

McDonald News

By Vera Kacirek

Welcome rains fell during the Saturday and Sunday weekend. Rainfall amounts from 2 inches to 3 1/2 were reported in the community.

Jerry Knapp was a patient in the Hays Hospital from Monday to Tuesday of last week.

Judy McKelvey of Thornton, Colo., was a visitor of Jerry and Betty Knapp from Monday to Saturday.

L.J. and Kamie Purvis were guests of Jerry and Betty Knapp from Thursday to Saturday. On Saturday Becky Purvis prepared a birthday dinner for Betty's birthday. The Knapps took the Purvis children to their home in Goodland as they were dinner guests of the Purvis's.

Donnie Banister was a Sunday dinner guest of Amelia Banister and Karlyne Atchison.

On Thursday Ray and Marlene Johnson were among the guests who attended the first birthday party for Kyla Howard in the Chris and Dana Howard home.

Ray and Marlene Johnson were Sunday visitors in the Brian Sabatka home to visit with the children of Mr. and Mrs. Brandon Sabatka of Colby.

Joan Tongish returned home on Friday after a ten day visit in Northville, Mich., where she attended the wedding of her grandson, Douglas Beamgard. On her return home she accompanied Cheryl Beamgard, Douglas and Jennifer Beamgard and Mary Jane. On Sunday they were all visitors of the Beamgard families in Atwood before leaving for Michigan on Monday morning.

Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson were last Tuesday visitors of Jamie Harris and children in McCook.

Lila and Howard Runge of Culbertson, Neb., were Saturday afternoon visitors of Gail and Kay Miller.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Marrs of Brewster and Mr. and Mrs. Leo Hatcher of Goodland were Thursday evening visitors of Ratha Lea Loker. All enjoyed supper at the Frosty Mug.

In August of 1959 Laddie Kacirek completed the building of a new house and he moved his wife and three young children into their new home. In June of 2008 Laddie and Vera Kacirek moved to Atwood and the house was empty. But it was not empty very long. Kasey Sabatka started working, completely redecorating the house. And in Oct. of 2008 the house again became a home for a family of three children as Kasey and Jennifer moved into their new home last week. The 50 year old house is again a home for a young family.

The scarecrow contest was judged over the weekend. Winners for the organizations are first place: McDonald Garden Club; second place: Red Hatters; third place: Peoples State Bank.

Individuals are: first place, Tessa Davis; second place, Lois Schaff.

Schools are: first place, Rawlins county Head start; second place, Cheylin Fifth Grade and third place, Cheylin Sixth Grade.

The Scarecrows were taken down due to the rain.

On Sunday, the Federated Church held their annual meeting and dinner. Members enjoyed the dinner and fellowship.

Kelly Simmonds is a patient at the Hays Medical Center.

Morrie and Geraldine Sutton of Stratton, Neb., were Friday evening visitors of Ratha Lea Loker.

Kasey and Jennifer Sabatka were Sunday visitors of Laddie Kacirek in the Rawlins County Hospital.

Agnes Reeh and Vera Kacirek accompanied Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson to the Catholic Community annual appeal supper at the Columbian Hall.



THE MCDONALD GARDEN CLUB wins first place in the Scarecrow contest held over the weekend. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

State program may allow rights sold

By Andy Heintz

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Some northwest Kansas farmers may be able to sell water rights to the state under a program designed to stretch out the area's water supply and ensure that Kansas send enough water downstream to Nebraska.

Landowners who are willing to retire their water rights may be able to sell them to the state Conservation Commission at a fixed rate price of \$2,000 per acre foot under the Water Rights Retirement Program, known as WTAP or "Water-TAP."

"People will not want to give up their water rights without an incentive," Steve Frost, state water conservation manager, said.

The commission began accepting applications Oct. 1. The state is offering to buy rights in the Prairie Dog Creek basin, which stretches from Sherman County through Thomas and Decatur into Norton County.

The state also is targeting rights six "high-priority" units in the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District.

"It's a pilot program designed to establish a water-based incentive program that will help balance supply with demand," Frost said.

The state hopes to help restore aquifers and stream flows in areas that have seen reduced stream flow and water supply in recent years. A third area the commission is concentrating on is the Rattle Snake Creek Basin, which runs from near Bucklin to Sterling.

The Prairie Dog Basin was chosen because its stream flow affects Kansas efforts to comply with the Republican River Compact with Nebraska.

The commission has designated six areas of the High Plains Aquifer in Thomas, Cheyenne, Sherman, and Sheridan counties for the program, two in Thomas County.

Payment landowners receive is based on the historic amount of water a farm has consumed, the irrigation area's proximity to a stream and the price the landowner wants.

"The state wants to buy water rights at the most affordable price," he added.

Frost said low bids are not the only element that the commission would consider when it decides who gets grants. For example, he said, a person who wants to retire a well that is

near a stream would be given preference over a person who wants to sell a well that is located far away from a stream, even if that person will accept less money.

"We want to evaluate all the variables and decide what gives us the best bang for our buck," Frost said.

There is only so much money, and some people who want to retire their rights will not be able to sell.

He said the people who retire their water rights would be able to practice dryland farming. Some might sell only part of their rights, not all, and continue some irrigation.

The project will last five years. The fall sign-up period will go through Nov. 15. If money is still available, a spring sign-up period Feb. 15 through March 31.

