

Committee plans several events for July 4 celebration

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansan.com

July 4 is just a little over a month away and the Fourth of July Committee has been planning for the event since July 5 of last year.

Like last year, there will be a full day of activities ending with 50 to 55 minutes of fireworks. However, this year, there are more activities — activities for everyone.

New this year will be a hot-dog eating contest around noon, a fishing contest in the morning and the "Ride and Drive" road rally.

To make the day a success, said Rodney Neitzel, one of the coordinators, there have been a number of volunteers who are coordinating what they specialize in. For instance, the Cheyenne County Wildlife members will be heading up the fishing contest at Keller Pond; Sharissa Andrist and others will once again be lining up the kids' parade and games in the park; Margaret Poling is in charge of the triathlon; Jennifer Landenberger said she would take charge of the road rally.... the list goes on and on.

There is still a need for donations

to purchase fireworks, advertising, banners and other expenses including renting port-a-potties.

Last year, Mr. Neitzel said, we proved that the Cheyenne County July Fourth activities were some of the best around. We have already had donations coming in but more is needed, he said.

People can make checks to the Cheyenne County July Fourth in care of Joyce Russ, P.O. Box 673, St. Francis, KS 67756. There will also be jars and cans for donations in Bella's, Uptown and Owens True Value, just to name some of the locations.

This year, the committee is planning to purchase flags and welcome signs for the light poles along the highway if there is money left over. Mr. Neitzel said he talked to the St. Francis City Council and they approved the idea.

Look for more information about the activities planned for the Fourth, as well as times and locations. People can also contact Mr. Neitzel, his brother, Roger Neitzel, John and Anita Amack and Mrs. Russ.



NORM DORSCH searches for the right piece as he works on a puzzle at the senior center earlier this spring.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Lightning can travel 25 miles from storm

In her role as the director of the Kansas Weather Data Library, Mary Knapp answers many questions, including some related to lightning.

One question she was asked recently was, "Can a bolt of lightning come out of a clear sky?" she said. "The answer is yes. The phrase 'bolt from the blue' is often used to indicate surprise, as 'a bolt of lightning from a blue sky.'"

According to Phrase Finder, a reference for quotations, the earliest citation is Carlyle, 1837 — "Arrestment, sudden really as a bolt out of the blue, has hit strange victims," she said.

"Sadly, that is still true. Lightning can travel more than 25 miles from the thunderstorm itself," said Knapp, who also serves as a dele-

gate to the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN). "There have been numerous cases of victims being surprised by lightning from a clear sky. That is why it is important to take cover when thunderstorms are in the vicinity — even if the rain has yet to arrive. It is also recommended to wait about 30 minutes after the storm has passed to resume outdoor activities."

Information about Kansas weather is available on the Weather Data Library website: www.ksre.ksu.edu/wdl/.

"Weather Wonders" audio reports are available on the K-State Research and Extension News Media Web site at <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/news/>. Information about EDEN is available at www.eden.lsu.edu.

Kay Melia

Master Gardener

I'm sitting here trying to reach a decision of utmost gardening importance, and after a show of hands, I finally have an answer.

I have determined that the absolutely without question nicest thing you can do for your backyard vegetable garden right now, is to mulch it! No other decision you make concerning the summer-long care of your garden is as important as mulching it. Nothing. Not watering, not weeding, not fertilizing...nothing!

The thing of it is that if you mulch your garden crops now, you will not have to water it, weed it, or fertilize it as often as you normally would. That is a proven fact!

Think about it. A substantial layer of mulch alongside your growing plants will suppress the growth of weeds, and very few will show up the rest of the summer. It will also shade the sun from completely drying out the soil, and you will save untold dollars on your water bill.

And finally, the heavy layer of mulch will also slowly release a few nutrients to your garden soil. The big payoff comes next fall when you plow the mulch deeply into the soil where it will biodegrade as it provides a winter supply of food for the earthworms that will surely be attracted to your garden due to your generosity in providing it for them.

Do I have your attention yet? If I do, you may be asking questions like "Alright smart guy... where do I find this mulch stuff, what is it made out of, and how much does it cost?" Actually, most of us have it available right there in the yard, and it doesn't cost a dime.

In many cases, I may be

preaching to the choir here. Many of you, particularly the veteran gardeners among you, know all about the good things that can happen when you add great gobs of biodegradable material (read mulch) to your growing garden. If you don't mulch, it doesn't mean your garden is doomed. It's just that mulching makes your job so much easier, and the garden is going to be so much more productive, this year and next.

Choosing the right mulch is a snap! The best one is the one that is most available to you, and that would be dry grass clippings. Don't use them when they are freshly cut as they will form an airless barrier at the soil surface and will tend to rot, causing an unacceptable odor. Dry them out completely before using them.

My favorite mulch, by far, is leaves. Like those that fall from trees. I store dozens of big trash bags full every fall, and use them the following summer. Most of the ones I use have been run

through a lawnmower and as such are mixed with a few grass clippings which makes them even more useful. (Thanks Ron!)

In the summer, as soon as soil temperatures approach 65 to 70 degrees, I force many, many handfuls of these delicious leaves alongside just about everything I have growing, and then sit back and watch the plants thrive.

