

BIG BITE — Steven Nelson was enjoying the chocolate fountain and the goodies that went with it at the fun night held Monday night at the St. Francis grade school. The

chocolate fountain was just one of the many activities planned for the evening including the Star Lab.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

Agronomist talks about winter wheat

*By Jeanne Falk
K-State Agronomist*

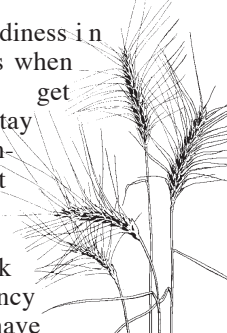
What are we going to do with this weather!?! The temperature swings keep your head spinning, so what do you think it is doing to our wheat?

With the warmer than normal temperatures, there have been many questions regarding the winterhardness of wheat. As a general rule, night time temperatures need to be above freezing for a week or more for the wheat to lose its winterhardness. At the Colby weather station, there have been no nights with the temperature greater than freezing. In fact, the average overnight low for January was 17 degrees.

The process of gaining and losing winterhardness in winter wheat is a gradual one. Temperatures fluctuate most years as winter begins and ends, and the winterhardness level of wheat tends to ratchet up and down with the temperatures. After a warm spell in winter, wheat will lose some winterhardness — but wheat will regain its winterhardness as temperatures get cold again. Every time this happens, however, the wheat will lose some winterhardness. The peak level

of winterhardness in wheat occurs when temperatures get cold and stay cold all winter. Wheat that greens up and then goes back into dormancy will not have quite the same level of winterhardness as wheat that remains dormant all winter.

Winterkill has also been on producers' minds. Winterkill most often occurs when the crown area of the wheat plant is not protected. This is often thought to be a problem associated with planting depth. While this is true, it is most associated with the point that the emerging seedling first detects light. If the seedling must first grow through a thickness of residue, the plant will likely set the crown in the residue. This can increase the risk for winterkill because the crown is not protected by soil from temperature changes. The residue gives less protection. Loose dry soil can also increase the risk for winterkill, due to reduced protection from temperatures.



Order a singing valentine today

The St. Francis high school music department is now selling Singing Valentines. They have been providing the service for several years as a fund-raising project. The students involved will use the proceeds for a trip to a musical production later in the spring.

For \$5, anyone can send their Valentine a balloon, candy, and a song, to be delivered by the students themselves on Valentine's Day. Anyone wishing to buy a Singing Valentine should fill out a form which is available at the high school office, post office bulletin board, Bella's Market or from any music student.

"Get your order forms to us by Feb. 14," said senior Stephanie Perry. "What a great way to show you care!"



BREE DE WAAL receives a singing Valentine with a balloon, candy and bear from Rande Grover and her sister, Shelby Cassaw (not pictured).

Herald staff photo by Nathan Fiala

Village hosts open house on Sunday afternoon

It's been over a year since a fire destroyed a section of the Good Samaritan Village nursing home in St. Francis and 48 residents went to other facilities in the area. Cleanup, construction and moving in has taken some time but, by Sunday, the facility will be open to the public at the 2 to 5 p.m. open house.

There are three new private rooms along with the rooms already occupied by residents. With the completion of the construction, the Village will have a total of 35 skilled-care beds.

The section which was destroyed has been turned into a wide corridor with bay windows which were reclaimed after the fire. New offices are located at the east end of the hall and the great room, formerly used for activities and other gatherings, is now the dining room. The

birds will be brought back to their former home this week.

"After the fire, the St. Francis Village was not in a position to maintain residential services," said Jeff Paulsen, Village administrator. "But thanks in large part to community support, we commemorate that St. Francis Village is alive and well. We look forward to continuing to serve seniors and their families in the provision of long-term care services in Cheyenne County."

Mr. Paulsen and the staff are encouraging people to come tour the facility on Sunday.

The open house will include several guest speakers, a book signing for a published collection of St. Francis Village residents' reminiscences, tours of the new rooms and offices, as well as coffee and light refreshments.

Area newspaper editor dies

*By Kevin Bottrell
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Tom Dreiling, longtime editor of the old *Goodland Daily News*, died at his home in Denver on Monday, Jan. 30, 2012.

A wake will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 307 W. 13th St., Goodland. Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012, at the church. Burial will follow at the Goodland Cemetery. Friends and family are invited to attend a lunch gathering at the church.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jean, who died of leukemia in 1975; brothers James and Norbert Dreiling; and sister Mary Bieker.

He is survived by his brothers Donald (Dolores) Dreiling, Overland Park, K. Dean (Mikki) Dreiling, Corpus Christi, Texas, and Eugene (Flo) Dreiling, Tulsa,



Dreiling

Okl.; sisters Dolores (Robert) Schlyer, Hays, and JoAnn JayJack of Scheierville, Ind.; sons, Todd (Darci) and Lance (Tobie) Dreiling; a stepdaughter, Denise (Darren) Burrows; and five grandchildren, all of Centennial, Colo.

Dreiling was born on Nov. 25 in Hays to Richard and Mollie (Eichman) Dreiling, the second-youngest of nine children. He was never sure of the year of his birth. He had documents saying both 1934 and 1935. In a column last year, he joked he often received birthday cards with two ages listed and instructions to circle one.

He graduated from St. Joseph's Military Academy — which is now Thomas More Prep-Marian — in 1953. He attended Fort Hays State University before joining the Air Force in 1955. While in the service he was stationed in Japan. After his discharge in 1959,

Dreiling spent 44 years in the newspaper business, getting his start at *The Ellis County Star*, a weekly paper in Hays owned by his family. In 1962 he was hired as a photographer by the *Hays Daily News* and eventually became sports editor and city editor.

Dreiling moved to Goodland in 1965 to take over as editor of the old *Goodland Daily News*, where he stayed until the paper changed hands in 1989. He worked for Kay Melia at KLOE, then at Thomas More Prep as director of development.

In 1995 he moved to Sheridan, Wyo., to become the editor of *The Sheridan Press*. He returned to Kansas in 1998 as the publisher of the *Colby Free Press*. He retired from that position in 2005, but didn't stay retired for long, taking a publishing position with the *Norton Telegram* later that year.

He retired for good in August, 2009, moving back to Goodland before relocating to Colorado to

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New director of nurses hired at county hospital

*By Karen Krien
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The Cheyenne County Hospital has a new director of nursing.

Judy Rockwood joined the hospital staff as the director of nursing on Jan. 18.

Ms. Rockwood comes to the hospital with a great deal of experience, having recently been in nursing administration at West Virginia University Hospital in Morgantown, W.Va. Before that, she was the director of nursing at Rice County Hospital in Lyons, and then went to Cheyenne, Wyo., where she was the director of the Children's Hospital.

Even though it is smaller, she said she is glad to be at the Cheyenne County Hospital.

"Being here is almost like coming home," she said, having come from the small Kansas town of Little River.

"People have no idea the blessing the hospital is to the people," she said.

She named the different services, such as the outpatient services, MRIs, mammography, chemo therapy, antibiotic and wound care, lab, X-ray and CT.

People, she said, don't have to travel three hours to get these services because they are right here.

The staff members, she said, are wonderful to work with and

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DIRECTOR OF NURSES, Judy Rockwood, goes over a patient's chart with Dawn Zwetzig, ward clerk at the Cheyenne County Hospital.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien