

— Across the County —

**Drought Resources Available on K-State Research and Extension Website**

By **Marty Fear**



County Extension Agent

With daytime temperatures hovering around 100 degrees and drought conditions spreading across Kansas and other states, K-State Research and Extension has pulled together resources to help homeowners, farmers, and others manage their property and personal health.

The resources are available at [www.ksre.ksu.edu/drought](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/drought). The website includes links to information designed to help individuals, families, and crop and livestock producers. It also includes information focused on lawns and gardens. The resources include news releases, fact sheets, publications, and video and audio interviews with a variety of specialists.

In addition, the site includes links to the Extension Disaster Education Network; the U.S. Drought Monitor, which gives a visual image of drought conditions across the United States; and the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center.

**Leaf Loss Means Tree Stress**

This summer's yellowing and falling trees leaves are signs of stress, as are the browning leaves that stay in place. Trees are reflecting the unusually warm, droughty weather that started last summer.

"Adequate water remains vital. With that, many trees can survive, if they also have enough stored energy reserves to make it through to next spring. Their twigs and buds will tell the story," said Ward Upham, K-State Research and Extension horticulturist. Typically, leaf loss isn't serious if it simply results in general thinning.

"Trees often set more leaves

in spring than they can support during summer's weather. So, they reduce leaf numbers," he said. "This summer's thinning could look a little worrisome, though, unless you remember trees probably lost some roots over the past year."

During extreme summers, certain trees (e.g., the hackberry) will drop all leaves and enter summer dormancy. "Dormant trees should still have supple twigs and healthy buds," Mr. Upham said. "If so, the effect on tree health is likely to be minor. The tree should leaf out normally next spring. "However, if any section of the tree has brittle twigs and dead buds, that part, at least, is dead."

When trees finally can't keep up with their own moisture demands, they quickly die – seemingly overnight. Their leaves turn brown, but may remain attached to the tree. "Again, though, twigs and buds are the most important clue to a tree's health," Mr. Upham said. "So long as buds are alive and twigs are supple, a tree has life. You should wait to see how it responds next spring."

Consult K-State's new factsheets about best watering practices for trees and shrubs. Those factsheets are on the Web at [www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/hort2/MF2800.pdf](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/hort2/MF2800.pdf) and [www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/hort2/MF2801.pdf](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/hort2/MF2801.pdf).

Please contact the Cheyenne County Extension office at 332-3171 or [cfear@ksu.edu](mailto:cfear@ksu.edu) with questions or comments. Till next week - Marty



**KYLE KNEBEL, Althea Lebow, Talley Morrow and Scott Knebel sang in the Old Country Church on July 4 for the Betsy Ross Sing-Along.**  
*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

# First flag remembered on July fourth

The Betsy Ross Sing-Along was held Wednesday afternoon of the July Fourth celebration. The Old Country Church, next to the museum on U.S. 36, was filled with people either enjoying singing or listening to the patriotic music which filled the room.

Led by Althea Lebow and accompanied by Jean Ann Confer, the music started with "God Bless America." Also helping lead the singing and often singing as a father-son duet were Kyle Knebel and Scott Knebel. Talley Morrow was also on hand for several different numbers.

There were boisterous numbers as well as softly-sung melodies. There was often laughter and lots of clapping and, then, there were those sobering songs as those present remembered the history of the nation and the lives lost to give people the freedom known today.

Sandy Smull, aka Betsy Ross, told about making the first American flag and how her friendship with George Washington could have had much to do with her getting the privilege of making the flag.



**LUCILLE PRICE gets some free ice cream from Janet Carmen and Sally Wieck at the Cheyenne County Museum on July 4.**  
*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

She ended her talk by giving the audience the opportunity to believe her or not.

The program ended by

everyone singing Happy Birthday to America.

The group made their way to the Cheyenne County Museum

where cake and ice cream were enjoyed by many. Others walked through the museum viewing the many displays and collections.

## The Gardener

By **Kay Melia**



Those of us who have been gardening for any length of time are hard pressed to remember a summer like the one we have experienced so far. Those of you who may be playing in the dirt for the first time are probably rethinking the idea of planting and nurturing a few of those wonderful fresh garden vegetables.

Not to worry! I hereby predict that the worst of this scaring summer is over!! Yeah, right... what do I know. But surely we've seen the most severe heat that Mother Nature can provide in late June. My garden, (and most of yours) has experienced 100 degrees or more on 12 of the last 13 days, and counting. That little statistic alone makes you want to head for the mountains, except a lot of the mountains are on fire, which makes our garden problems pale by comparison.