Other materials that make great mulch include straw, rotted hay, dry horse, cow, or chicken manure, shredded newspaper, and shredded wood chips. Just about anything that is biodegradable after being plowed under next fall is fair game.

Indeed, mulch is a protective cover placed over the soil near your vegetable plants and help retain soil moisture, reduce erosion, provide nutrients, and suppress weed growth and seed germination. Mulching the garden mimics the leaf cover that is formed on forest floors. Now, today or tomorrow, is the time to apply it!

The Gardener

Light the way to a cure

Keep the fire of hope burning by purchasing a luminaria candle in memory of someone lost to cancer, in honor of someone still fighting, or in special recognition of someone who has beaten this dreaded disease.



Relay For Life of Cheyenne County

SATURDAY & SUNDAY — JUNE 9 & 10

7 P.M. - 7 A.M.

AT SAWHILL PARK IN ST. FRANCIS

Complete this form and send it along with your donation to:
The Saint Francis Herald, P.O. Box 1050, Saint Francis, Ks. 67756

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Please join us for the luminaria ceremony at 9 p.m. or dark

\$10.00 per luminaria please!

In honor of In memory of

In honor of In memory of

In honor of In memory of

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

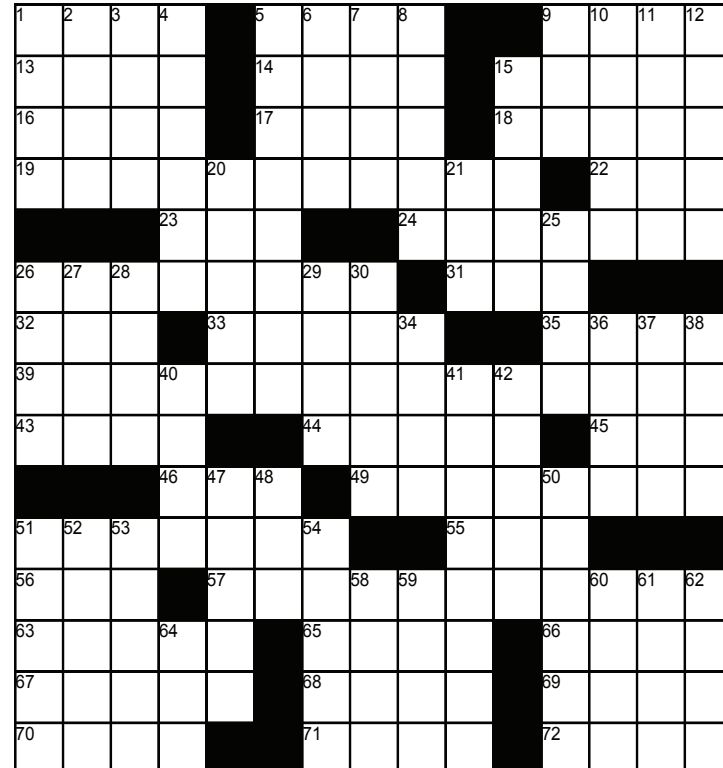
Makes Checks Payable To: The American Cancer Society



Lock Openers

ACROSS

1. Stick in one's —
5. Gift tag word
9. Magi guide
13. Sexologist Shere
14. Contraption cartoonist Goldberg
15. River to the Seine
16. Rapper with a cool-sounding name
17. Actor Ken or Lena
18. "Waste not, want not," e.g.
19. Student's lock opener
22. Sort
23. Social insect
24. Prickly plants
26. Unselfish one's quality
31. "Go, team!"
32. Neptune's domain
33. Tighten, in a way
35. Nave neighbor
39. Thief's lock opener
43. Actor Morales
44. Metro entrance
45. Houston of Texas
46. Prefix with color or corn
49. Heel style
51. Straw in the wind
55. Zilch
56. Send packing
57. Super's lock opener
63. Use a finger bowl
65. Slightly, in music
66. Peruvian of yore
67. i.e., for long
68. Something to click on
69. Cozy corner
70. Patched up
71. Gangland summit figures
72. Predators of mice



American Profile Hometown Content

5/27/2012

DOWN

1. All the rage
2. Role for Edward G.
3. "Up and _!"
4. Home mixologist's spot
5. Crockett's milieu
6. Actress Lenska
7. Postmortem bio
8. " _ Black" (1997 sci-fi flick)
9. In a blue funk
10. _ mix (gorp)
11. Every conriver has one
12. Needs a bath badly
15. Devil ray
20. Accustom to hardship
21. Anthem contraction
25. Asian cuisine
26. Tennis's Arthur _ Stadium
27. Rural tracts
28. Author Janowitz
29. Boarding pts.
30. Diner freebies
34. Cut and paste
36. "Hey, over here!"
37. County center
38. "Blondie" tyke
40. Yogi had a hand in it
41. Former 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue family
42. Sun: Prefix
47. Alley-clearing button
48. Rorschach test stuff
50. Cause of extreme weather
51. Helen of Troy's abductor
52. Nitrous _ (laughing gas)
53. Extend, in a way
54. Not very hot
58. Plumb crazy
59. MBA subj.
60. Have down pat
61. Earth Day subj.
62. Wags one's tongue
64. W-2 ID

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