For information, contact Frost at (785) 296-8964 or the Groundwater Management District in Colby at (785) 462-3915.

Letter

To the editor,

It seems in the business of our daily lives, we do not take the time to thank the people who touch our lives and I am afraid I am guilty of that.

Last month our nation had a moment of silence in remembrance of those who died during the worst act of terrorism on American soil, and to honor the brave men and women who gave up their lives in acts of heroism.

But, right here in our own little northwest corner of Kansas, we have raised up some of the bravest and caring people around.

When my husband, Terry, had a severe heart attack not long ago, I was scared to say the least. But, I was not alone. I had doctors, nurses, airplane pilots, my church, my co-workers, friends and family who were right there with me. Terry survived the heart attack because he had the best of the best!

For many people, Sept. 11 made everyone think about what is important and Terry's recovery put things into perspective with me. It could have been so different.

So, we should take the time to thank the people who do nice things for us, even simple acts of kindness.

Jane Burns
Bird City

South of McDonald

By Sandy Binning

Dan and Margie Hubbard and Dave, Sylvia, and Shayla Hubbard were Sunday dinner guests of Lindon and Diane Montgomery.

Wednesday through Monday guests of Tom and Kelly Dewey and children were Kristina and Braxton Springer of Manhattan.

George, Kathy and Debbie Banister attended the Cheylin/Wheatland-Grinnell football game Friday night in Bird City.

Debbie Banister attended the St. Francis Volleyball Tournament Saturday.

Wednesday and Thursday overnight guests of Joe and Charlene Kramer were Leon and Nancy Brunton of Ozawkie. They were on their way to Utah.

Brandt and Margie Ochsner of Semi Valley, Calif., and Becky Rosinbum of Olympia, Wash., have been guests for a few days of Bethel Goltl.

Donna, Bianca, Jazzmin and Sandy Binning were Tuesday morning callers on Bethel Goltl.

Lois Morelock and Rita Officer attended the memorial service for Margaret Voorhies's mother, Lora McWilliams in Quinter Saturday.

George and Kathy Banister attended the eulogy last Sunday

night and the funeral last Monday for Kathy's aunt, Sister Mary Martha Dickman in Concordia. They were Sunday overnight guests of Kathy's sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Heiman of Belleville.

Kathy Banister attended the Scholars Bowl Coaching Clinic in Colby Saturday.

Debbie Banister celebrated her 18th birthday Sunday with several friends taking her to lunch at Parkhill, St. Francis.

Club Clip

McDonald Garden Club

The McDonald Garden Club met on Wednesday, Oct. 8, at the McDonald senior citizen building. Margie Hubbard read a poem, and in the absence of Joan Tongish, she conducted the meeting.

Ten members answered roll call by naming the herbs they use in their cooking.

MAD reported on the Scarecrow contest that is being held in the Peoples State Bank lot, and on the Halloween Soup Supper.

Margie reported on the new by-laws for the West District of KACC.

The arrangement for Oct. was

"Oriental October" was made by Margaret Rhodes. She used dried materials from her garden. She featured dried sunflowers arranged with dried elderberry branches and dried asparagus ferns.

Dian Montgomery was not present to give the lesson on Herbs, so the time was spent putting together the entry in the Scarecrow Contest. They used a wheel barrow with the figure holding sunflowers in her hands.

Members were pleased with their entry when it was completed.

Club Clip

Phyllis Wingfield welcomed 38 guests to the Oct. 6 meeting of the McDonald Senior Citizens.

Caramel corn filled Jack-O-Lanterns and candy pumpkins, provided by Phyllis Wingfield, decorated the tables.

Nurse, Rose Whitehurst, was present to take blood pressure.

Marlene Johnson read a poem "The Clothesline" and gave thanks for the meal.

Following the meal Deanna Freeman, Rawlins County Hospital Administrator, explained the Mill Levy, and gave information on the many services available at the hospital. Julie Britton was also present to answer questions.

Bingo was played with Leonard Vyzourek winning the Black-out game.

At the business meeting reports were accepted as read. Phyllis thanked everyone who helped. Plans were made for the Nov. 3 Thanksgiving meal. Set-up will be on Sunday Nov. 2 at 2:00 p.m. The meat, potatoes, gravy, and dressing shall be provided. Salads and desserts will be appreciated.

November Committees: Poem, Eleanor Swihart; Prayer, Pastor Mark Adams; Bingo, Ray Johnson; Prizes, Joan Tongish; Kitchen, All members.

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Re-Elect

John Faber

120th District Representative

"During the last twelve years that I have served in the House of Representatives, I have cast over 10,000 votes. I have worked hard for the best interests of our district, studying the issues and their importance for the citizens of Northwest Kansas as well as for the state.

Kansas faces many challenges, but I am optimistic about our future. I want to continue developing new and innovative ways to create economic opportunities for rural Kansas. I appreciate the trust that my constituents have placed in me, and I will continue to work hard to serve their needs in Topeka."

John has the experience we need and the vision to succeed:

- Votes to protect "home owned carnivals" from government regulation.
- Also serves on the Education Committee, Education Budget Committee, and Joint Committee on rules and regulations.
- Understands the importance of hard work and cooperation and the issues facing the 120th District.

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