

Many alumni gatherings planned for weekend

Kansas known for big tornadoes but not No. 1

Since the Wizard of Oz first appeared in print and film, many people assumed Kansas is No. 1 in U.S. tornado records.

"Actually, Texas and Florida can argue about who holds that position," said Mary Knapp, State of Kansas climatologist, based with Kansas State University Research and Extension.

Texas is the leader in total number of tornadoes, she said. In part, however, that's because Texas is so vast. When considered in terms of average annual tornadoes per 1,000 square miles, Florida is No. 1.

In contrast, Kansas is No. 4 for total average tornadoes and No. 5 for tornadoes per 1,000 square miles.

"We have to recognize, though, that the Kansas count may be inaccurate," Ms. Knapp cautioned. "We have a lot of open country. So, we may have missed some of the tornadoes that have occurred there - particularly before the days of handy digital cameras, numerous trained storm chasers and Doppler radar."

Even so, Kansas is well and accurately known for having particularly severe tornadoes,

she said. In 2007, the EF 5 that wiped out 95 percent of the small town of Greensburg was national news. In 1955, photos and coverage from the aftermath of the F5 [old scale] that flattened little Udall, -- killing 83 -- were directly responsible for the public pressure that led to the creation of today's U.S. tornado warning system.

With 99 confirmed, Sherman County is No. 1 in Kansas for total recorded tornadoes, Ms. Knapp said. Barton County is second with 89.

The St. Francis Community High School alumni celebration will be held Saturday. However, honor classes are planning special activities, catching up on what has happened since they last met. Honor classes meet every five years and, this year's 50 year class graduated in 1961. The 60 year class also has some special plans.

Opal Seaman, class of 1936, plans to be there. My son is coming to get me and make sure I am there, she said. In 2001 and 2006, she was the only person from that class attending the celebration.

Check the following schedule for the class parties:

Class of 1941 and 1946
The class of 1941 and 1946 have no special plans. Everyone in these classes are urged to come to the banquet and, if they don't plan to be at the banquet, then come have their photo taken with the class.

Class of 1951
Billie Hilt, chairman of the class of 1951, said this is a big year for them. Out of 48 graduating seniors, there are 22 (that includes classmates and spouses) attending.

On Friday, an open house will be held at the St. Francis Senior Center on Main Street. Finger food and snacks will be available while people visit.

Again on Saturday, there will be snacks at the Senior Center. At noon, everyone is encouraged to support the Historical Society by eating brats at the museum.

That afternoon, Rev. Glenn Isernhagen will hold a service for deceased classmates. Twenty-two classmates have died, five of them have died in the last year. There will be a balloon sendoff in their honor.

Later, they plan to attend the banquet at the school.

At 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Tom Roelfs, son of Phyllis Crandall, classmate, will provide breakfast. The Roelfs live east of

St. Francis on the old Wheeler Road.

Class of 1956
As of Monday, 21 members and spouses of the class of 1956 will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Friday at Riverside Recreation.

On Saturday, the Manor at 200 N. Ash will be available and classmates will be able to enjoy a continental breakfast. At 1 p.m. that afternoon, those wanting to see the Sage Hill Winery can join the trip to Parks, Neb. That evening, they will attend the banquet. Following the banquet, there will be dancing at the park or people can come back to the manor for more visiting.

Class of 1961
The class of 1961 will go to Neil O'Brien's, south on the River Road, for a cookout. Saturday morning, everyone is encouraged to play in the Alumni Golf Tournament. They will join the class of 1956 for a tour of the Sage Hill Winery, meeting at 1 p.m. at the Cheyenne Manor on 200 N. Ash Street.

Class of 1966
The class of 1966 is meeting at Tom Keller's country home, 1560 Rd. 13, northwest of St. Francis on Friday evening, for a hamburger fry and visiting.

