



CHEYLIN STUDENTS SLEPT an extra two hours last Thursday due to the heavy snowfall overnight. Unofficial reports of four to five inches of snow fell after midnight in Bird City, and 10 to 12 inches just northwest of Bird City.

In addition, with more rain and snow in the forecast for the week, corn, sunflower and milo may have to stay in the fields because the ground is too wet to drive through.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Extension honored with three awards

By Karen Krien

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The Sunflower Extension District No. 6 was recently honored by receiving three awards at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents annual meeting in Portland, Ore. Three counties, Cheyenne, Sherman and Wallace, make up the Sunflower district.

The district's crop production program was a national finalist. Jeanne Falk, multi-county agronomist for the district, had submitted the entry, which placed second in the nation. The district shared the top two spots with the extension program from another midwestern state, Nebraska. Ms. Falk said it was nice to keep the top awards in the heart of crop production country.

"Our entry highlighted three programming areas," said Ms. Falk. "First, it told about the way the district promotes the wheat plots, sending postcards to producers to keep them informed and promote usage of the plot throughout the year. Second, it highlighted the use of audience response technology at various meeting including the agriculture profitability conferences and Sprayer 101 School. The final component was programming to kids about Kansas crops and their uses."

The main driving force for these three focused areas of programming comes from the Agriculture Program Development Committee. This committee, which is

made up of local producers, continually gives ideas and suggestions for programming that farmers and ranchers are looking for.

In the communications award area, the postcard promotion used with the wheat plots was recognized a state award winner.

In addition, the Sunflower newsletter was a regional finalist in the Communication Team Newsletter category. It was one of the top 12 newsletters.

"I was just hoping to get ideas to improve our newsletter," Ms. Falk said. "So, we were surprised to be in this elite group of newsletters."

The district's newsletter contains all areas of extension from ag and horticulture, to family and consumer science, to crop production and 4-H. Many newsletters from other counties and states feature only one or two subject areas.

She added that she did get ideas for improvement and some of those ideas are already being implemented.

In September, the wheat plots were planted in all three counties. The Cheyenne County plot is 1/8-mile west of K-27 and Road J provided by Sunny Crest Farms, Junior, Tom and Matt Smull.

Ms. Falk encourages farmers to stop by to check out how the different wheat varieties are coming along. With the wet fall and early snowfall, the plots are looking good, she said.



DEE DORSCH HAS BEGUN the process of collecting the pattern squares for the Bird City 125th Commemorative Quilt. Experience in quilting is not necessary, just willingness to participate.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Help needed for making quilt

By Linda Schneider
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Now that the Bird City 125-year celebration has been approved for June 12, it is just around the corner before community activities will begin.

Already the 125-year Commemorative Quilt is being put together. The queen-size quilt will need 41, 12" x 12" pattern squares and the Activities Committee is asking for them from anyone who would like to be a part of the history of this unique quilt.

Last Thursday, Dee Dorsch, Linda Carroll, and Linda Schneider met in the Senior Center to begin the process of selecting the patterns. Mrs. Dorsch has a large selection of patterns to choose from and those who are interested do not have to have experience in quilting. The material used for the pattern square must be 100 percent cotton and the center pattern square will be designed to honor Kansas and Bird City.

For the experienced quilter, just contact Dee Dorsch at 785-

734-2785, with the chosen pattern square and turn in the finished square by Dec. 1.

Mrs. Dorsch has offered to assist the inexperienced quilter. Contact her, choose a pattern, and bring the materials for the pattern square to the Bird City Senior Center today (Thursday) at 7 p.m. and she will help in cutting out the patterns.

This project must be done quickly and the deadline to turn in all pattern squares is Dec. 1, so that the finished quilt can be assembled in time for June 12.

Craft fair opens doors on Saturday

By Linda Schneider
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Barb Gerdes knows talent when she sees it and will tell anyone who asks that the tri-state area has some of the "craftiest" people she knows.

The Bird City Craft Fair is a sell out again and Mrs. Gerdes is already thinking about expanding in the future. Vendors from the tri-state area, one as far as Denver, Colo., come together and sell their items, many handmade and homemade.

"I think the Craft Fair gives folks the opportunity to trade ideas," said Mrs. Gerdes.

And she enjoys the variety they bring into the community. In addition, the timing of the show is the best because it will cover three holidays; Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

This year attendees can browse homemade baked goods, hand crafted jewelry and household items, one-of-a-kind holiday decorations and many other unique products. In addition, she says there will be some great commercial items to look through.

Something Barb has been expanding on in the past shows is the Kids Korner. This year, her granddaughters from Cheyenne, Wyo., Kalie and Kelsey Anderson, will be helping out with Halloween masks and other craft fun. There is a small fee for materials, but it is well worth the cost and every child receives a grab bag of goodies and keeps what they make.

Mrs. Gerdes is active throughout the year with donations of her handmade items to charities and this year's show will include one of her favorite charities, the "Breast Cancer" table.

Breast cancer research is something Barb is always looking for ways to support and she will be at the table selling the



BARB GERDES WILL be at the breast cancer table as well as her own booth during the Craft Fair.

bracelets with proceeds going to research for the cure.

In addition to the great items on sale, Mrs. Gerdes wants everyone to know Tia Sager will have lunch available for the shoppers' convenience.

Born and graduated in Salina, Mrs. Gerdes moved to Bird City in Jan. 1991. When she was 7 years old, her grandmother Kathrine Lauber taught her how to crochet, embroidery, and quilt.

Mrs. Lauber taught Barb everything she needed to know about being crafty. However, her beloved grandmother died when Barb was in her 20s and since then she has relied on her Aunt Wanda Hill who lives in Salina, to help her with sewing problems and keeps in contact with her by email everyday.

At her sewing machine 51 out of 52 weeks a year, she began

selling her crafts in 2003 with items she had made over the years for her family. Soon she had more crafts to give out than family and her closet began filling up quickly with the leftovers.

Barb began like many of the other Craft Show vendors, setting up a table in the Cheylin High School gymnasium, which was coordinated by Tina Sager. Soon Barb started volunteer coordinating with Mrs. Sager. And when Mrs. Sager no longer headed up the Craft Show, Barb took it over and has been the coordinator for 3 years, setting up in the American Legion Hall.

Mrs. Gerdes says, "I look forward to the Craft Fair every year. What began as a volunteer coordinator position, has led to a challenging and rewarding opportunity to bring people and their skills together."

Saturday ends daylight saving time

With the second snowfall of the season over and winter just around the corner, Daylight Saving Time will come to an end shortly.

The clocks will turn back an hour on Sunday, which means the evenings will seem longer throughout the winter, as the sun sets earlier.

Under federal law, daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 1. Last year, law makers

added several weeks in the spring and one in the fall, specifically so trick-or-treating will have some daylight.

Clocks need to be turned back at 2 a.m. Sunday morning, but most people will either set the clocks back Saturday night before going to bed, or when they get up. Just don't forget, or you'll miss that extra hour of sleep.