I mentioned last week in this space that for the most part, my garden still looked pretty good. After almost 2 weeks of triple digits, it is still hanging in there. With almost constant

care, several of the goodies are producing well. But not the tomatoes

Tomatoes...the one garden crop we all have great expectations for through the winter months and into spring and early summer, are just kinda sitting out there in the garden thumbing their noses at us. They simply refuse to set fruit! And while tomatoes are heat loving plants, their reproductive procedures just don't work when the daytime temperatures rise above 90 to 95 degrees for a couple of days. They shut it down. Sure, there are tons of blooms, but no little fruit showing up. Tomatoes are pollinated by the wind, not by bees, and the hot wind just can't seem to get the job done.

That is a very simple explanation from a layman. Surely, a horticulturist can offer a much more educated summary of the pollination of tomatoes in the heat. Cucumbers don't seem to be affected by the heat, and there are pickles galore. The onions have never looked better, the potatoes are large, the green

beans are flourishing, and the zucchini...is doing it's thing.

I was surprised this morning, while looking down inside the tomato cages that there were dozens of medium sized tomatoes that had set on before the heat hit. I must remember to keep my eye on those little jewels. If we don't get a lot of cooler weather soon, those may be about the only bright red morsels of goodness that some of us will see this summer.

Newcomers to the gardening mystic should not be dismayed. If you've worked hard out there, you are almost sure to harvest a lot of nice things. For all of

us who are still waiting on the tomato crop, it would appear that we are going to have to wait a little longer than usual for the crop we all crave most. Last year, I picked my first tomato on July 30. It may be a little later this year. What's really scary is that I overheard a conversation at the supermarket check-out counter the other day that we are likely to have snow in late August this year. Sure. And it's probably going to rain tonight.



## Church to sponsor run-walk in August

In conjunction with the Cheyenne County Fair, the St. Francis United Methodist Church will sponsor a 5k run and 2-mile walk once again. The run-walk will be held at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 4, starting at the St. Francis High School. The entry fee is \$15 before Aug. 1 and \$20 after that.

T-shirts will be given to each participant. There will be medals for first through third place in each age group in the run and medals for the first 15 walkers to finish.

Refreshments will be served after the race and there will be drawings for gift certificates donated by local businesses and for prizes donated by the United Methodist Thrift Store.

The 5k course will start at the school and take the south route around the cemetery. The 2-mile walk will take the north route out toward the cemetery one mile and then return the same route. There will be water stations along the route.

Registration forms may be picked up at the church office or may be obtained by calling 772-7098, emailing [warrencico@yahoo.com](mailto:warrencico@yahoo.com), or at the church website: [www.umcstfrancisks.org](http://www.umcstfrancisks.org).

To have a successful race, said Rev. Cico, we need several volunteers to help in a variety of ways. If you are interested in helping, please contact the church.

### Patient-centered surgical consultation and care

**Brenda Kopriva, M.D. is now offering surgery consultations at the Trenton Medical Clinic!**

General surgeon, Dr. Brenda Kopriva, is now accepting surgical consultation appointments at the Trenton Medical Clinic on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month.

Dr. Kopriva offers a wide range of surgical procedures in Community Hospital's new, technologically advanced surgery department.

To make an appointment with Dr. Kopriva, call 308-344-8376.

Dr. Kopriva performs such surgeries as:  
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**COMING SOON TO SALINA**

**JOE WALSH**  
Fri., July 13, 8pm

**STEVE EARLE & LOS LOBOS**  
Fri., July 27, 8pm

**LORETTA LYNN**  
Thur., Aug 9, 7:30pm

**AL GREEN**  
Sun., Sept. 23, 8pm

Also:  
**STEVE VAI** Sept. 30, 8pm  
**KANSAS** Oct. 5, 8pm  
**VINCE GILL** Oct. 11, 8pm  
**STRAIGHT NO CHASER** Nov. 18, 7:30pm  
**KENNY ROGERS** Dec. 2, 7:30pm  
**AARON NEVILLE** Dec. 8, 8pm  
**DAVID SEDARIS** Apr. 19, 8pm

facebook ticketmaster The Stiefel Theatre

**stiefeltheatre.org**  
151 S. Santa Fe, Salina 785-827-1998 Buy direct or online.

### Help Wanted

The Cub's Den in Idalia, CO is now accepting applications for an Infant/Toddler Teacher. Applicants must hold current Infant/Toddler qualifications, as per the State of Colorado Rules & Regulations. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Please inquire to Carrie at (970) 354-7587 for further details.