Saturday afternoon at 3, they will meet at the home of Rick and Linda Rogers, 528 E. Jackson, for more visiting. They plan to go to the banquet, those who want can attend the dancing in the park and others can go back to the Rogers' home.

Class of 1971
The class of 1971 will meet Friday evening for a barbecue at the home of Jo and Kelly Frewen, 214 N. Ash. On Saturday, they attend the banquet at the high school and the dance at the park. They may also go to the home of Scott and Nancy Schultz.

Class of 1976
The class of 1976 will meet at 7 p.m. at Diamond R Bar and Grill, Main Street, on Friday night.

They will gather at the home of Deb and George Harper, 305 S. Quincy, at 4 p.m. prior to the banquet. Most are planning to go to the banquet and attend the activities at the park.

Class of 1981
The class of 1981 is planning to meet at the home of Daryl and Keely Loyd, 2140 Rd. I, south-east of Wheeler, for a barbecue.

Saturday morning, many will be playing in the Alumni Golf Tourney, then they will meet at the high school for the banquet.

Also there will be Lady Indian Alumni Volleyball with registration at 9 a.m. Saturday in the high school gym. Check ad or call Coach Talley Morrow at (785) 332-3445.

Class of 1986
The class of 1986 is planning to meet at the Diamond R Bar and Grill, Main Street, Friday evening. No time has been set.

Saturday is open and everyone is encouraged to go to the banquet and park for dancing.

Class of 1991
The class of 1991 will meet at the Cheyenne County Wildlife Clubhouse at 7 p.m. on Friday. Snacks and finger foods will be served. It will be a family time with fun and games.

On Saturday, the class members can chose between golf and volleyball. At noon, they will meet back at the golf club for a meal, then attend the banquet and dance at the high school.

Class of 1996
The class of 1996 will meet on Friday to tour the Sage Hill Winery in Parks, Neb., then stop by the lake for a barbecue.

Saturday afternoon is family time in the city park where there will be ice cream, games and visiting. That evening, they will attend the banquet and dance.

Class of 2001
Class of 2001 plans to meet at Parkhill Restaurant at 9 p.m. on Friday night. Plans for the rest of the weekend will be made there.

BANG

Continued from Page 1A

will be games for kids in the park. Prizes will be awarded.

Starting at 11 a.m., the All American Hog Dog meal will be served at Sawhill Park. This is sponsored by the St. Francis high school junior class as one of their money-making projects.

The activities do not end there. From 2 to 4 at the museum, there will be a "Happy 150th Kansas Birthday" celebration and cake, ice cream, lemonade and iced tea will be served.

Also in the afternoon, from 1:30 to 5:30, there will be a volleyball tournament at the St. Francis swimming pool. People are urged to get their teams lined up.

Rodney Neitzel, one of the coordinators, of the July Fourth celebration, said many people are taking opportunity of the supper hour to hold barbecues in their yards. There will also be food vendors at the Parkhill Restaurant and Roger Neitzel Heating and Air Conditioning parking lot north of Parkhill. Besides the Girl Scouts cookies and cupcakes, and the Shriner's Candy Wagon, the St. Francis Community Church will be selling slices of watermelon.

To add to the entertainment and excitement, Randy Smestad will start the music. At 8:30, in the Neitzel parking lot, Amy Reiger has organized a Karoke contest. There will be two microphones for individuals and groups to perform with. People

can also bring their favorite song on a CD, I-Pod or I-Phone.

Then the fireworks will begin! People can bring their chairs or blankets to the area north of the Good Samaritan Village to watch the fireworks. (Don't forget the bug spray.) For the first 650 people, Brenda Johnson, Hometown Market, will be passing out favors.

Parking can be found on College and Francis streets as well as at the sale barn and other commercial lots.

The July Fourth celebration is being funded with donations. Money can be left at the Hilltop General Store, Parkhill, and Majestic Service and Upton Market.

For more information contact Mr. Neitzel at 785-332-2277.

Moments With Mila

Measles Vaccination

Measles remain a common disease in many parts of the world. It is a leading cause of vaccine-preventable deaths among young children worldwide. Measles outbreaks are common in many areas, including Europe, making the risk for exposure to measles high for many U.S. travelers and U.S. citizens traveling in other countries.

Measles is caused by a virus spread from person to person through the air by infectious droplets; it is highly contagious. It takes an average of 10-12 days from exposure to the first symptom, which is usually fever. The measles rash doesn't usually appear until approximately 14 days after exposure, 2-3 days after the fever begins. Symptoms include fever, runny nose, cough, loss of appetite, "pink eye" and a rash. The rash usually lasts 5-6 days and begins at the hairline, moves to the face and upper neck and proceeds down the body.

The Center for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pe-

diatrics recommends making sure your family is vaccinated against the measles. The MMR vaccine consists of using live, attenuated (or weakened) strains of Measles, Mumps and Rubella viruses. All children, adolescents and adults born in 1957 or later should make sure they have been vaccinated. Adults born before 1957 are likely to have had measles and/or mumps disease as a child and are generally (but not always) considered not to need vaccination.

The first dose of MMR should be given on or after the child's first birthday; the recommended age range is from 12-15 months. A dose given before 12 months of age will not be counted. The second dose is usually given when the child is 4-6 years old, or before he or she enters kindergarten. School aged children must show proof of two vaccinations for entry into public school for the 2011-2012 school year. There is no scientific evidence that measles, MMR or any other vaccine causes autism.

By Mila Bandel
County Health Nurse



For more information contact the County Health Department at 785-332-2381.

The Gardener

Kay Melia

kmelia@yahoo.com

Alright, fellow gardeners; today, let's talk about mulch. Yeah, mulch! Does that send a shiver of excitement down your back? Probably not. But if you were a row of potatoes, a grouping of tomatoes, or a patch of peppers, you would have a visible smile of satisfaction on your face, or however potatoes, tomatoes, or peppers react when they are very happy.

First, let's define the terms. There may be a few youngsters out there who have not experienced the joys of mulching the backyard garden. Mulch is defined in the "big book" as "any material, such as straw, spread on the ground to protect the roots of plants from heat, cold, or drought, or to keep the fruit clean."

For a few of us fanatics who religiously mulch our garden crops each year, the preceding definition by Mr Webster certainly wasn't wrong, it just didn't go far enough. Please allow this old duffer to give you MY definition of mulch. Mulch can be defined as "any material, such as straw, dry grass clippings, leaves, pine straw, shredded newspaper, or compost that can be spread around vegetable, flower, or tree plants to protect the roots from heat, cold, or drought. It also smothers sprouting weeds and other unwanted plant life.

Then, in the fall of the year when plowed into the soil, it adds untold nutrients that will aid next year's garden crops and provide food for earthworms embedded in the decomposing material which will aerate the soil and give it a wonderful consistency for the future."



Did you get that? You may want to read it again. Mulch is a gardening gift, and anyone who plants a garden should use it. Do not apply it until soil temperatures reach at least 60 degrees, making application right now is a must. When you do it, you'll see remarkable improvement in any crop that has been protected within a week or 10 days.

I use leaves as my mulch of choice. I have a friend who provides me with a huge pile of shredded leaves, also containing small amounts of grass clippings, in late October or early November. I simply stuff the material into dozens of those big plastic trash bags and happily store them until mulching time the following year. I honestly don't believe I would plant potatoes if I couldn't provide them with 5 or 6 inches of mulch between the rows.

Mulch does many nice things for my garden every summer. Surely, all gardeners have access to some kind of mulching material. Find yourself a bale of straw...call a farmer friend to see if he might happen to have some old rotting hay available, or, as soon as you finish reading this paper, shred it and put a handful of mulch around your tomato plant.

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

Friday & Saturday - July 22 - 23

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