing an efficient and effective watering system.

Jim Milliken developed the plans for the Watering Weedless Wonder and Gordon Ross brought the plans to reality by creating the method and tools for making it. The Watering Weedless Wonder™ is now available for spring plantings whether it be vegetables or flowers.

There are three types of mats (and more models are in the plans). The mats now being produced are 44-by-58-inch mats made of UV resistant polypropylene material (weed barrier) which allows air and water to pass through the top into the ground but will not let weeds grow. The weed barrier also helps keep the ground moist. Around the edges is a rubber strip which is encased by heat bonding. There are also grommets on the corners and sides which allow multiple mats to be linked

Gardens provide escape

Jim Milliken, Cheyenne County lawyer, has been an avid gardener for years but, in 1997 at the end of the gardening season, he informed his wife Ruth that he was done with gardening! However, when spring rolled around and the seed catalogs came out, he started getting that "planting" fever.

Mrs. Milliken could see what was happening and she began urging him to develop something that made gardening easier. He spent many hours at his garden lot thinking about the problems and finally decided to try keeping the weeds down with large pieces of cardboard and using a soaker hose to water. The first strong wind found his cardboard

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together.

Each mat has either three rows, five rows or 12 openings that have been heat-cut to prevent raveling and transplants or seeds can be planted in the rows/openings.

Each mat has a 3/8-inch porous hose similar to most soaker hoses. The hose is encased in the weed barrier right next to the openings where there will be plants. A flow-control device on the female end of the hose limits water supply to approximately 1 pint per minute and

see CAREFREE on page 8



GETTING A CLOSE SHAVE! Assistant basketball coach Clayton Janicke wagered his players that they could shave off his beard when the team broke their losing skid. So after Friday's victory over Grinnell, players Brandon Gordon, Andrew Marshall and Kelly Ray Simmonds (with razor) went to work. Clayton's son Devon catches a peek.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick



CHEYLIN QUEEN STEPHANIE HUBBARD receives a congratulatory hug from Cole Williams. She and King Jay Poore were the center of attention Friday night at the Queen of Courts ceremony.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

Royal couple crowned in McDonald

By Casey McCormick

The McDonald gymnasium was filled to the rafters with an excited crowd who had two events to enjoy — the Queen of Courts coronation and the varsity basketball team's victory over visiting Grinnell (see related story).

Stephanie Hubbard and Jay Poore were selected as the queen and king of this annual event. Light bulbs flashed and spectators cheered when the couple was an-

nounced during the game half-time.

Stephanie was congratulated by the other nominees; Brittany Kehlbeck, Sara Moore, Hayley Young and Amanda Banister. After Jay Poore was selected he was offered best wishes by the rest of the seniors who were in the running for king. They were Tyler Knapp, Cole Williams and Kelly Ray Simmonds.

A full entourage accompanied the couple. The crown bearer was

McKayla Taylor and the cape bearer was Miranda Michaelis. Flower girls were Brittnay Horinek, Mary Anne Orten, Nikkie Callies, Cheyenne Heuitt and Miranda Michaelis. First grader Allie Frisbie was originally named as cape bearer but was unable to be present. The duty of escorts was performed by Jacob Brubaker, Dominick Cisneros and Tanner Gilliland.

Yearend weather reported

The official Bird City weather observer, Troy Burr, wrapped up the 2003 year's totals as well as December's data.

The last month saw a low temperature of 7.7 degrees and a high of 61.8 degrees.

Not surprisingly the precipitation and snow amounts were not high. Precipitation was only 0.17 inches and the total snow fall for the month of December was 2.5 inches, 2.0 coming on Dec. 9.

The maximum wind gust came on Dec. 15 and was recorded at 44.7 miles per hour. The lowest temperature due to wind chill was -7.2 degrees and came on Dec. 5.

In 2003 the bottom temperature was -7.6 degrees on Feb. 24 and it peaked at 110.6 degrees on July 25.

The total amount of moisture for the year was 21.86 inches. A large portion of that came in the form of a rain storm that hit Bird City on June 2 dropping 3.46 inches in about two hours. The heaviest single day accumulation of snow was 6 inches on Feb. 23. Total snow for the year was 25.5 inches.

The highest recorded wind gust was 46.3 mile per hour on April 16. Lowest wind chill was a frigid -29.5 on Nov. 22.

The barometric pressure readings showed a minimum of 28.5 inches on Nov. 17 and a maximum of 30.47 inches on Dec. 1.

Dew point readings were a minimum of -17.3 on Feb. 23 and a maximum of 70.8 on July 18.

Student Honor Roll

Many Cheylin students have achieved their academic goals for the second nine weeks of the 2003-04 school year. Those making the honor roll maintained a grade point average of 3.70-4.00. Honorable mention is given to students who achieved a grade point average of 3.00-3.69. Those recognized for academic excellence are:

Seventh grade

Honor roll: Sydney Busse and Justin Miller.

Honorable mention: Amanda Walden, Eric Holub, Nikki Johnson, Tia Sager, Whitney Wright, Rocio Olave and Megan Gilliland.

Eighth grade

Honor roll: Kaedra Dixon, Colleen Shrader, Vanessa Antholz and Sarina Burmester.

Honorable mention: Lincoln Pochop, Taylor Leibbrandt, Jessica Davis, Amber Mason, Mindy Antholz and Josh Garner.

Freshman

Honor roll: Aubrey Kehlbeck and Josh Johnson.

Honorable mention: Samantha Beeson and Terry Jensen.

Sophomores

Honor roll: Jacob Jensen, Josh Moyer and Kori Underwood.

Honorable mention: Afton Krien and Hannah Louderbaugh.

Juniors

Honorable Mention: Ailysa Carpenter, Rebecca Mason, Justin Antholz, Tiffany Antholz and Alex Hengen.

Seniors

Honor roll: Cristi Antholz, Amanda Banister, Kylie Dixon, Brittany Kehlbeck, Hayley Young, Chase Krien, Sara Moore, Stephanie Hubbard, Shellie Felzien, Andrea Carpenter, Ofelia Ortis, Megan Sramek and Angela Brogan.

Honorable mention: Kelly Ray Simmonds and Kathy Turner.

Kansas

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Wano to St. Francis in 1887, sat on the northeast corner of the intersection of East Webster and South Scott streets, which is now the vacant lot on the corner of Don Sherman's house.)

From its inception, children have played an important part in Kansas Day celebrations. The *Bird City Times*, in February 1931, printed the first real program itinerary:

The kindergarten and first grade pupils gave several little dances and games. The second grade gave a very interesting radio playlet. The third grade gave a Kansas Acrostic. The fourth grade acted out a pantomime called "The King of the Cannibal isles." A reading was then given by Jean Venell and Ruth Overturf. The sixth grade sang a Kansas song. Hester Overturf, Bernice Hickman and Dorothy Foe each read a short history of Kansas. The children all did well and they and the teachers are to be complimented.

After this, L.A. Munn, a grandson of Ben Bird, after whom Bird City was named, gave a short history of early days when his grandfather lived in this county. J.G. Butler talked on early day life of Cheyenne County and Minnie Lawless of St. Francis, gave a short history of the county from the year 1886.

After the program, a potluck dinner was served and 222 registered. During registration, the Bird City band, under the leadership of Vernon Shahan, played several selections.

One feature of the afternoon's entertainment was viewing old-time photographs which Mrs. Trickett had gathered. Short talks were given by L.A. Munn, Henry Weaver, Mr. Butler and Dora Lane. Mrs. Trickett read an original poem written by F.M. Hurlock, Florence Hurley and Mrs. Roach.

The following officers were elected for Kansas day (1932): President — Annie Trickett; vice president — Mary Byers; secretary/



SINGER AND SONG WRITER ANN ZIMMERMAN will bring her unique Kansas style to Thursday's celebration.

treasurer — Dora Lane.

Bylaws by which the Kansas Day Association is governed today were adopted, by vote, at Kansas Day in 1935.

A memorial tribute, honoring all residents or former residents deceased since the previous Kansas Day, became part of the Kansas Day tradition in 1937. Vada Leach has served as chairman of the Memorial Roster Committee for several years and this is a big job!

Not many of the folks who signed their names at the very first Kansas

Day survive today but there are a few including long-time teacher Lucile Kilmer Long, born Aug. 11, 1906, who now lives in Colby.

Cora "Hope" Miller Bressler, eldest living past Kansas Day president, formerly of Bird City, now resides at the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis. She served as Kansas Day president in 1970 and 1971. She and all past presidents have a special pride in the distinguished history of past Kansas Days in Cheyenne County.



CAREFREE GARDENER is now producing mats which will make easy work out of gardening. Deanna Grice, right, and Leslie Hook are two of the nine people employed to produce the mats.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Gardener

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blocks away. He gathered them up, laid them back down and anchored them but knew that cardboard wasn't the answer.

Next, he started using the polypropylene weed barriers but soon found there were differences in the many types and qualities of weed barriers. After trial and error, he found a UV resistant woven polypropylene that was strong

enough to stand up to the hot sun and weather conditions but the best weed barrier also raveled when it was cut. He got out his craft wood burner and began cutting with this tool but the blades used for cutting were constantly breaking. Gordon

Ross, St. Francis, was making blades but he soon tired of making blades and designed a tool that would stand up to the cutting.

All the time, Mr. Milliken was dreaming and designing. Endless experiments were tried with the different materials, the amount of water applied and seeing how plants grew in the new mats compared to the "old-fashioned" way of gardening.

This summer, he and Mr. Ross met at 8 a.m. each morning, working toward the manufacturing of the Watering Weedless Wonder™ and, after searching out distributors for the different materials which are found all over the

United States, they remodeled a building for manufacturing and leased an office for distributing. Lea Keller was hired in the office for web-site operations, advertising, promotion and customer relations. Dustin Gilliland has the job of sales manager and will be attending garden and farm shows; and John Guthmiller is in charge of manufacturing.

For more information, stop by the office at 301 W. Jackson or call 785-332-2552. People can also log onto the web site at www.carefreegardener.com or e-mail info@carefreegardener.com.

Carefree

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it takes about 10 minutes a day to water the plants in the mats. At this rate, the water slowly seeps into the soil and there is no waste or run-off.

Mr. Milliken said the mat can be quickly installed after the ground is prepared for planting. Once the soil or root zone is wet, it will retain moisture with minimal additional water by reducing evaporation.

"Because of the consistent moisture levels, plants thrive and production is abundant," he said.

He recommends early planting of spring vegetables such as radishes, lettuce, carrots, onions, spinach, beets, turnips, peas and broccoli. When these vegetables are harvested, it is time to plant tomatoes, beans, peppers, corn, okra and egg-

plant. In the fall or late summer when the summer vegetables are basically done producing, he recommends going back to planting the spring vegetables.

He said that the Watering Weedless Wonder™ shouldn't be limited to vegetables as flowers grown in the weed barrier are beautiful and he is developing a special mat just for growing herbs.

Kansas State University's Experimental Station at Colby will be testing the mats this summer and already expect to find them extremely water saving for gardens.

The gardener can leave his garden for days and even weeks at a time by installing a timer for wa-

tering his plants. When he comes home, he will find a lush garden with vegetables to be picked but no weeds to pull.

In the near future, Carefree Gardener will host tours through the facility and greenhouse. In the meantime, the facility is closed to visitors.

Anyone interested in seeing or purchasing the Wondering Weedless Wonder™ mats are welcome to stop by the Carefree Gardener office at 301 W. Jackson, St. Francis, during business hours (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or call 785-332-2552. More information can be received by e-mailing info@carefreegardener.com or visiting the web site:



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McKenna made her first appearance on Wednesday, January 21 at the Wray Community Hospital. McKenna weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz.

Congratulations to her parents Brett & Cynthia; big brothers Foster, Tiernan & Tyson!

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